

EVOLUTION OF CARTA

1990 - 1995

Local researchers begin informal meetings to inquire about human uniqueness from the perspective of their specialties:

- Kurt Benirschke (Comparative Pathology)
- Floyd Bloom (Neuroscience)
- Ted Bullock (Neuroscience)
- Patricia Churchland (Philosophy)
- Roy D'Andrade (Anthropology)
- Russell Doolittle (Biology)
- Fred "Rusty" Gage (Neuroscience)
- Bob Katzman (Neurology)
- Jim Moore (Biological Anthropology)
- David Perlmutter (Linguistics)
- Terry Sejnowski (Neuroscience)
- Ajit Varki (Medicine and Cellular & Molecular Medicine; Meetings Coordinator)

1996 - 1997

January 11, 1996: First formal organization of these meetings under the name, The La Jolla Group for Explaining the Origin of Humans (LOH).

LOH conversations expand globally with the advent of email and expert visitors begin to attend LOH meetings.

Jim Handelman, Executive Director of the Mathers Foundation, meets with Varki and discusses a shared interest in human origins. Handelman asks to be included in the LOH email list.

Peter Preuss, a prominent UC San Diego alumnus, offers Varki financial support for a meeting consisting of the global list of LOH participants.

1998 - 2000

February 6, 1998: First formal LOH meeting, *Explaining Humans*, with support from the Preuss Family Foundation. In attendance:

- Margaret J. Schoeninger, future CARTA Co-Director
- Pascal Gagneux, future CARTA Associate Director
- Jim Handelman

The Mathers Foundation offers support for the continuation of this unusual activity.

2001 - 2003

LOH transforms into the formal, UC San Diego-recognized, Project for Explaining the Origins of Humans (POH).

The POH website launches with help from Chaitan Baru, San Diego Supercomputer Center.

POH launches the first iteration of the online resource, the Matrix of Comparative Anthropogeny (MOCA), with help from Vishu Nandigam, San Diego Supercomputer Center.

2004 - 2007

March 12, 2004: First POH public symposium, with support from The Mathers Foundation, *Sequencing the Chimpanzee Genome: What Have We Learned?*

The Mathers Foundation offers to fund more POH public symposia.

The Primate Foundation of Arizona (PFA) donates a collection of chimpanzee skeletons, other samples, and records to POH, which creates the Museum of Primatology (MOP) at UC San Diego to organize the collections.

POH applies to become a formal UC San Diego Organized Research Unit (ORU).

2008 - 2009

January 25, 2008: POH becomes the Center for Academic Research and Training in Anthropogeny (CARTA), an official ORU at UC San Diego.

September 19, 2008: First CARTA public symposium, *Anthropogeny: Defining the Agenda*.

Annette C. Merle-Smith begins support of CARTA public symposia.

2010 - 2012

March, 2010: Formal approval for the Graduate Specialization in Anthropogeny and formation of the Faculty of Anthropogeny to administer the Specialization at UC San Diego.

Initial cohort of Specialization Students enroll and begin course work in Anthropogeny.

MOP initiates a digitization project of the PFA chimpanzee skeletons as a virtual resource for research and comparative primatology. Annette C. Merle-Smith provides major funding for this project.

2013 - 2018

Completion of the MOP digitization project culminates with the rollout of online access to the digitized PFA chimpanzee skeletons to researchers worldwide.

Annette C. Merle-Smith begins support of the Specialization students with the Annette C. Merle-Smith Fellowship, named in her honor.

October 14, 2016: CARTA partners with Arizona State University to co-sponsor the symposium, *Implications of Anthropogeny for Medicine and Health*.

May 5, 2017: CARTA partners with the KAVLI Institute for Brain and Mind to co-sponsor the symposium, *Extraordinary Variations of the Human Mind: Lessons for Anthropogeny*.

June 1, 2018: The Paul G. Allen Frontiers Group co-supports the symposium, *Imagination and Human Origins*.

October 12, 2018: CARTA partners with the KAVLI Institute for Brain and Mind to co-sponsor the symposium, *Impact of Tool Use and Technology on the Evolution of the Human Mind*.

CARTA TODAY

360+ Members: CARTA's global scientific membership.

32 Symposia: CARTA's anthropogeny talks unite experts and a curious, global audience.

46 Countries: The global reach of CARTA's live-streamed symposia.

35+ Million Views: Online viewership of CARTA Symposia videos, available free to the public.

10,117 Website Users: Individuals with active CARTA accounts.

45 Graduate Students: Enrollment in the Graduate Specialization in Anthropogeny since 2011.

7 Field Courses in East Africa: The Anthropogeny Field Course consists of sessions at key sites throughout Ethiopia and Tanzania.

\$1.5M in CARTA Fellowship Funding: Thanks to generous donors, CARTA has offered financial support for students enrolled in the Graduate Specialization in Anthropogeny.

52 Digitized PFA Chimpanzee Skeletons: Available as an online resource for research through MOP.

Comparative Anthropogeny: The National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) of the National Library of Medicine (NLM) has agreed to publish completed MOCA entries as a free online book.