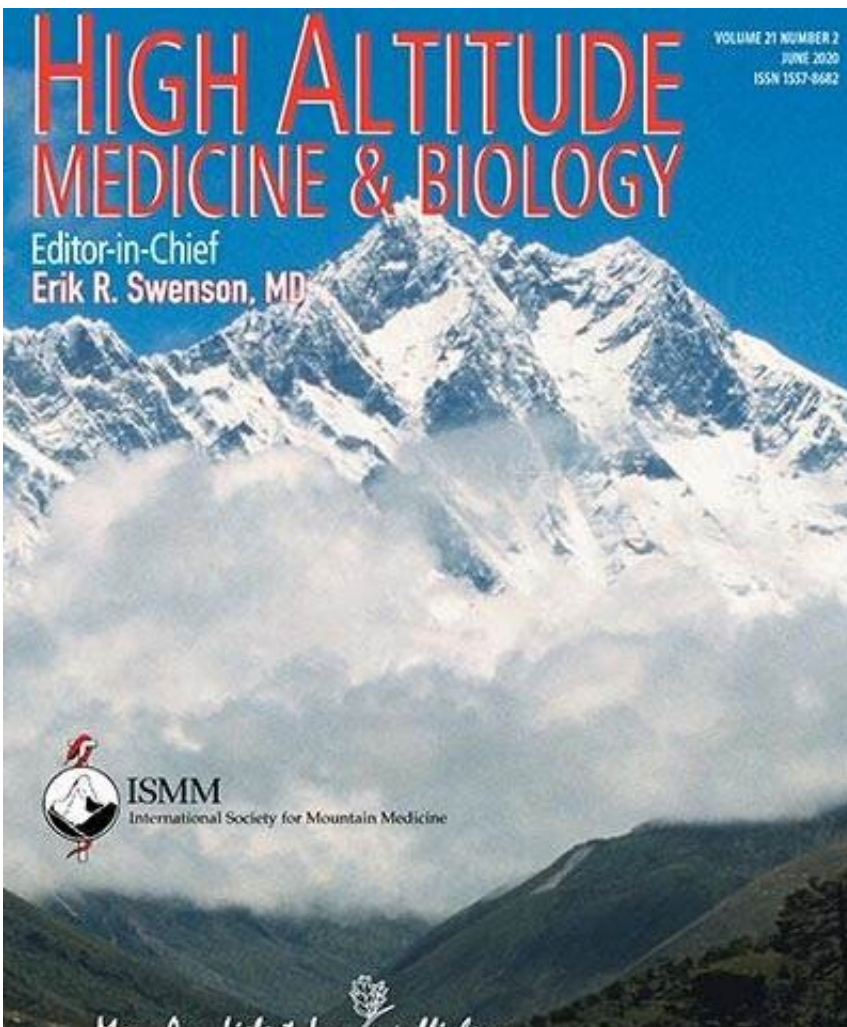


Insufficient evidence of reduced COVID-19 incidence at high altitudes

August 4 2020



Despite recent reports of lower COVID-19 incidence among high-altitude populations, current data is insufficient to conclude that high altitude is protective against the SARS-CoV-2 virus, as reported in the peer-reviewed journal *High Altitude Medicine & Biology*.

"The reported lower incidence of COVID-19 among high-altitude residents is quite intriguing, but epidemiological observations presented so far from high-[altitude](#) regions are preliminary," state Matiram Pun, MBBS, MSc, University of Calgary, Erik Swenson, MD, University of Washington and Editor-in-Chief of *High Altitude Medicine & Biology*, and coauthors.

The authors also conclude that there is currently little supporting evidence for any protective benefit of genetic or nongenomic adaptation to [high-altitude](#) hypoxia.

"We should avoid reaching the [conclusion](#) that any community has an innate protection from COVID-19 in the absence of robust evidence," state the authors.

More information: Matiram Pun et al. Lower Incidence of COVID-19 at High Altitude: Facts and Confounders, *High Altitude Medicine & Biology* (2020). [DOI: 10.1089/ham.2020.0114](https://doi.org/10.1089/ham.2020.0114)

Provided by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc

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