Ardipithecus ramidus, a possible human ancestor, inhabited then-wooded regions of Ethiopia 4.4 million years ago. This year, studies of the fossilized skeleton of a member of the species raised surprising questions about how key human traits evolved. See the Breakthrough of the Year special section beginning on page 1598 and at www.sciencemag.org/btoy2009/.

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Targeting the immune system using small molecules may enhance immunotherapy.

PERSPECTIVE: Toward a Systems-Level Analysis of Infection Biology—A New Method for Conducting Genetic Screens in Human Cells

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Failure marks the end of the road for nonspecific virus blockers.

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People with a sensory mix-up also have exceptional memories.

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