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## **Introduction**

This special issue of *Human Biology* commemorates the founding of the journal in 1929 by the eminent biologist Raymond Pearl. Because of its exceptional length, we are combining the October and December issues of *Human Biology* into a single special publication. The title of this special issue, "Foundations of Anthropological Genetics," deserves comment because most of the reprinted articles were not written by anthropologists. This title was chosen to emphasize that the roots of anthropological genetics are numerous and can be traced to such fields as genetics, demography, medicine, immunology, primatology, psychology, and anthropology.

In this special issue, with one exception, all the reprinted articles approach human genetics from a broad, integrative perspective. As Mielke and Crawford suggested in the preface to *Current Developments in Anthropological Genetics* (Plenum Press, 1980), what sets anthropological genetics apart is its focus on aspects of culture that interact with human genetics on the population, familial, or individual level. The one exception is Morris Goodman's article, which examines species affinities of primates based on immunologic data. This article is included because it was a pioneering effort in elucidating the phylogenetic relationships between primate species. It stimulated interest in this research area and was followed by the application of other immunologic techniques, amino acid analyses, and DNA investigations to the understanding of human evolution.

From its inception *Human Biology* has been publishing articles that are on the cutting edge of human genetics, demography, and population biology. Thus the recent topical refocusing of the journal from a general coverage of human biology to anthropological genetics is built on a solid foundation constructed by Pearl (see *Human Biology*, December 1988, Letter from the Editor). Continuity exists between the early issues of *Human Biology* and its present topical direction. During the 60 years of the journal's existence, such eminent scientists as J.B.S. Haldane, Raymond Pearl, J.V. Neel, Arno Motulsky, W.J. Schull, James Spuhler, Theodosius Dobzhansky, Baruch S. Blumberg, Frank Livingstone, Robert Sokal, J.F. Crow, L.L. Cavalli-Sforza, G.A. Harrison, and D.F. Roberts have contributed original publications. These authors have played a major role in the development and refinement of the theory of evolution and its application. The development of anthropological genetics is intimately intertwined with the history of *Human Biology*.

It was a difficult task for us to select the ten most significant articles from the thousands that have graced the pages of *Human Biology* during the past 60 years. We employed the following criteria for selection: (1) The article had to be based on seminal research in anthropological genetics that led to subsequent publication of numerous articles and treatises; (2) the research and the article had to be widely cited and recognized; (3) the article had to be representative of a large body of research that contributed to evolutionary theory; (4) the publication had to withstand the test of time (the most recent article selected was published in 1980). All the reprinted articles meet most but not all of the listed criteria. Some of the articles represent a large body of research that permanently altered evolutionary theory; others introduced a significant approach or methodology and have been widely cited. It is likely that another pair of editors would have selected a few different articles. However, we believe that most of our selections would be included in other lists of significant articles in anthropological genetics that have appeared during the 60-year history of *Human Biology*.

This special issue of *Human Biology* consists of 10 reprinted articles and their updates plus a personal history of the journal by Gabriel W. Lasker. Lasker's historical overview focuses on the genetic publications in the journal. Each reprinted classic is followed by an update of the developments in that particular field since the publication of the reprinted article. Eight of the ten updates were written by the original author. Because two of these classic articles were written almost 50 years ago or more, in 1934 and 1940, it is not surprising that these two updates had to be prepared by other specialists. As a result, the update of Haldane's classic article was written by an eminent specialist in quantitative approaches to gene frequency distributions of Europe, Robert Sokal. Wilson's article, on the environmental factors associated with the behavior of twins, is followed by an update prepared by a behavioral geneticist and psychologist, David Hay. We were fortunate to be able to convince the other eight authors to write updates to their classic articles. It is interesting to note the extent of changes in their orientation and theoretical positions given the passage and test of time.

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