#### **Bioinformatics**

Five

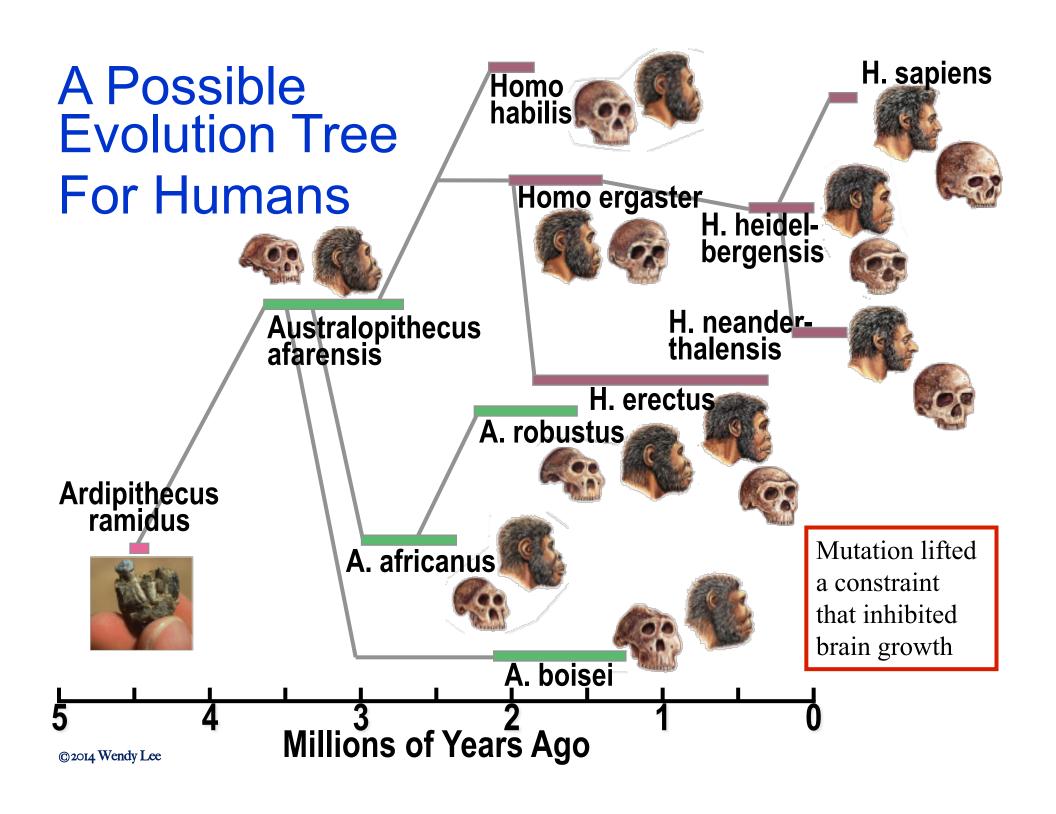
Case Study

## The BIG Jaw

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# Myosin gene mutation correlates with anatomical changes in the human lineage by Hansell H. Stedman et al.

NATURE: VOL 428, 25 MARCH 2004

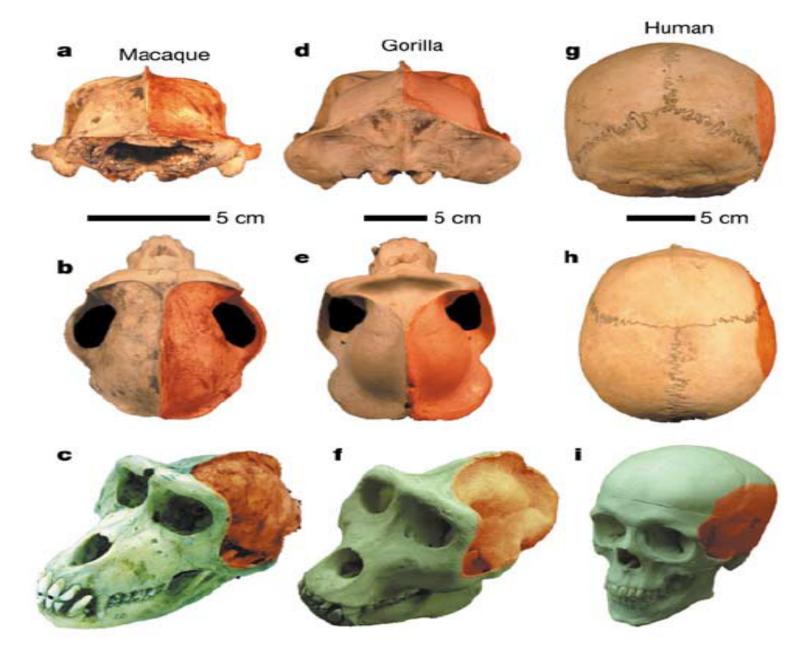


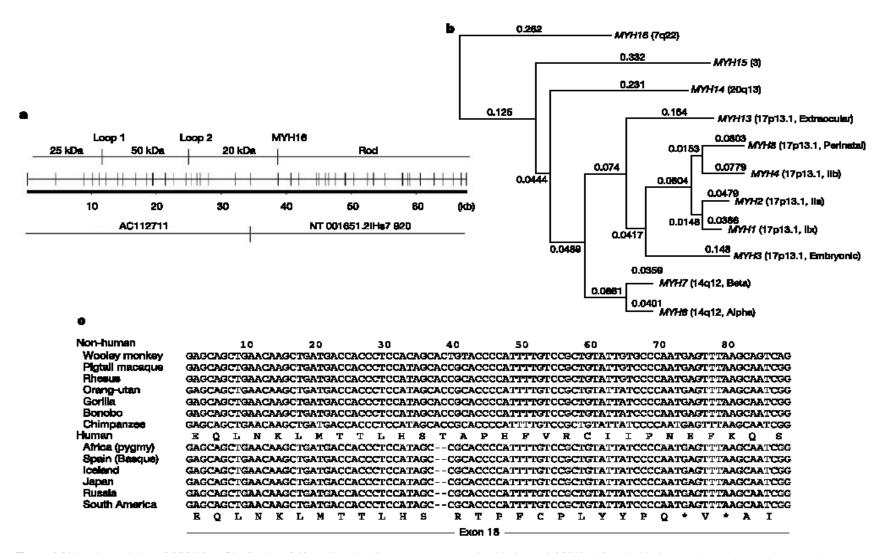
### Powerful Masticatory Muscles

- Powerful masticatory muscles are found in most primates, including chimpanzees and gorillas, and also in Australopithecus.
- Masticatory muscles are considerably smaller in members of Homo.
- The gene encoding myosin heavy chain (MYH) expressed in these muscles was inactivated by a frameshifting mutation after the lineages leading to humans and chimpanzees diverged.



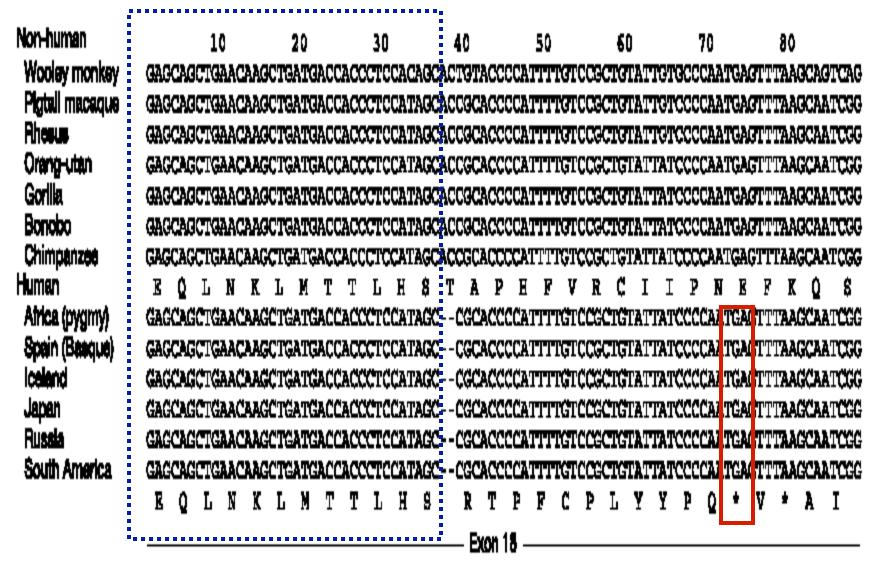
A decrease in jaw-muscle size, produced by inactivation of MYH16, removed a barrier to the remodelling of the hominid cranium which consequently allowed an increase in the size of the brain.





**Figure 1** Molecular evolution of *MYH16*. **a**, Distribution of 42 predicted coding exons spanning 67,983 base pairs (bp) in the region of human chromosome 7q22 flanked 5' by *SMURF1* and 3' by *ARPC1A*. **b**, Phylogenetic reconstruction for all human sarcomeric myosin genes (heavy chain), showing early divergence of *MYH16* from others. Branch lengths shown are derived from a maximum likelihood analysis of the aligned cDNAs, beginning with the conserved proline at the head—rod junction. Non-sarcomeric class II

myosins (designated *MYH9*, -10 and -11; data not shown) are used to root the tree. **c**, Aligned DNA sequences for *MYH16* exon 18 representing seven non-human primate species and six geographically dispersed human populations, revealing the effect of frameshift on reading frame and deduced amino acid sequence. Note stop codon at position 72–74.



MYH16: Myosin Heavy Gene

Accession Number: BK001410 at NCBI (exon 19)

### MYH 16, Position relative to start codon

