

## Feature Article

# A Brief History of the Human Biology Association: 1974–2004

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**ABSTRACT** Originally incorporated as the Human Biology Council in 1974, the Human Biology Association, as it has been known since 1994, has matured in the intervening 30 years to become a society that represents broadly the interests of human biologists in the U.S. and throughout the world. The purpose of this paper is to trace the development of the Association from its foundation to the present in the context of changes in the organization of the Association and in its By-Laws, officers, committees, and membership; the history of the two journals that served as the Association's official organs (*Human Biology* and *American Journal of Human Biology*); and how the annual meetings have evolved from a modest one-day plenary session to meetings that last more than two days and include a variety of scientific contributions. Highlights of the national meetings include the Raymond Pearl Memorial Lecture, the Franz Boas Distinguished Achievement Award, and the Edward E. Hunt, Jr. Student Prize. *Am. J. Hum. Biol.* 17:141–154, 2005. © 2005 Wiley-Liss, Inc.

Scientific disciplines are shaped by and coalesce around the professional societies that are founded and maintained by the scientists who practice them. Discoveries and the evolving content of the disciplines are presented at the annual scientific and business meetings of the societies. These meetings are seen by the society members as an important forum for the presentation of research and exchange of ideas in the discipline and a place for social contact with colleagues, students, and mentors who share their intellectual and professional developmental history. The meetings are a place to see and be seen by the scientists who move and influence the discipline and a place where contribution to the discipline and scientific excellence are recognized.

In addition to holding annual scientific meetings, societies also sponsor professional journals that publish the research of the discipline they represent. These journals are a primary source of the original findings, theory, and discoveries that characterize the science of the discipline. They are as much a part of the history of a discipline as the societies that sponsor them.

As professional societies mature, they can lose sight of their beginnings and genealogy, thus obscuring the development of the disciplines they represent. We therefore have undertaken this brief history of the first thirty years of the Human Biology Council (later renamed the Human Biology Association) to recall and

document an important aspect of the development of Human Biology as a discipline.

## EARLY HISTORY

The Human Biology Council was incorporated in Washington, D.C., on November 19, 1974. The Certificate of Amendment signifying the name change of the society to the Human Biology Association was formally approved 20 years later by the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs in the District of Columbia on December 20, 1994. The history of the Human Biology Council/Association (HBC/A) has been tied closely with three major journals in the field of human biology and at least one other major society in this science. Hence, some background history dating back to 1960 is required to place the HBC/A in its modern context.

The Society for the Study of Human Biology (SSHB) was founded by Joseph S. Weiner in 1957 in the United Kingdom. In 1960, at a meeting in Berkeley, Gabriel W. Lasker, the Editor-in-Chief of the journal,

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*Human Biology*, and Derek F. Roberts, who was on a visiting position from the U.K. in the United States, discussed the possibility that the largely British SSHB would identify itself as the affiliate society for the journal (Lasker, personal communication). Roberts persuaded his U.K. colleagues to agree, and within a short period, the journal was identified as the official publication of the SSHB. It was further agreed that one-quarter of the journal space for publications would be reserved for British publications; an Associate Editor (James M. Tanner) was named from the U.K.; and three editorial board members were appointed from the U.K. This arrangement continued for about a decade (1963 through late 1973) until the publisher of *Human Biology*, Wayne State University Press, raised the subscription rate in a time frame that was difficult to meet by the British. At the same time, members of the SSHB had been thinking seriously of establishing their own journal. Thus in 1973, the SSHB ended its association with *Human Biology*, and the SSHB began publishing its new official journal, the *Annals of Human Biology* (Vol. 1 [1], January 1974). This left the journal, *Human Biology*, without a professional society to oversee its publications and as an identifiable umbrella organization.

Gabriel Lasker, who had continued editing *Human Biology* during the years of association with the SSHB, saw the separation from SSHB as an opportunity to form a new society to be associated with the journal. Thus, it was in 1973 that the Human Biology Council began to be organized (Lasker, 1974) and envisioned as a small oversight organization. Preliminary discussions were held at the April 12–14, 1973, meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists (AAPA) in Dallas, TX, and at the August 1973 pre-congress (International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences) meeting in Detroit, MI. Paul T. Baker chaired the organizing committee (Lasker, 1989), with Gabriel Lasker playing an important role in this initial organization. Both Baker and Lasker had had considerable experience in the operation and management of a professional society as past presidents of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. The statement, "Official Publication of the Human Biology Council," first appeared on the cover of *Human Biology* for issue 46(4), December 1974. The SSHB affiliation had been erroneously placed on the cover of the preceding September issue (No. 3), despite the earlier

separation. Lasker prepared the original By-Laws of the Council with the advice of the organizing committee (*Human Biology*, 1976). In 1976, the professional dues were \$10, which included the cost of the quarterly journal, *Human Biology*, and membership in the Human Biology Council. The first organizational meeting of the Human Biology Council was held the day before the meetings of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists in Denver, CO, April 9, 1975.

#### THE BY-LAWS OF THE HBC/A

As noted above, the Human Biology Council By-Laws were first published in 1976 (*Human Biology*, 1976). In 1987, revised By-Laws were published (*Human Biology*, 1987) that incorporated changes that had been approved in 1977, 1978, 1982, 1985, and 1986. Comparison of the two sets of By-Laws, spanning about a decade, indicates that there were some minor language changes, but there were substantive changes in Article X: Publications. The changes were in Sections 1, 2, and 3: a new Editor-in-Chief was to be recommended by an ad hoc committee, and the appointment would be made by the President with the approval of the Council; the Publications Committee would be a new standing committee (President, Secretary-Treasurer, Editor-in-Chief of *Human Biology* [ex officio], and four elected members of the Council); and a specific term of office (six years) was defined for the Editor-in-Chief.

In 1995 (*American Journal of Human Biology*, 1995b), the third publication of the By-Laws incorporated additional changes that had been approved in 1988, 1990, 1993, and 1994. There were two major changes and several minor changes. One fundamental change throughout the By-Laws had been instituted by an earlier amendment in 1988; that is, the official journal was identified as the *American Journal of Human Biology*. The second major amendment was the name change of the society (reflected throughout the By-Laws) from the Human Biology Council to the Human Biology Association. In Article IVB: Council of Fellows, this name, "Council of Fellows," to designate the membership of Association Fellows was retained. Minor changes included the designation of two new membership categories, (1) Fellows Emeriti/Emeritae and (2) spouses of members, in Article III: Membership; the need for a member of the Nominations and

Elections Committee who is herself/himself nominated for an office to withdraw from these committee activities during that period (Article VII: Elections); and, under Article X: Publications, that it is the Publications Committee that recommends a new Editor-in-Chief of the Journal, not an ad hoc committee as stipulated in the 1987 By-Laws.

#### THE HISTORY OF THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL

In 1986 and 1987, discussion among some key members of the HBC centered on the need for continuity in the editorship of the official publication, *Human Biology*. Gabriel Lasker had been the Editor-in-Chief of the journal for more than 30 years, and it was believed by some that it was the time for a change, that there should be provision for a regular term of office for the editor, and a new editor should be appointed. This was reflected in the By-Laws published in 1987 (*Human Biology*, 1987), in which Article X, Section 3, stipulated that the Editor-in-Chief shall serve for a term of six years, subject to one renewal. Based on these amended By-Laws, Gabriel Lasker, who had felt capable of continuing on as editor, reluctantly stepped down from the editorship and Francis E. Johnston was appointed the new Editor-in-Chief. Johnston had considerable editorial experience, having edited the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* for six years. Lasker agreed to continue his association with *Human Biology* as Consulting Editor.

The transfer in editorial responsibilities was scheduled to take place in late 1987, with Johnston identified as Editor-in-Chief of *Human Biology* beginning with Volume 60, number 1, 1988. At or around the time that this transition was occurring, Robert Mandel, the Director of the Wayne State University Press, had instituted several policies, such as no longer issuing reprints, and a retroactive rate increase for the 1987 volume of *Human Biology*, all of which concerned members of the HBC (Cronk, 1987). There were other editorial problems as well (Lasker, 1999:103). In addition, Johnston flew to Detroit early in 1988 to discuss these matters with the Director, but the Director had left town without notice and Johnston could not meet with him. Prior to this, Johnston had had a close association with Alan R. Liss, who was the publisher of the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* and who was willing to publish a new journal in human biology if the HBC agreed to drop its

association with the journal *Human Biology*. These issues were raised at the HBC business meeting on Wednesday, March 23, 1988. After considerable debate, those attending the meeting voted with strong support to begin a new journal and to disaffiliate with *Human Biology*. Some had suggested that the HBC or Alan R. Liss, Inc. attempt to buy the rights to *Human Biology* but this was not successful for a variety of reasons. Johnston served as Editor-in-Chief for the first two issues of *Human Biology* in 1988 before resigning (*Human Biology* continued to be published without an editor throughout the rest of 1988, following which Michael H. Crawford was appointed the new Editor-in-Chief) (see also Crawford, 2004). Some members of the HBC were distressed to see a journal such as *Human Biology* with a 60-year tradition cut loose from the HBC. However, the new *American Journal of Human Biology* became available to HBC members with Francis E. Johnston as Editor-in-Chief the next year, in 1989. There was a double irony linked to this difficult period: a bit more than a year after the transition, Mandel, the Wayne State Press Director, whose policies and behavior had stimulated the move away from *Human Biology*, resigned his position, and Alan R. Liss, who had promised much to the Editor-in-Chief of the new journal and to the HBC, sold both the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* and the newly established *American Journal of Human Biology* to another publisher, John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

#### THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HUMAN BIOLOGY (AJHB)

When the *AJHB* was initiated in 1989 as an Alan R. Liss, Inc. publication, the primary concerns were with financial survival of the journal and the necessary development of library subscriptions. At that time, libraries were cutting back on expensive hard-copy journals, and library administrators were not easily persuaded to take on new subscriptions for serial publications. For example, it took two years of lobbying at Binghamton University before the library agreed to subscribe to the journal, and even the new Editor-in-Chief was unable to persuade the University of Texas at Austin to subscribe to the journal when it was first published. At that time, membership in the Human Biology Council was greater than 500, but institutional (library) subscriptions were still low even several years after the

inaugural year of publication; that is, low when compared with well-established journals such as *Human Biology* and the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. In the fall of 1990, institutional subscriptions were slightly less than 100 (Szathmary, 1990), although in subsequent years there were gradual but consistent increases.

Following its sale at the end of the first year of publication (1989), the *AJHB* began to be published by Wiley-Liss, Inc., a Division of John Wiley & Sons, Inc. It has continued to be published by Wiley-Liss, Inc. up to the present. There were a number of events that the HBC President, Emöke Szathmary, had to contend with when beginning her term of office in the Spring of 1990. First, Francis E. Johnston, the inaugural Editor-in-Chief (1989–1990), resigned in February 1990. Barry Bogin, as Associate Editor, assumed responsibility for the journal for the remainder of 1990, while Johnston remained identified as Editor-in-Chief. Elizabeth S. Watts chaired the search committee for the new editor. The search led to Robert M. Malina being appointed Editor-in-Chief by early July 1990 for a term of six years (1991–1996), and he began processing journal correspondence at that time. Second, Wiley-Liss requested that membership services for the HBC no longer be their responsibility, so the HBC contracted with Parker and Parker, a private firm, to do mailings and maintain the membership base. This increased the HBC expenses and placed an additional financial burden on the HBC just at the time that it was becoming established with its new journal. Third, representatives from Wiley-Liss were exerting some pressure on HBC Officers and Council Fellows to increase the institutional base of the journal, both for recognition of the new journal and for financial reasons (Hediger, 1990). Fourth, the transfer from Alan R. Liss, Inc. to the Wiley-Liss Division led to anticipated dues increases within the next few years. The prospect of dues increases at this time was met with some concern by officers and fellows, because HBA memberships had already begun to decline from a peak in 1986, and dues increases were often followed by loss of members.

There were continuing concerns about the future of the journal throughout the early 1990s, during which time there were active campaigns to generate both library subscriptions and memberships in the Human Biology Council. There were also several unsuccessful bids by the Council officers to

have the *American Journal of Human Biology* included in *Index Medicus*, an important indexing and citation publication used widely in biomedical sciences. *Index Medicus*, operated by the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, MD, had strict guidelines for adding new journals to its index, including rules on how often application could be made. The need for inclusion in *Index Medicus*, aside from the need for recognition of the new journal, was the essential need to attract papers of the highest scientific quality where first-rate scientists might be reluctant to submit articles to a journal not indexed in *Index Medicus*. Non-inclusion in *Index Medicus* was also likely to affect the journal's Science Citation Index impact factor, which is one overall measure of the quality of the journal.

The first application to *Index Medicus* in 1991 was not successful. In 1993, however, it was announced at the Executive Committee Meeting that the *AJHB* was now listed in *Current Contents—Life Science* (James, 1993). Increasing pressure was being exerted by the Wiley-Liss representatives because the journal was losing money for the publisher. William Curtis reported on the health of the journal at the 1994 Executive Committee meeting in Denver, Colorado by noting that the institutional subscriptions had increased, but that the *AJHB* was still in the red, and that two alternatives were being considered: (1) raising dues for members of the HBC and (2) merging the *American Journal of Human Biology* with the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* and having the *AJHB* as an *AJPA* supplement to be published four times per year. This latter proposal was rejected strongly by the membership of the HBC (James, 1994), and the proposal was not well received by the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, either. William Curtis did send word to Officers of the HBC about a week after the meeting that the merger proposal was no longer being considered by the publisher. Application was made to *Index Medicus* in 1996, again without success, despite increases in institutional subscriptions, additions to the editorial board of distinguished human biologists (the preceding year), and continued recognition of the journal. By 2000, however, it was reported that the *American Journal of Human Biology* was indexed broadly in the BIOSIS data base, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, *Current Contents—Life Science* (as noted above) and *Social and Behavioral Sciences, Expanded*



Academic Index, VINITI—Russian Academy of Sciences, Social Sciences Citation Index/Social Science Research (ISI), General Science Abstracts, General Science Index, and Research Alert (ISI) (Leidy, 2002).

Spearheaded by HBA President, Lorna G. Moore, Editor-in-Chief, Robert M. Malina, and members of the Publications Committee (Noel Cameron, Chair, James Bindon, Catherine Panter-Brick, and Leslie Sue Lieberman), and with strong support from Nancy Olsen and Royce Meyer at John Wiley & Sons, Inc., a full proposal was made in 2001 to *Index Medicus*/Medline (online service as PubMed), this time with success (Demerath, 2002). The journal was accepted at the June 2001 meeting of the Literature Selection Technical Review Committee of the National Library of Medicine (NLM), and the *AJHB* has been fully indexed in *Index Medicus* since 2001 (all 1999 and 2000 issues of *AJHB* were “semi-indexed” by NLM and added to the data base).

Toward the end of his second six-year appointment as Editor-in-Chief of the *AJHB* in 1971, Robert Malina indicated his intention to retire from the position, having already devoted more than ten years of service to this demanding task. The Publication Committee, headed by Noel Cameron, together with the President and other Association members, developed a list of excellent candidates willing to serve as Editor-in-Chief. After interviewing several candidates, the committee selected Peter Ellison as the new Editor-in-Chief.

There have been three Editors-in-Chief of the *American Journal of Human Biology* since its publication began: Francis E. Johnston (1989–1990), Robert M. Malina

(1991–2002), and Peter T. Ellison (2002–present). Over these 16 years of publication, the *American Journal of Human Biology* has continued to gain credibility from scientists around the world and is now moving into the status of a mature and highly respected serial publication. For example, in mid-2004, the Science Citation Index impact factor for the journal placed it 8th among more than 50 anthropology journals and 4th among biological/physical anthropology journals.

#### THE OFFICERS AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The original By-Laws (1977) identified the HBC/A Officers, Members-at-Large, and the Editor-in-Chief of the journal as constituting the Executive Committee. The President (President Elect and Past-President) and Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee are elected positions. The Secretary-Treasurer is appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee. The President Elect serves a one-year term, moves into the position of President in years two and three, and becomes Past President in year four. In any given year, there are three officers, four Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee, who each serve for four years with a new member elected each year, and the Editor-in-Chief of the journal, who serves ex officio. The President Elect or Past-President are also identified as the Vice President and will assume the duties of the President, should this be required. Table 1 lists the Presidents of the HBC/A during the periods when each

TABLE 1. Presidents of the Human Biology Council/Association, 1975–2004

Dates	President	Institution
1975–1976	Paul T. Baker	Pennsylvania State University
1977–1978	Charlotte M. Otten	Northern Illinois University
1979–1980	Robert H. Biggerstaff	University of Kentucky Dental School
1981–1982	Alex F. Roche	Fels Research Institute
1983–1984	Gabriel W. Lasker	Wayne State University School of Medicine
1985–1986	Robert M. Malina	University of Texas, Austin
1987–1988	William S. Pollitzer	University of North Carolina School of Medicine
1989–1990	A. Roberto Frisancho	University of Michigan
1991–1992	Emöke J.E. Szathmáry	University of Western Ontario
1993–1994	Cynthia M. Beall	Case Western Reserve University
1995–1996	Ralph M. Garruto	National Institutes of Health
1997–1998	Michael A. Little	Binghamton University, SUNY
1999–2000	Michael H. Crawford	University of Kansas
2001–2002	Lorna G. Moore	University of Colorado, Denver
2003–2004	Daniel E. Brown	University of Hawai'i, Hilo
2005–2006	A. Theodore Steegmann, Jr.	State University of New York, Buffalo

held office as President: with the exception of Paul T. Baker, each also served as President Elect and Past-President during the years directly before and after their presidency.

There have been fewer Secretary-Treasurers than Presidents, because the term of office is a full four years. Secretary-Treasurers' responsibilities have been substantial: each is responsible for general administrative matters, financial accounting, payment to the publisher, setting the Executive Committee and Business Meeting agendas, maintaining communication among members of the Executive Committee, keeping the records of the society, preparing reports and the Annual Meeting Proceedings, and many other tasks, including maintaining the membership lists and coordinating all mailings of the Association. These latter responsibilities have not always been part of the Secretary-Treasurer's job. As previously noted, in 1990, the HBC contracted with Parker and Parker, a private firm, to do mailings and to maintain the membership list. In 1992, Parker and Parker terminated their relationship with the HBC and transferred the account to another private firm, Financial Business Systems (FBS). In 1994, because of factors such as declining membership, increased journal costs and other irregularities, the HBA could no longer afford to pay for membership services and terminated the agreement with FBS. Membership services were reverted back to the Secretary-Treasurer's office, where they remain currently. Table 2 is a list of those who served (or are serving) as Secretary-Treasurer from 1977 to the present.

The Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee consist of four elected Council Fellows who participate in decision-making throughout the year and at the Annual Meeting. In the past, their responsibilities were not well defined. For example, until

quite recently, the organization of the scientific program of the Annual Meeting was the responsibility of the President Elect as she/he entered the office of President, and was then the responsibility of the Past-President as she/he left after two years as President (a reward for good service?). Now, the four Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee are each identified according to a specific title: Membership (acquiring new members), Program (organizing the scientific program at the Annual Meeting), Public Affairs (outreach, contacts with the press and the community), and International (liaison with international members and overseas societies). These titles, which have been in effect since 2002, have better defined the activities and responsibilities of Members-at-Large. A list of Members-at-Large is given in Table 3.

There are two standing committees, whose chairs ordinarily attend the Executive Committee Annual Meeting as nonvoting members: Nominations and Elections Committee and Publications Committee. The Nominations and Elections Committee was established in the earliest By-Laws (Human Biology, 1976), whereas the Publications Committee was established in the amended By-Laws (Human Biology, 1987). Each standing committee has four elected members drawn from the Council Fellows (two rotate off each of the committees every year). The Editor-in-Chief is ex officio on the Publications Committee. Ad hoc committees have been established from time to time for a variety of tasks. For example, in 1996, there were five ad hoc committees: Education and Training, Daniel E. Brown, Chair; International Liaison, Lawrence M. Schell, Chair; Membership, Linda M. Gerber, Chair; Mission Statement, Stephen T. McGarvey, Chair; Public and Scientific Affairs, Mary E. Hediger, Chair. With the exception of the Mission Statement ad hoc committee, these

TABLE 2. Secretary-Treasurers of the Human Biology Council/Association, 1975–2004

Dates	Secretary-Treasurer	Institution
1975–1976	Michael A. Little	State University of New York, Binghamton
1976–1979	A. Theodore Steegmann, Jr.	State University of New York, Buffalo
1979–1980	Robert M. Malina	University of Texas, Austin
1980–1984	Roger M. Siervogel	Fels Research Institute
1985–1988	Christine E. Cronk	University of Illinois
1988–1992	Mary L. Hediger	University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
1992–1996	Gary D. James	Cornell University Medical College
1996–2000	Lynnette E. Leidy (Sievert)	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
2000–2004	Ellen W. Demerath	Wright State University
2004–2008	Gillian H. Ice	Ohio University School of Osteopathic Medicine

TABLE 3. *Executive Committee Members-at-Large, 1975–2004*

Dates	Member	Institution
1975–1977	Owen Lovejoy	Kent State University
1975–1978	Eugene Giles	University of Illinois
1976–1979	Michael A. Little	State University of New York, Binghamton
1977–1980	Alice Brues	University of Colorado
1978–1981	Roberta L. Hall	Oregon State University
1979–1982	William A. Stini	University of Arizona
1980–1983	Gail Harrison	University of Arizona
1981–1984	Jonathan S. Friedlaender	Temple University
1982–1985	Jere D. Haas	Cornell University
1983–1986	Phyllis Eveleth	National Institutes of Health
1984–1987	Laura Newell Morris	University of Washington
1985–1988	Jane Buikstra	University of Chicago
1986–1989	Emőke Szathmáry	University of Western Ontario
1987–1990	Michael A. Little	Binghamton University, SUNY
1988–1991	William H. Mueller	University of Texas Health Sciences Center
1988–1992	Roger M. Siervogel	Wright State University
1989–1991	Cynthia M. Beall	Case Western Reserve University
1990–1994	Sara Stinson	Queens College, CUNY
1991–1995	Barry Bogin	University of Michigan, Dearborn
1992–1996	Linda S. Adair	University of North Carolina
1992–1993	Ralph M. Garruto*	National Institutes of Health
1993–1997	Rebecca Huss-Ashmore	University of Pennsylvania
1994–1998	Stephen T. McGarvey	Brown University
1995–1999	Fatima Linda Collier Jackson	University of Maryland
1996–2000	Gary D. James	Cornell University Medical College
1997–2001	Mary L. Hediger	National Institutes of Health
1998–2002	Daniel E. Brown	University of Hawai'i, Hilo
1999–2003	Paul W. Leslie	University of North Carolina
2000–2004	Douglas E. Crews	Ohio State University
2001–2005	Catherine Panter-Brick	University of Durham
2002–2006	Lisa Sattenspiel	University of Missouri
2003–2007	Linda M. Gerber	Cornell Medical College
2004–2008	Lynnette Leidy Sievert	University of Massachusetts, Amherst

\* Appointed to complete the term of Cynthia M. Beall, who was elected President-Elect.

committees remained in effect with little change in chairs until the Members-at-Large responsibilities were defined in 2002.

#### ANNUAL MEETINGS AND THE PROCEEDINGS

The format of the annual scientific and business meeting of the Association has evolved over the years to include greater participation among the membership. Following incorporation in late 1974, the first meeting in Denver, CO, was largely organizational. Hence, the first meeting with scientific papers (officially the First Annual Meeting) was held in St. Louis, MO, on April 14, 1976. For the first decade or so, the scientific aspect of the meeting consisted of a day-long symposium of scientific papers without a single topical focus but which in 1983 began to be highlighted by the Pearl Memorial Lecturer. Topical foci for

the Plenary Sessions began in 1987. Table 4 lists the annual Plenary Sessions by year, organizer(s), and topic (when appropriate). All speakers for the Plenary Sessions were invited, and each spoke for forty-five minutes to an hour. In 1987, at the annual business meeting, a vote was taken to add a poster session in which members could volunteer to present their work. This initiative passed by a single vote, and the following year, 1988, the first poster session was held at the 13th annual meetings in Kansas City, MO. The poster sessions were held over the next six years at varying times during the meetings, from the interim between the morning and afternoon invited podium sessions, to being concurrent with the HBA members' reception, which ran from 8 to 11 PM the evening following the invited podium sessions.

In 1993, as an effort help increase membership and participation, the Executive

TABLE 4. Plenary sessions of the HBC/HBA, 1975–2004

Date	Place	Oganizer(s)	Title
April 9, 1975	Denver, CO	—	—
April 14, 1976	St. Louis, MO	—	Human Biology Papers
April 13, 1977	Seattle, WA	—	Human Biology Papers
April 12, 1978	Toronto, ON	—	Human Biology Papers
April 4, 1979	San Francisco, CA	—	Human Biology Papers
April 16, 1980	Niagara Falls, NY	—	Human Biology Papers
April 22, 1981	Detroit, MI	S.L. Washburn	Human Biology Papers
March 31, 1982	Eugene, OR	—	Human Biology Papers
April 5, 1983	Indianapolis, IN	—	Human Biology Papers
April 10, 1984	Philadelphia, PA	—	Human Biology Papers
April 10, 1985	Knoxville, TN	R.M. Malina	Human Biology Papers
April 9, 1986	Albuquerque, NM	R.M. Malina	Human Biology Papers
April 2, 1987	New York City	C.G.N. Mascie-Taylor	Biological Effects of Migration
March 23, 1988	Kansas City, MO	W.S. Pollitzer	Uses of Molecular Biology: Understanding the Basis of Genetic Disease, Determining Evolutionary Pathways, and Other Applications
April 5, 1989	San Diego, CA	A.R. Frisancho & R.M. Garruto	AIDS and Human Biocultural Implications
April 4, 1990	Miami, FL	A.R. Frisancho & R. Huss-Ashmore	Nutrition and Diet in Human Biology
April 3, 1991	Milwaukee, WI	S. Pfeiffer	Physical Activity and Human Biology
April 1, 1992	Las Vegas, NV	E.J.E. Szathmary & R.M. Siervogel	Ethnicity and Disease
April 14, 1993	Toronto, ON	M.H. Crawford & C.M. Beall	Individual, Intra- and Inter Population Variability in DNA
March 30, 1994	Denver, CO	B.S. Zemel, S.J. Ulijaszek, & W.R.	Energetics, Lifestyles and Leonard Nutritional Adaptation
March 29, 1995	Oakland, CA	D.E. Crews, J.D. Pearson, & R.M. Garruto	Human Biology and Aging: Recent Advances and New Directions for Research
April 10, 1996	Durham, NC	M.A. Little & K.M. Weiss	Human Biodiversity in Anthropological and Ecological Perspectives
April 2, 1997	St. Louis, MO	J.J. McKenna	Evolutionary Medicine: Exemplars of an Emerging New Field
April 1, 1998	Salt Lake City, UT	A.G. Comuzzie	The Search for Complex Disease Genes: The Intersection of Genetics and Anthropology
April 28, 1999	Columbus, OH	L.E. Leidy (Sievert)	Menopause: Bio-Cultural Approaches
April 12, 2000	San Antonio, TX	W.R. Leonard & S.J. Uijaszek	Energetics and Evolution
March 26, 2001	Kansas City, MO	R.M. Garruto & M.A. Little	(1) Human Dimensions of Biodiversity: Processes, Interactions, and Outcomes
March 27, 2001		M.H. Crawford	(2) Thread of Life: Applications of Molecular Genetics to Human Biology
April 13, 2002	Buffalo, NY	E. Crognier & L.G. Moore	Strategies for Reproductive Success
April 26, 2003	Tempe, AZ	M.A. Little & C.G.N. Mascie-Taylor	Human Migration and Mobility: Demographic, Environmental, and Evolutionary Issues
April 15, 2004	Tampa, FL	C. Kuzawa & I.L. Pike	The Fetal Origins of Developmental Plasticity: Life History, Adaptation, and Disease

Committee voted to change the format of the meetings and to award the Edward E. Hunt, Jr. prize for the best student poster. The meeting would be one day with an invited plenary session in the morning and two symposia in the afternoon (one with shorter papers related to the plenary session, the other not), rather than a single day-long session. There would be also at least one poster

session of 40–50 posters, which would have defined times when the authors were to be present. The poster session(s) would not compete with the symposiums. The following year, 1994, the executive committee voted to expand the meeting format to 2 days (actually one and a half days), where the meetings were to be on Tuesday–Wednesday preceding the AAPA meetings and would also include a



workshop. From that time, the Association has maintained a two-day format, although the days of the meetings have changed, first to Saturday and Sunday (2003) overlapping a day with the last day of the AAPA meetings, and then to Wednesday–Thursday (2004), overlapping a half day with the first day of the AAPA meetings.

Aside from archival minutes of the Annual Meetings kept with the Secretary-Treasurers and passed on with other materials, the only records of Executive Committee and Annual Business Meetings and other Association affairs are the eight years of the Proceedings, which were initiated in 1996. These are an invaluable record of Association activities.

Sponsorship of the Plenary Sessions/Symposia and the Pearl Lecturers has been carried largely by the Human Biology Council/Association. However, the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Inc. generously supported symposia and speakers in 1989 and 1992 through 1999. Support from the North American Menopause Society was obtained by Lynnette Leidy Sievert for the 1999 Plenary Session, and support from the NIH (an R13 award) was obtained from Lorna G. Moore for the 2002 Plenary Session. Recently (2003–2004), Wiley-Liss has begun to sponsor the Plenary Sessions. A Workshop/Practicum was initiated at the Annual Meeting in 1996, and has been a regular feature of meetings since that time. Since, the HBC/A Annual Meeting is regularly held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, a HBA/AAPA Joint Symposium has been organized annually for about twenty years. Finally, there have been occasional joint meetings with the Society for the Study of Human Biology (British) and the International Association of Human Biologists.

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership has fluctuated over the years but has always been close to 300 members or more. Figure 1 shows the membership trend from published membership lists and recent accounting for 1977 to 2004. The peak of about 600 members in 1986 resulted from efforts by Alex Roche and others to increase membership, drawing from the biomedical and health sciences community. The declines in membership between 1986 and 1995 resulted from these new members not conti-

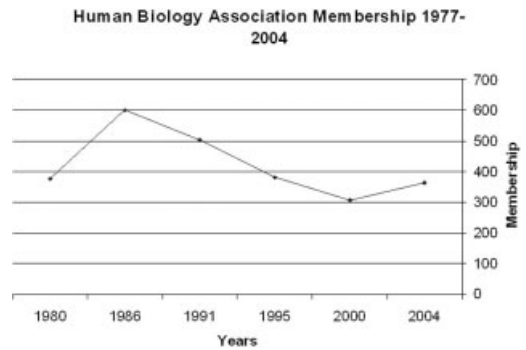


Fig. 1. HBC/HBA membership trends from 1977 to 2004. Data are from *Human Biology* (1977), *Human Biology* (1980), *Human Biology* (1986), *American Journal of Human Biology* (1991), *American Journal of Human Biology* (1995a), Ellen Demerath (2000, personal communication), and *American Journal of Human Biology* (2004).

ning their memberships and were also influenced by the transition to a new journal in 1989. It is presumed that some members who were interested only in a reduced price for the journal *Human Biology* resigned membership when this journal was no longer provided to members of the Human Biology Council. A later slight decline in membership took place after the American Association of Anthropological Genetics was formed and took on *Human Biology* as its official journal.

Cooperative arrangements were made in 1994 (James, 1994) between the Human Biology Council/Association and Wayne State University Press, such that HBC/A membership entitled members to subscribe to *Human Biology* at a reduced rate.

### EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

There was little activity concerning education and outreach in the Human Biology Council/Association until the 1990s. Outreach to other scientific organizations was encouraged through the ad hoc International Liaison Committee chaired for a number of years by Lawrence M. Schell, who maintained close contacts with the Society for the Study of Human Biology (SSHB) in the U.K. and with other international societies, including the International Association of Human Biologists (IAHB). A representative from the Human Biology Council/Association to the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) was appointed in the early

1990s. Rebecca Huss-Ashmore served as the AAAS representative until 1993; Michele Lampl served from 1993 until 1995; Leslie Sue Lieberman served from 1995 until 1999; Theodore Schurr was interim representative for 2000; Stephen T. McGarvey served in 2001; and Theodore Schurr was appointed as the AAAS representative for 2002–2005.

The preparation of a guide to graduate programs in human biology was proposed in 1993 (James, 1993) and was later prepared from a detailed questionnaire sent out to members during the Fall of 1993. Cynthia M. Beall assumed responsibility for organizing and compiling the Guide, which was published in 1996 (Beall, 1996).

The textbook writing proposal was first raised in 1993 (James, 1993). The plan was to prepare an edited state-of-knowledge textbook in human biology to both meet the need for an appropriate undergraduate/graduate text that was not available at that time and to raise revenue through royalties for the Human Biology Association. Sara Stinson, Rebecca Huss-Ashmore, and Barry Bogin constituted a subcommittee of the Publications Committee to plan the text and to seek authors and a publisher. Wiley-Liss, Inc. agreed to publish the text, and after considerable effort on the part of the editors (Sara Stinson, Barry Bogin, Rebecca Huss-Ashmore, and Dennis O'Rourke), the 639-page textbook was published in 2000 (Stinson et al., 2000).

#### RAYMOND PEARL MEMORIAL LECTURES

The Raymond Pearl Memorial Lectures were established in 1983 (almost certainly by Gabriel Lasker) and have continued up to the present. Raymond Pearl (1879–1940) was one of the great human biologists of the twentieth century (see Figure 2). He was trained as a biologist at the University of Michigan and spent most of his professional life at Johns Hopkins University in the School of Hygiene and Public Health and the Department of Biology. His contributions to human science were substantial: he published in areas of human population biology, biostatistics, population growth, aging, nutrition, genetics, and many others. He was committed to integrated studies of human biology and founded two journals that continue this vision: *Quarterly Review of Biology* (1926) and *Human Biology* (1929). The latter journal was the official publication of the Human



Fig. 2. Raymond Pearl.

Biology Council during its formative years until early 1988; hence, the designation of Raymond Pearl for the named lectures was appropriate in this earlier context.

Each lecturer, who is a distinguished contributor to the profession, has presented a formal lecture on the same day as the plenary session at the annual meeting. The Pearl Lecturer has then been given a plaque to commemorate her/his contribution, either after the talk or during the annual luncheon. The Pearl Lecturers are listed in Table 5. In recent years, a brochure has been distributed at the annual meeting that highlights Raymond Pearl's life, a brief biography of the current Lecturer, an abstract of the lecture, and a list of the past recipients. The first Pearl Lecturer, Sharon Kingsland, a historian of science, spoke on Raymond Pearl: On the Frontier in the 1920's (Kingsland, 1984). A more recent Pearl lecture by Robert R. Sokal discussed Raymond Pearl's legacy: The Proper Measure of Man (Sokal, 2004). Other lectures dealt with individual theoretical and research topics. Pearl Lecturers have included out-

TABLE 5. Pearl Memorial Lecturers, 1983–2004

Date	Lecturer	Institution	Citation
1983	Sharon Kingsland	Johns Hopkins University	Kingsland, 1984
1984	David Kritchevsky	University of Pennsylvania	—
1985	Stanley M. Garn	University of Michigan	—
1986	Alex F. Roche	Wright State University School of Medicine	—
1987	Derek F. Roberts	University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne	Roberts, 1988
1988	James N. Spuhler	University of New Mexico	—
1989	D. Carleton Gajdusek	National Institutes of Health	Gajdusek, 1990
1990	George H. Beaton	University of Toronto	Beaton, 1992
1991	Henry J. Montoye	University of Wisconsin	Montoye, 1992
1992	William J. Schull	University of Texas Health Sciences Center	Schull, 1993
1993	Arno G. Motulsky	University of Washington	—
1994	G. Ainsworth Harrison	University of Oxford	Harrison, 1996
1995	Robert N. Butler	Mount Sinai Medical Center	—
1996	Paul T. Baker	Pennsylvania State University	Baker, 1997
1997	George C. Williams	State University of New Stony Brook	Williams, 2000
1998	Jean W. MacCluer	Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research	—
1999	Margaret Lock	McGill University	Lock & Kaufert, 2001
2000	R.M <sup>c</sup> Neill Alexander	University of Leeds	Alexander, 2002
2001	Henry C. Harpending	University of Utah	—
2002	Jeanne Altmann	Princeton University	Altmann & Alberts, 2003
2003	Robert R. Sokal	Stony Brook University	Sokal, 2004
2004	Stephen C. Stearns	Yale University	—

standing scientists from the United States and abroad, including eight members of the National Academy of Sciences, a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, and a Nobel Prize recipient. Many of the Pearl Lectures have been published in *Human Biology* or the *American Journal of Human Biology* (see Table 5).

#### FRANZ BOAS DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

A recommendation was made in late 1994 to Ralph M. Garruto, Human Biology Association President, that a “Distinguished Achievement Award” be established to be presented annually to a member of the Association or an outside scientist for exemplary contributions to the field of human biology. The recommendation was supported by the HBA Executive Committee and membership at the 1995 Annual Meeting, and it was agreed that the award would be a small bust of Franz Boas (see Fig. 3) cast in bronze by the accomplished Cornell University artist, Roberto Bertoia (1955– ). Franz Boas made many contributions to the field of human biology. As James M. Tanner documented (1959), Boas’s first and last papers on human growth were published in 1892 and 1941, both in the journal *Science*. He conducted the first American longitudinal growth study and



Fig. 3. The first Franz Boas Award.

discovered variations in growth rates that he described as the *tempo of growth*. In anthropology, he is best known for his classic study of plasticity by use of migrants, where he used experimental design and statistics that set an example for future work in the profession.

The annual recipient was to be chosen by the Executive Committee from nominations received from the HBA members according to the following criteria: (1) a leading figure in our profession, either from the United States or abroad; (2) one who has made a series of contributions that represent a significant accomplishment within the profession; or (3) alternately, one who has made a remarkable contribution that transcends normal scientific achievement recognized both within and outside of the profession of human biology.

The cost of the preparation of the clay sculpture, mold, and first casting was to be borne by donations from the members of the HBA as well as senior anthropologists outside of the HBA. Letters were sent to senior anthropologists and an announcement was published in the *American Journal of Human Biology*. Donations were received from 56 individuals, where contributions ranged between \$5.00 and \$300.00. The first award was presented to Gabriel Ward Lasker in 1996 (see Fig. 3). Lasker had met Boas shortly before Boas died in the early 1940s to seek advice about statistical sampling for his dissertation. Subsequent recipients of the award have been James M. Tanner, 1997; Alice M. Brues, 1998; Francisco M. Salzano, 1999; Paul T. Baker, 2000; Derek F. Roberts, 2001; Stanley M. Garn, 2002; Geoffrey A. Harrison, 2003; and Alex F. Roche, 2004. Comments by the presenter and remarks by the recipients have been recorded in the Meetings' Proceedings in November/December issues (No. 6) of the *American Journal of Human Biology*.

#### EDWARD E. HUNT, JR. STUDENT PRIZE

The E.E. Hunt, Jr. Student Prize was established in 1993 and has continued as an integral part of the Human Biology Association's Annual Meeting since that time (see Fig. 4). The namesake of the prize, Edward Eyre Hunt, Jr. (1922–1991), was perhaps the last of the renaissance scholars in the field of physical anthropology and a leading figure in the process that changed the field from a descriptive science to one with a problem-

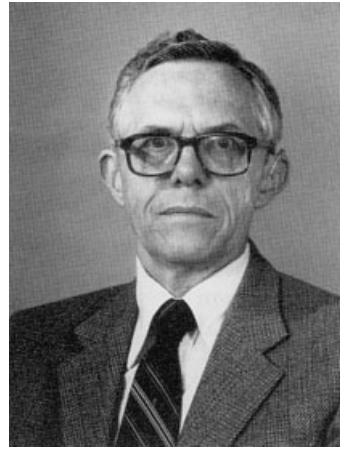


Fig. 4. Edward Eyre Hunt, Jr.

solving orientation (Baker, 1992). He received his graduate training at Harvard University and was the last student to complete a Ph.D. under the direction of E.A. Hooton in 1951 (Baker, 1992). Hunt was a devoted and beloved teacher with infinite patience, supporting graduate education throughout his long career. Many members of the Association owe a significant debt to Hunt in the development of their careers.

The prize was initially titled the E.E. Hunt, Jr. Student Poster Prize and was to be given to the best student poster presented at the annual HBA scientific meeting. Members of the Publications Committee were to serve as the judges for the award. In 1996, a student symposium was developed as part of the HBA scientific program. In 1998, the publications committee decided to give two prizes, one for the best podium presentation and one for the best poster. Since that time, two prizes have been given, even when there has not been a student symposium. Table 6 lists the E.E. Hunt, Jr. Prize winners.

#### THE HUMAN BIOLOGY ASSOCIATION WEBSITE: [WWW.HUMBIO.ORG](http://WWW.HUMBIO.ORG)

In order to keep up with ever advancing technology and means of communication, in 1996 the Association embarked on developing a website. The first site was developed by Cynthia M. Beall and was later expanded by Peter T. Katzmarzyk. It was originally on a server at Case Western University, moved to York University, and then to Ohio State



TABLE 6. E.E. Hunt, Jr. Student Prize awardees, 1994–2004

Meeting date	Place	Student Awardees
March 30, 1994	Denver, CO	Hilton P. Silva, Ohio State University
March 29, 1995	Oakland, CA	Warren M. Wilson, University of Colorado
April 10, 1996	Durham, NC	Tina Moffat, McMaster University
April 2, 1997	St. Louis, MO	Victoria A. Galloway, University of Guelph
April 1, 1998	Salt Lake City, UT	Lori J. Fitton, Ohio State University
		Susan L. Johnston, University of Pennsylvania
April 28, 1999	Columbus, OH	Barbara A. Piperata, University of Colorado
		Thomas W. McDade, Emory University
April 12, 2000	San Antonio, TX	Audrey C. Choh, State University of NY at Albany
		Chris W. Kuzawa, Emory University
March 28, 2001	Kansas City, MO	Deborah E. Schechter, University of Washington
		Daniel J. Hrushka, Emory University
		Brandon A. Kohrt, Emory University
April 13, 2002	Buffalo, NY	Corey S. Sparks, Pennsylvania State University
		Megan J. Wilson, University of Colorado, Denver
April 27, 2003	Tempe, AZ	Kathleen M. Lindsay, Northwestern University
		Alejandro Nuñez de-la-Mora, University College, London
April 15, 2004	Tampa, FL	Barbara Arredi, Catholic University of Rome
		Kristen L. Knutson, University at Albany, SUNY

University. During the tenure of Douglas E. Crews on the Executive Committee as Public Affairs representative, the Association purchased its own web domain name: [www.humbio.org](http://www.humbio.org). The website is currently managed from Ohio State University.

### EPILOGUE

After thirty years, the Human Biology Association is a strong and vigorous professional organization with a persistent and promising future. The founders, Gabriel W. Lasker and Paul T. Baker, were committed to the establishment of a society to oversee a discipline that is grounded in human population biology, evolution, and biocultural approaches to anthropology. These areas define the unique contribution that human biology makes to the realm of scientific inquiry. According to its mission statement: "The mission of the Human Biology Association is to advance the understanding of human biological variation, to enhance the training of professional human biologists, and to foster a better comprehension of the scope of human biology among scientific professionals and the public. To meet this mission, the Association promotes education, discussion, integration and dissemination of research on all aspects of human biological variation through annual scientific meetings and periodic publications." ([www.humbio.org](http://www.humbio.org))

The first years of the Human Biology Council/Association had some turbulence

linked to founding a new journal and maintaining an established membership. At this juncture, the journal is secure, the membership is stable, and the HBA members are committed to continuing support of the Association.

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