

## Special Issue

# Phylogenetics and Mitochondrial Evolution

### Message from the Guest Editors

The recent Nobel prize in Physiology and Medicine has been awarded to Swante Paabo for the research on human evolution, which cumulated in the discovery of gene exchange between human tree branches, e.g., modern humans and Neanderthals. This research critically depends on the methodology of sequencing ancient DNA, developed by the laureate. Today such analyses mostly employ nuclear DNA sequences. For some time, however, this field has been driven by phylogenetic studies of mtDNA, which resulted, for example, in one of the most spectacular discoveries in this field, the recent Mitochondrial Eve. Interestingly, this discovery did not use ancient DNA sequencing. Today, when entire ancient nuclear genomes are commonly available for analysis, mtDNA seems doomed. However, mtDNA may still maintain its superiority in certain applications. Recently, 'intraorganismal' phylogenetic analyses of mtDNA somatic mutations were used to follow somatic cell lineages in development. Similar approaches may be useful for studies of mtDNA bottleneck and inheritance.

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### Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (20 July 2023)

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