

Cara Ocobock

Biosketch and Platform for HBA Nominations and Election Committee

Biosketch

I am a tenure-track assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University at Albany, SUNY. I am a human biologist whose research integrates human physiology and biological anthropology with a focus on the interaction between anatomy, physiology and the environment. I developed and tested the Allocation & Interaction Model for better predicting human total energy expenditure in a variety of climates and across a range of activity levels. Currently, I work in Finland assessing the energetics and brown adipose tissue activation among the reindeer herders above the Arctic Circle.

Platform Statement

The Human Biology Association has provided me with many formative experiences and has led to the most meaningful and fruitful professional collaborations and friendships. As way to give back, I have been working with Dr. Chris Lynn (University of Alabama) and Caroline Owens (graduate student at Emory) on hosting and producing the Sausage of Science HBA podcast. This has allowed me to better get to know our HBA members and the amazing work that they do as well as the amazing people that they are. Furthermore, our podcast has expanded HBA's visibility outside of our membership. Our important work is now reaching people it never had before, and as I have experienced personally, it is attracting and encouraging new students to pursue graduate degrees in human biology. This puts me in an excellent position to serve on the Nominations and Elections Committee since I am now familiar so many of our HBA members. Outside of the HBA I have organized large events such Science on Tap and a Darwin Day celebration. I have also conducted research that required the coordination of over two dozen undergraduate students. I have a great deal of experience in effective communication, overseeing task delegation, and making sure those tasks are well managed and completed in a timely manner. I have quickly become a master of tracking down people and making sure they fulfill their commitments as well as organizing important events such as elections. I would love to serve on the Nominations and Election Committee, and I am grateful for the opportunity to do so.