

USC Dornsife

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Ancient DNA insights into the evolutionary history of tuberculosis

Tuberculosis (TB) has affected humans, as well as other animals, for millennia. Ancient DNA analyses allow us to examine the evolutionary history of the Mycobacteria causing this disease as well as understand how human migrations have affected their distributions. Our analyses of ancient American TB cases from South America and Mexico indicate that these were caused by *M. tuberculosis* complex strains closely related to those found in Southern Hemisphere pinnipeds. We also find evidence for multiple jumps to humans as well as human-to-human transmission to inland parts of South America and to North America. After contact, colonists introduced European TB strains, and our data show that these reflect the source area of colonists.

HEB Seminar Series

January 22, 2024 | 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
Allan Hancock Foundation Building - Torrey Webb Room

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://usc.zoom.us/j/92154292724?pwd=UTICLzhVc3ZJcmV6MWhyN00xQ1A5UT09>