Lab # 4 Sex Determination & Childbirth

Objectives: In this laboratory exercise, students will gain experience with some of the traditional morphological methods of determining sex in the skeleton. Although populations show variation with respect to these differences, sexual dimorphism is typical of human populations. Two areas of the skeleton that provide the best indicators for determining sex are the skull and pelvis. Other indicators include head and shaft diameters of the femur and humerus. The presence or absence of parturition scars on the dorsal pubis and preauricular sulci are indicators of childbirth.

Reading: Review the assigned reading for sex determination and especially Chapter 8 in Byers (2011a) and Byers (2011b).

Exercise 1 Following the instructions in Exercise 8.1 (Byers 2011b) determine the sex of these two (2) specimens provided: A & B. Use Exercise Worksheet 8.1 (make sufficient copies) for this exercise.

Exercise 2 Following the instructions in Exercise 8.2 (Byers 2011b) determine the sex of the two (2) specimens provided: A & B. Use Exercise Worksheet 8.2 (make sufficient copies) for this exercise.

Exercise 3 Following the instructions in Exercise 8.3 (Byers 2011b) determine the sex of the two (2) skulls (A= CS018; B= BC202) provided. Use Exercise Worksheet 8.3 (make sufficient copies) for this exercise.

Exercise 4 Following the instructions in Exercise 8.4 (Byers 2011b) determine the sex of the specimen (BC 152) provided. Use Exercise Worksheet 8.4 for this exercise.

Exercise 5 Following the instructions in Exercise 8.5 (Byers 2011b) determine the sex of the specimens provided (SS3). Use Exercise Worksheet 8.5 for this exercise.