Evolutionary Medicine

Message from the Guest Editors

Evolutionary medicine focuses on interpreting health and disease from an evolutionary perspective by using the well-established evolutionary framework and the currently available plethora of methods and tools developed in the fields of evolutionary genetics and population genetics. Understanding the ultimate roots of illness—why evolution has shaped these mechanisms in ways that may leave us susceptible to a particular disease—has been mostly neglected. However, this question is particularly relevant in human species. This issue will address questions that advance the intellectual development of linkages between evolutionary biology and medical science, focusing on evolutionary explanations for human susceptibility to disease, suggesting improvements connected to evolutionary mechanisms in clinical practice, public health procedures, research approaches, or medical education and being of interest to clinicians, public health professionals, medical researchers and educators, and evolutionary biologists.