

Gillian Bentley
Durham University

HBA Bio

Dr Gillian Bentley is Professor of Anthropology at Durham University, England, but also spent 17 years of her academic life in the USA. She has been a member of the HBA since 1995, and has served on the editorial board of the AJHB for 15 years. Other professional organisations in which she is involved include AAPA, DOHaD and the ISEMPH of which she is a founding member and programme organiser. She is primarily a reproductive ecologist whose research examines the effects of early life development on reproductive function, in both men and women, although other interests include migrant health and evolutionary medicine. Most recently, she has been collaborating with epigeneticists to explore further the potential of this field to explain mechanisms affecting reproductive phenotypes under different conditions of early life development.

HBA Platform Statement

It is an honour to have been nominated for the Presidency of the HBA, an organisation to which I still owe my greatest attachment as a scholar and human biologist. It is also a serious responsibility, despite our relatively small size, to maintain our health and wellbeing for the future especially in these uncertain financial and political times. Challenges that lie ahead include increasing and diversifying membership, particularly junior and international representatives. I would work hard to devise strategies to improve our appeal to younger researchers for whom the Society can play a strong, nurturing role. The graduate mentoring supper at the annual meetings is one example that helps trainee members, but we can do more to assist young postdocs and junior faculty. While recognising our valuable relationship with AAPA, I would continue to foster conversations among our membership and executive committee about potential alternative venues for future meetings, particularly given rising costs at expensive city hotels that could threaten the financial health of HBA. Above all, HBA represents a vibrant field, has loyal members, and a strong journal. If elected President, I would work hard to ensure our continued success as an organisation into the future.