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Justyna Miskiewicz, Sharon Brennan-Olsen, Jose A Riancho (Eds.)

Bone Health

A Reflection of the Social Mosaic

- Provides inter-disciplinary perspectives of biological anthropologists, medical researchers, social epidemiologists and genetic epidemiologists on bone health
- Covers three lines of evidence: ancient, contemporary, and epigenetic factors to highlight the effect of social status on bone health
- Includes three sections in chronological order for easy understanding of the effect of socio-economic and social factors on human bone health over time

This multidisciplinary book addresses three lines of evidence (medieval, contemporary, and epigenetic) regarding the effect of human socio-economic status on bone health. It provides an overview of the extent to which human social background affects adult bone quality and quantity, and makes recommendations for future skeletal biology research into lifestyle-related musculoskeletal disorders. The book is divided into three major parts, the first of which discusses bone and dental health in medieval human skeletal remains from distinct socio-economic status groups. In turn, Part 2 reviews bone health in contemporary human populations with a range of social backgrounds; in addition, a conceptual model proposing a social gradient of osteoporosis and fracture risk related to biological mechanisms and cumulative stressors throughout the human lifecycle is presented. Lastly, Part 3 highlights the role of epigenetics in socially patterned risk factors for skeletal disorders, and discusses how epigenetic mechanisms transduce the psychosocial environment and increase the risk of developing conditions such as osteoporosis. Overall, the book highlights the importance of considering the social-biological nexus in future skeletal biology research and future treatment of bone disease. Increased awareness of this nexus can potentially improve individual and population-level bone health interventions, reducing the social inequities observed in fracture risk.

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