

THE
NOBEL
PRIZE

MEDICINE PRIZE 2022

•

Research on human evolution

The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

“the person who shall have made the most important discovery within the domain of physiology or medicine”



The 2022 medicine prize

Where do we come from, and how are we related to the kinds of humans who came before us? What makes us *Homo sapiens* special?



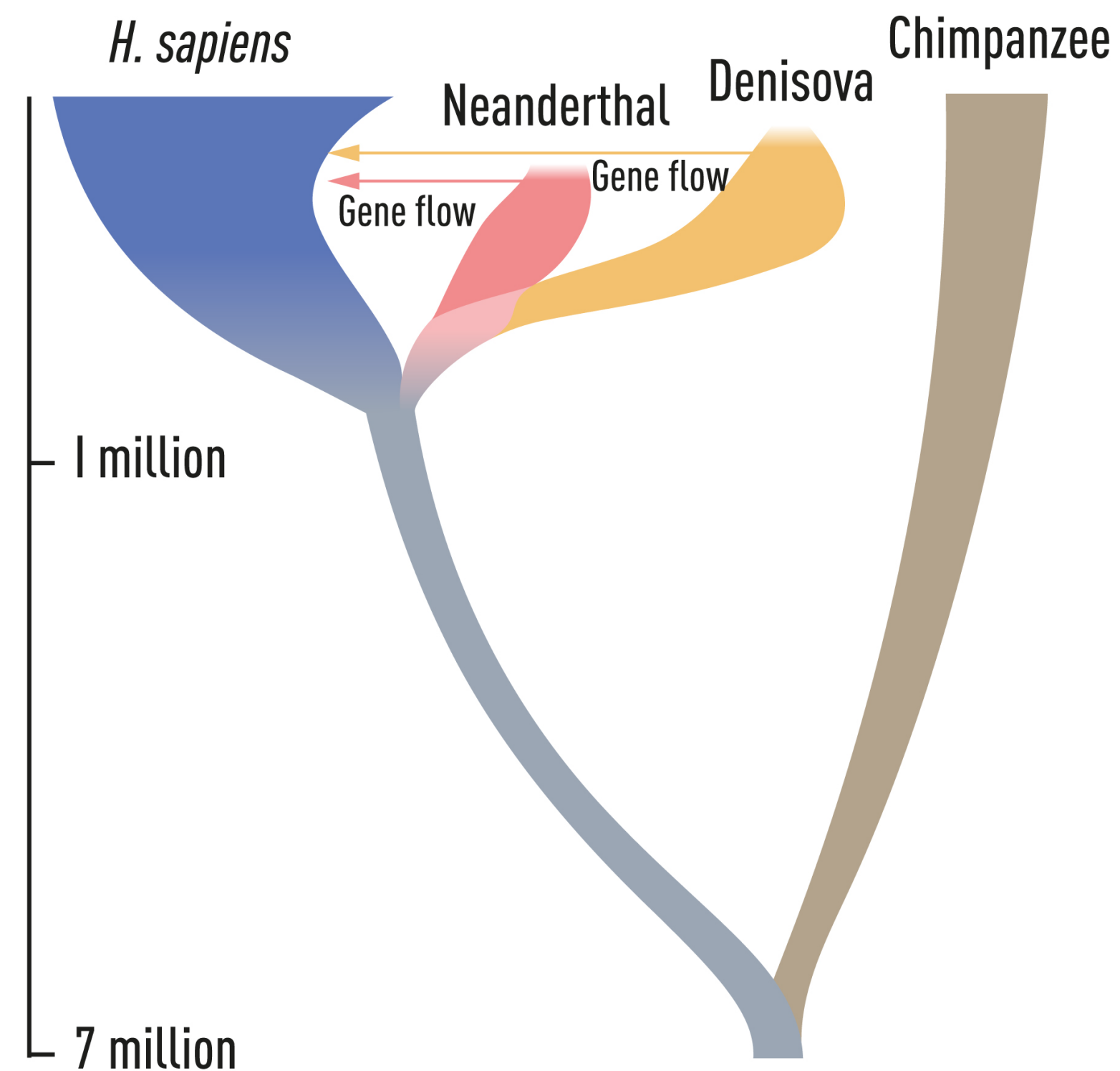
The 2022 medicine laureate

“For his discoveries concerning the genomes of extinct hominins and human evolution.”



Svante Pääbo
Born: 1955, Sweden

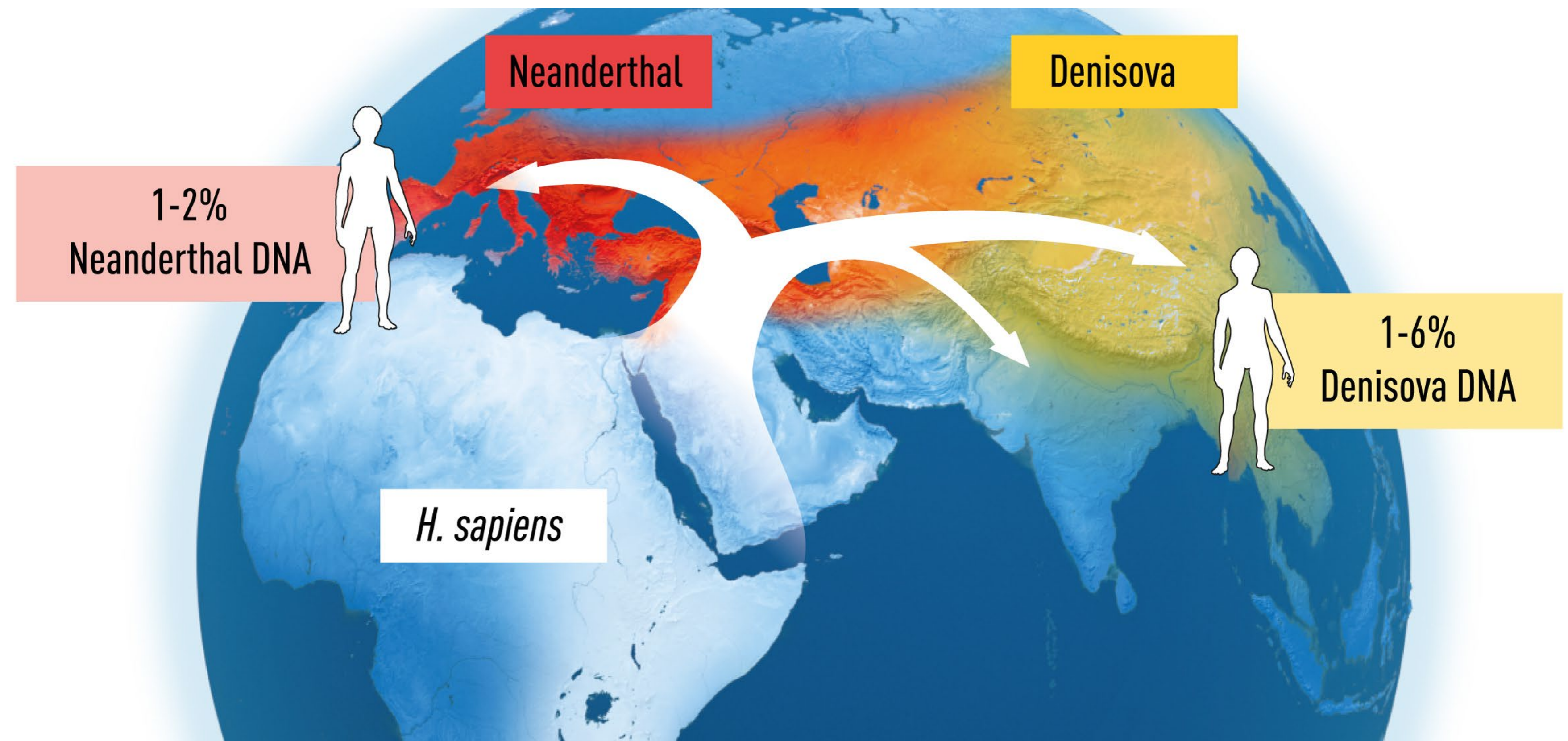
Human evolution



This phylogenetic tree illustrates the development and relationships among Homo sapiens, extinct hominins and chimpanzees.

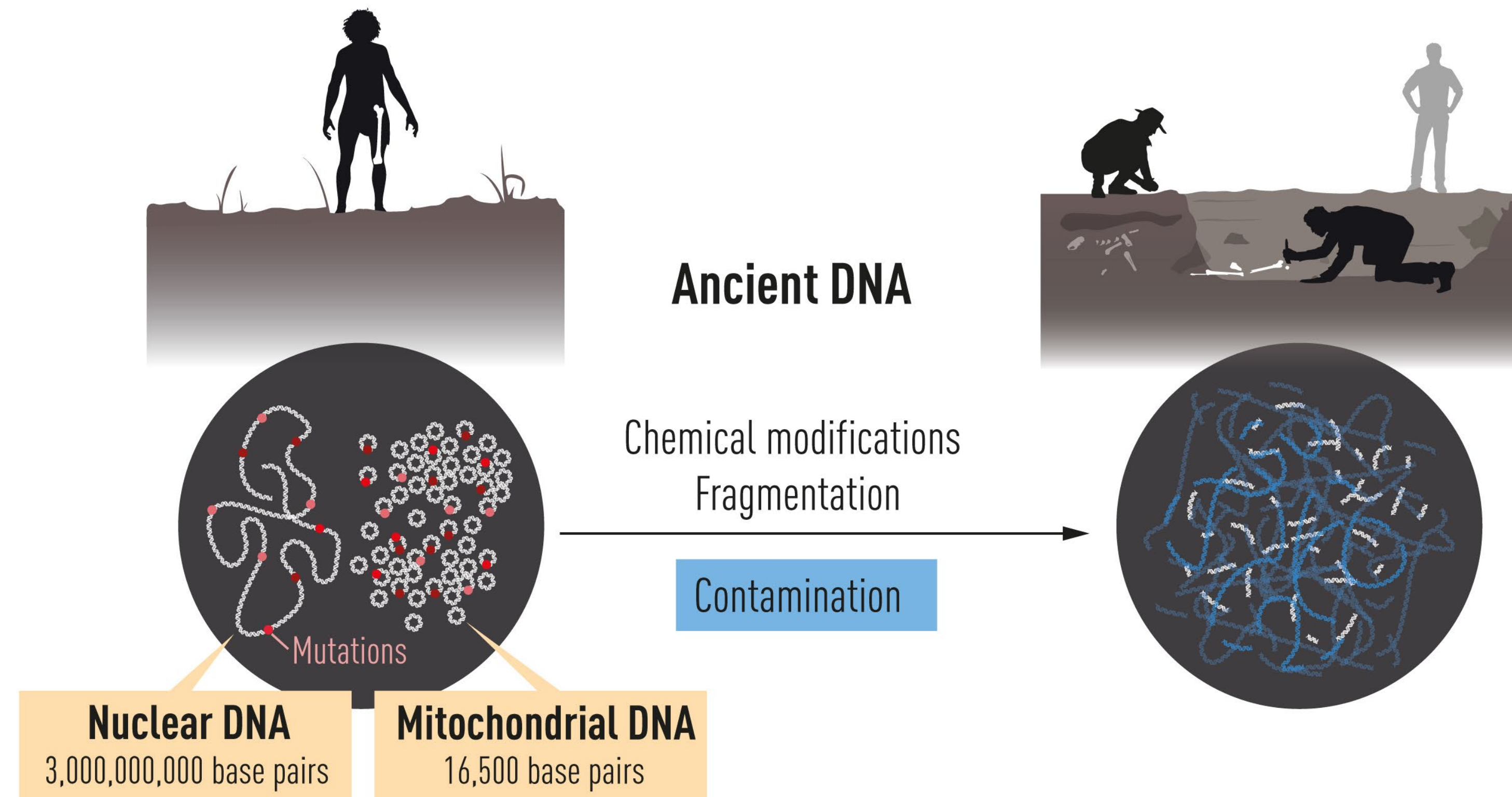
New research field

Groups of *Homo sapiens* left Africa about 70,000 years ago and spread out across the world.



Ten thousand-year-old material analysed

When an organism dies, its DNA begins to break down, and eventually only small amounts remain. Those traces become mixed with DNA from other organisms, such as bacteria.



For the greatest benefit to humankind



PHOTO: FRANK VINKEN, MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT

Human beings want to understand their place in the universe.



PHOTO: LINDA VIGILANT

“The last forty thousand years is quite unique in human history, in that we are the only form of humans around.”

Svante Pääbo, 2022 medicine laureate

THE
NOBEL
PRIZE

FOR THE GREATEST
BENEFIT TO
HUMANKIND

Nobel Prize Lessons