



Center for Academic Research and Training in Anthropogeny

“To explore and explain the origins of the human phenomenon”

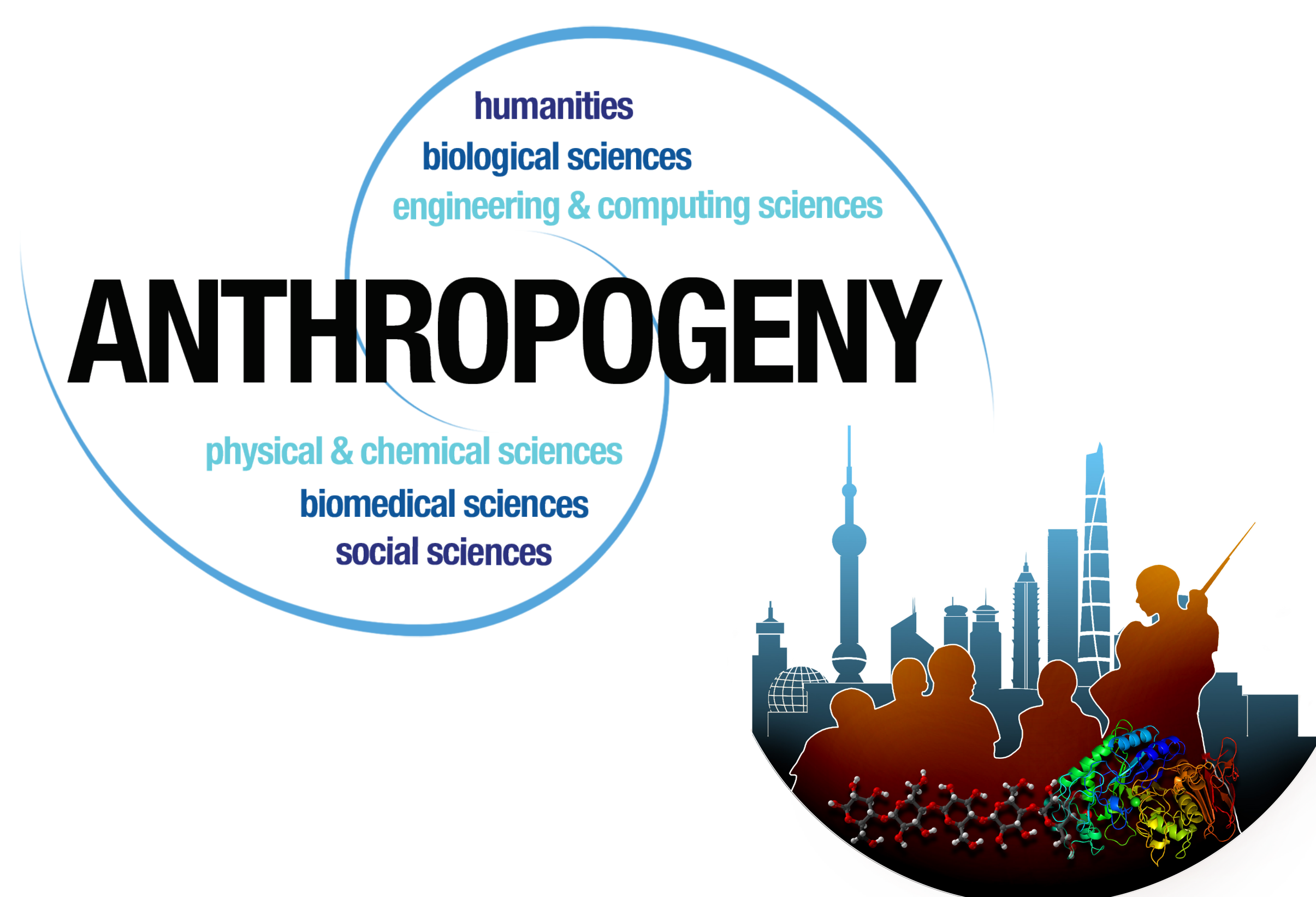
WHAT IS CARTA?

CARTA is a transdisciplinary collaboration of global experts whose mission is “to explore and explain the origins of the human phenomenon.” Comprised of UC San Diego and Salk Institute for Biological Studies faculty, along with an international panel of prominent researchers, our efforts and discourse span an array of academic disciplines to form our unique approach to the fundamental questions of anthropogeny:

*Where did we come from?
How did we get here?*

WHAT IS ANTHROPOGENY?

Anthropogeny is the scientific investigation of the origins of our species. Anthropogeny utilizes fossil, archaeological, and genomic evidence. It includes the comparison of genomes, development, life histories, and behavior across humans and our closest relatives (and other species). Anthropogeny explores the impact of genetic changes in model systems and studies the role of biological and cultural environments.



WHO IS CARTA?

Leadership



Pascal Gagneux
Executive co-director; professor of pathology and anthropology, UC San Diego.



Katerina Semendeferi
Co-director; professor of anthropology and director of the Laboratory for Human Comparative Neuroanatomy, UC San Diego.



Gerald F. Joyce
Co-director; president and professor, Salk Institute for Biological Studies.



Rachel Mayberry
Associate director; professor of linguistics and director of the Laboratory for Multi-Modal Language Development, UC San Diego.



Alysson R. Muotri
Associate director; professor of pediatrics and cellular and molecular medicine, UC San Diego.

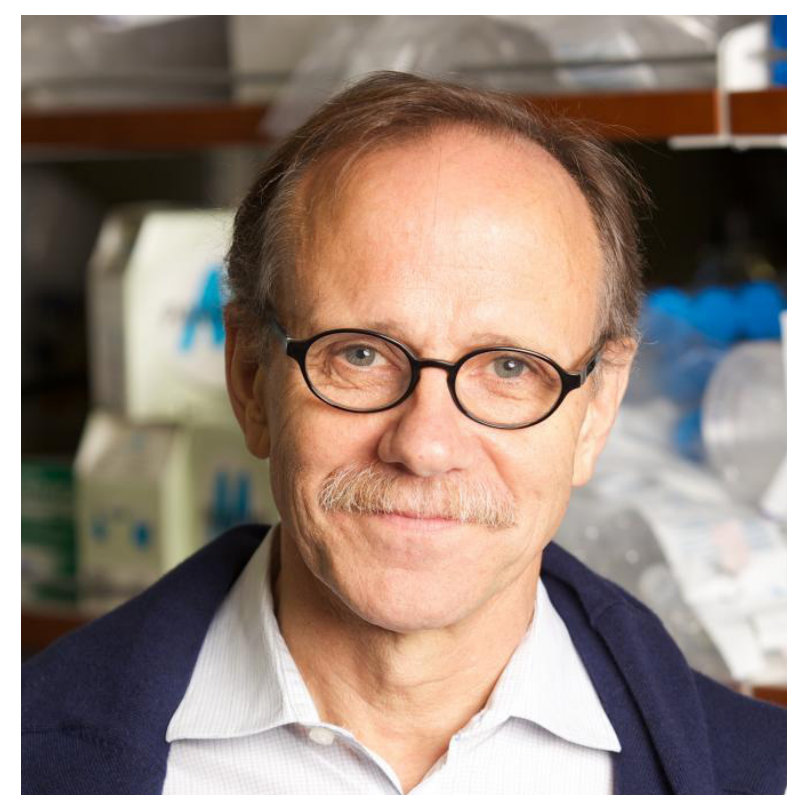
Emeriti Leadership



Ajit Varki
Executive and founding co-director; distinguished professor of medicine and cellular and molecular medicine at UC San Diego; adjunct professor, Salk Institute for Biological Studies.



Margaret J. Schoeninger
Co-director; is a distinguished professor emerita of anthropology at UC San Diego; research archaeologist in the Glenn Black Laboratory of Archaeology at Indiana University.



Fred H. Gage
Co-director; past president and professor in the Laboratory of Genetics, Salk Institute for Biological Studies; adjunct professor of neurosciences, UC San Diego.

Administration



Linda Nelson
Management services officer.



Lindsay Hunter
Community engagement and advancement director.



Jesse Robie
Program coordinator.



Kate Kaya
Cyberinfrastructure lead, San Diego Supercomputer Center.



Vishu Nandigam
Cyber-infrastructure specialist, San Diego Supercomputer Center.

PROGRAMS

CARTA PUBLIC SYMPOSIA

ANTHROPOGENY GRADUATE SPECIALIZATION



CARTA METRICS

400+ Members: CARTA's global scientific membership.

40 Million+ Views: Online viewership of CARTA's free symposia videos.

45+ Symposia: CARTA's anthropogeny symposium series.

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

60+ Graduate Students: Anthropogeny specialization enrollment.

10+ Anthropogeny Field Courses: Capstone Anthropogeny Graduate Specialization course in East Africa with field immersion in the major approaches to studying human origins.

\$2.3 Million+ in CARTA Fellowship Funding: Financial support for Anthropogeny Graduate Specialization students, including major gifts from Annette Merle-Smith and an anonymous donor.

CARTA TIMELINE

1990 - 1995

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

- Kurt Benirschke (comparative pathology)
- Bob Katzman (neurology)
- Floyd Bloom (neurosciences)
- James J. Moore (biological anthropology)
- Theodore Bullock (neurosciences)
- David Perlmutter (linguistics)
- Patricia Churchland (philosophy)
- Terry Sejnowski (neurosciences)
- Roy D'Andrade (anthropology)
- Ajit Varki (meetings coordinator; medicine; cellular and molecular medicine)
- Russell Doolittle (biology)
- Fred H. Gage (neurosciences)

1996 - 1997

January 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 G. Harold and Leila Y. 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 M.A. '67, a prominent UC San Diego alumnus, offers Varki financial support for a meeting consisting of the global list of LOH participants.

1998 - 2000

February 1998: First formal LOH meeting, *Explaining Humans*, takes place 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 G. Harold and Leila Y. 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 2004: First POH public symposium, *Sequencing the Chimpanzee Genome: What Have We Learned?*, takes place with support from The G. Harold and Leila Y. Mathers Foundation.

The G. Harold and Leila Y. 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.

2008 - 2009

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

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

Annette Merle-Smith begins support of CARTA public symposia.

2010 - 2012

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

Initial cohort of Anthropogeny Graduate Specialization students enroll and begin coursework in anthropogeny.

MOP initiates a digitization project of the PFA chimpanzee skeletons as a virtual resource for research and comparative primatology. Annette 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 Merle-Smith begins support of the Anthropogeny Graduate Specialization students with the Annette Merle-Smith Fellowship, named in her honor.

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

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

July 2018: The National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) of the National Library of Medicine (NLM) agrees to publish completed MOCA entries as a free online book named *CompAnth*.

October 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*.

2019 - PRESENT

February 2020: Varki Family contributes major gift in support of the continuance of CARTA's mission.

May 2020: CARTA converts its public symposia to virtual events in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, starting with *Impact of Infectious Diseases on Humans and Our Origins*.

March 2021: Anthropogeny Graduate Specialization alumnus, Benjamin Cipollini, M.S. '10, Ph.D. '14, D.Eng., sponsors virtual symposium, *Altered States of the Human Mind*.

May 2021: Annette Merle-Smith initiates major support for MOCA/CompAnth project.

December 2021: CARTA surpasses 40 million video views of its long-running symposium series. This remarkable milestone was achieved thanks to partnerships with UC San Diego, Salk Institute for Biological Studies, San Diego Supercomputer Center, and UCTV.

July 2022: Transition to new CARTA leadership.

May 2023: CARTA resumes in-person public symposia, starting with *The Role of Myth in Anthropogeny*.

Made possible by CARTA's many generous friends.

Help CARTA explore, explain, and share anthropogeny by becoming a supporter today.

carta.anthropogeny.org/support

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