

Preface

At the end of 2012, one of us (RJH), concerned about the lack of a book on human evolution that would include not only genetics and evolution, but also other areas of knowledge that could influence this process (cultural anthropology, linguistics, demography, and other disciplines of the so-called humanities), decided to write a piece of work that would contemplate all of these aspects. Contacts with RG-B and FMS resulted in the prompt acceptance of a specific collaboration.

We then prepared a specific proposal that was, after proper consideration, accepted by Wiley-Blackwell in December of the following year (2013). In the ensuing two and a half years, we worked in close contact by e-mail, on the manuscript, followed by a face-to-face meeting in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in March 2015. The result is now presented for the appreciation of the readers.

The book comprises 11 chapters, distributed as follows: Chapter 1: history; Chapter 2: basic structural aspects; Chapters 3–5: population structure, variability, and its dynamics; Chapter 6: early migrations; Chapter 7: culture; Chapter 8: health and disease; Chapter 9: recent human evolution; Chapter 10: bioethical aspects; and Chapter 11: the future. There was a determined attempt to provide a holistic approach to the subject. The readers will decide whether we have succeeded or not. It was a pleasure to write this book, and we hope that its contents will reflect this state of spirit.

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