Review of: "Is creeping abandon of human cancer defences evolutionarily favoured?"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

It's a great question. But I caution that the answer cannot be better than the data, and I cannot imagine that the data on wild animals can be of sufficient quality and quantity as to warrant the work required to assess the answer. So, in my opinion the pursuit of this answer is premature. Here is a partial answer: Cancer is a disease of aging. More than 60% of all cancers occur in people over age 60. But living beyond 60 is a very recent achievement. In old eras, humans would have died before they were old enough to get cancer. Wild animals still live to the age of their ancient ancestors, so I would predict that their cancer rate is still low. BUT, I doubt there is any good quality age-specific cancer rates to verify this supposition. So, in my opinion, leave this question until such time as the data warrants pursuit of an answer.