

"This book is an important resource for students of ancient disease. It successfully integrates paleopathological and modern biomedical data to provide an overview of how socioeconomic and lifestyle factors affect the frequency of bone and dental diseases from prehistory to the present day. Technical jargon is kept to a minimum, each substantive chapter ends with a concise conclusions section summarizing the main points, and there is an up-to-date and extensive bibliography."

—**Simon Mays**, English Heritage

"The book presents a comprehensive overview of the major categories of pathological conditions observed in human skeletal remains, described in terms that newcomers to the field can appreciate. What makes it different from most texts, however, are the extensive discussions of possible factors affecting the conditions taken from modern clinical studies. Students and experienced scholars alike will appreciate this unique perspective."

—**Marie Danforth**, University of Southern Mississippi

Our bones can reveal fascinating information about how we have lived, from the food we have eaten to our levels of activity and the infections and injuries we have suffered. In this distinctive tour of human osteology, past and present, Elizabeth Weiss introduces readers to how lifestyle—in complex interaction with biology, genes, and environment—affects health.

Centering on health issues that have arisen in the past fifty to sixty years rather than thousands of years ago, *Paleopathology in Perspective* is organized around particular bone traits such as growth patterns, back pains, infections, and oral health. Each chapter explains one category of traits and reviews data drawn from both ancient and more contemporary populations to explore how global trait trends have changed over time. Weiss also considers the likely causes of these changes—for example, growing rates of obesity, increased longevity, and greater intensity of childhood sports. Taking a long view of bones, as Weiss clearly demonstrates, provides clues not just about how ancient humans once lived but also how biology and behavior, lifestyle and health, remain intrinsically linked.

**ELIZABETH WEISS** is professor of anthropology at San Jose State University. Her publications include *Reburying the Past*, *Bioarchaeological Science*, and *Introduction to Human Evolution*.

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Cover design by Chloe Barch

ISBN 978-0-7591-2442-4



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