

Researchers find cancer in ancient Egyptian mummy

January 29 2012

A professor from American University in Cairo says discovery of prostate cancer in a 2,200-year-old mummy indicates the disease was caused by genetics, not environment.

The genetics-environment question is key to understanding cancer.

AUC professor Salima Ikram, a member of the team that studied the [mummy](#) in Portugal for two years, said Sunday the mummy was of a man who died in his forties.

She said this was the second oldest known case of [prostate cancer](#).

"Living conditions in ancient times were very different; there were no pollutants or modified foods, which leads us to believe that the disease is not necessarily only linked to industrial factors," she said.

A statement from AUC says the oldest known case came from a 2,700 year-old [skeleton](#) of a king in Russia.

©2012 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Citation: Researchers find cancer in ancient Egyptian mummy (2012, January 29) retrieved 10 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2012-01-cancer-ancient-egyptian-mummy.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private

study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.