
Preface

I have had the great privilege of working in a scientific field that is ever changing and ever fascinating. It is also a field whose practitioners stress cooperation, not competition and collaboration, not selfishness. I am deeply indebted to my many colleagues who have shared their knowledge, their passion for human biology, and – in many cases – their friendship. This book would have been impossible without them. It is always perilous to single out individuals – fearing to leave out so many who have helped along the way – but I do wish to give special thanks to Lynnette Sievert, Gary James, Ralph Garruto, Michael Little, Lynn Morrison, Brooke Thomas, Roberto Frisancho, Ron Amundson, Craig Severance, Jerry Johnson, and Joel M. Hanna for their aid, mentorship, and support. I also wish to thank the fifteen colleagues who consented to be profiled in this edition; I have found their research endeavors to be among the most exciting in the field, although many others could have been included as well.

It would be remiss not to thank my family, who put up with a sometimes-absentee husband, father, grandfather, and son while I prepared this book. So, thank you to Dorothy and Bill Freiman, and the Browns: Annie, Ku'ināola, and Kanoeha'imālie and the other three: Elena (who contributed several drawings used in the book), Aaron, and Elissa, exemplars of the benefits of human diversity to whom this book is dedicated.

This second edition of *Human Biological Diversity* has been updated throughout, particularly in sections dealing with the fast-moving field of human genetics. Two chapters have been added. A new chapter focused on human osteology has been included to highlight how studies of the skeleton and dentition allow a window into the past; we can extract an enormous amount of information from human remains that illuminate what life was like for our ancestors, both recent and distant. A new chapter that examines how we can trace the history and movements of our species through the study of the human genome has allowed a greatly expanded discussion of this area than was possible in the first edition; the technological advances in the study of molecular genetics has permitted much new information – and understanding – of our ancestry.

I have discovered that the more I learn about human diversity, the more I have come to appreciate – and celebrate – it. I hope the book enhances readers' appreciation for this diversity as well.