



1990 - 1995

UC San Diego and Salk Institute 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 as experts begin to attend LOH meetings.
- Jim Handelman*, Executive Director of the Harold G. and Leila Y. Mathers Foundation of New York, meets with Ajit 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 Ajit 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 Schoeninger, Professor of Anthropology (future CARTA Co-Director)
 - Pascal Gagneux, then postdoctoral student in Ajit Varki's lab (future CARTA Associate Director)
 - Jim Handelman*
- The Mathers Foundation tenders support for the continuation of this improbable venture.

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 (SDSC).
- POH launches the first iteration of the online resource, the Matrix of Comparative Anthropogeny (MOCA), with help from Vishu Nandigam, SDSC.

2004 - 2007

- March 12, 2004: First POH public symposium, with support from The Mathers Foundation, *Sequencing the Chimpanzee Genome: What Have We Learned?*
- The Primate Foundation of Arizona (PFA) donates a collection of chimpanzee skeletons, related samples and records to POH, creating 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 is organized as 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 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 coursework in Anthropogeny.
- Annette C. Merle-Smith provides major funding for MOP to initiate digitization of the PFA chimpanzee skeletons as a virtual resource for research and comparative primatology.

2013 - 2018

- Completion of the MOP digitization project culminates with the roll-out of online access to the digitized PFA chimpanzee skeletons to researchers worldwide.
- Annette 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 (ASU) 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 (KIBM) to co-sponsor the symposium, *Extraordinary Variations of the Human Mind: Lessons for Anthropogeny*.
- June 1, 2018: The Paul G. Allen Frontiers Group co-sponsors the symposium, *Imagination and Human Origins*.
- October 12, 2018: CARTA partners with the KIBM to co-sponsor the symposium, *Impact of Tool Use and Technology on the Evolution of the Human Mind*.

2019 - 2022

- May 31, 2019: CARTA’s symposium, *Anthropogeny: The Perspective from Africa*, exclusively features speakers living and working in Africa (i.e., Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal, and South Africa).
- October 11, 2019: Continuation of CARTA’s partnership with the KIBM with the symposium, *Impact of Early Life Deprivation on Cognition: Implications for the Evolution of the Human Mind*.
- February 24, 2020: UC San Diego professors, Nissi and Ajit Varki, donate more than \$1M to CARTA to support transdisciplinary studies on the origins of humankind.
- May 16, 2020: Adapting to the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic, CARTA pivots to a fully online broadcast format for the appropriately themed symposium, *Impact of Infectious Disease on Humans and Our Origins*.
- October 24, 2020: CARTA debuts the first symposium focused on comparative anthropogeny entitled, *Exploring the Human Ape Paradox*. Inspired by the robust response, Annette Merle-Smith pledges to support the ongoing Comparative Anthropogeny (CompAnth) project.
- January 2021: A generous anonymous donor provides substantial anthropogeny graduate fellowship support and project funding for a partnership program with the Greater Mahale Ecosystem Research and Conservation (GMERC) initiative for 2021-2026.
- December 2021: CARTA’s symposium series surpasses 40 million online views of its free and publicly available human origins videos - a remarkable milestone achieved through partnership with UC San Diego, Salk Institute, San Diego Supercomputer Center (SDSC), and UCSD-TV/UCTV.

CARTA TODAY

400+ Members: CARTA's global scientific membership.

45+ Symposia: CARTA's anthropogeny talks unite experts with a curious, global audience.

500+ Videos: CARTA's anthropogeny online archive.

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

12,000+ Website Users: Individuals with active CARTA accounts.

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

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

7 Field Courses in East Africa: The Anthropogeny Field Course consists of graduate seminars at relevant sites in East Africa. The field course resumes Summer 2022 after a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

\$1.5M+ in CARTA Fellowship Funding: Thanks to many generous friends, CARTA has been able to provide 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 (CompAnth): The National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) of the National Library of Medicine (NLM) has agreed to publish completed MOCA entries as a free ebook.

SUPPORT CARTA

We invite you to partner with us in CARTA's quest to explore and explain the human phenomenon. CARTA connects us all – scientists and philosophers, students and teachers, people with questions and others with answers. The global CARTA community grows with each lecture that is experienced and passed forward via FREE access to UCSD-TV broadcasts and archived videos on multiple websites. Your support helps CARTA preserve the free movement of this information.

<https://carta.anthropogeny.org/support>