



# GROWTH AND MATURATION IN HUMAN BIOLOGY AND SPORTS

*FESTSCHRIFT HONORING ROBERT M. MALINA  
BY FELLOWS AND COLLEAGUES*

PETER TODD KATZMARZYK  
MANUEL J COELHO E SILVA  
EDITORS

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UNIVERSITY  
PRESS

## THE HONOREE: ROBERT MARION MALINA

**Bruce J. Malina**

S.T.D., Ph.Th [malina@creighton.edu]

*Creighton University Omaha* [Nebraska, USA]

This collection of articles in the fields of physical anthropology and exercise science is presented by the authors to Robert Marion Malina in celebration of his on-going support of colleagues in this academic field as well as his on-going contributions to the field. Perhaps better known as "Bob" to many colleagues and friends, he merits a vote of gratitude for his voluminous work and the inspiration it has provided to many who have benefitted from his advice and encouragement.

Bob was born on September 19, 1937, to Mary and Joseph Malina, Sr., in Brooklyn, N.Y., the third of nine children. His early formal education began at Our Lady Of Consolation Parish School, in the Williamsburgh section of Brooklyn and Padua Franciscan High School, Watkins Glen, N.Y. Throughout his childhood and early adolescence, he matched his older siblings in academic success and in great dedication to sports – from the lots, streets and stoops of Williamsburgh to the soccer and baseball fields of secondary schools. His early and continued interest in sports moved him to pursue an undergraduate degree in Physical Education (now called Exercise Science) in Manhattan College, Riverdale, N.Y. (BS degree granted 1959).

This foundation led to graduate study in Physical Education at the University of Wisconsin (MS granted 1960 and PhD granted in 1963 with his dissertation: "Performance changes in speed-accuracy task as a function of practice under different conditions of information feedback," directed by Prof. G. Lawrence Rarick). His post-graduate interests led him to the department of Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania, and another PhD granted in 1968. His dissertation was entitled: "Growth, maturation, and performance of Philadelphia Negro and White elementary school children," directed by Prof. Wilton M. Krogman.

Bob's academic career began at the University of Texas in the department of Anthropology (1967-1989) and subsequently in the department of Kinesiology and Health Education (1989-1995). His next appointment was at Michigan State University in the department of Kinesiology (1995-2002). At present he is adjunct research professor in the department of Kinesiology, Tarleton State University, Stephenville, Texas. This skeletal summary of his university positions tells little of what his ninety-five page curriculum vitae attests to.

Over the years he has taught many students who have signed up for his undergraduate courses in physical anthropology, while directing a number of master theses. His career has likewise included directing some fifty doctoral theses as well as entertaining a number of foreign scholars who came to study his research methods.

Throughout this period, Bob has served on the editorial boards of numerous international scholarly periodicals. Perhaps most significantly, he served as editor of the *Yearbook of Physical Anthropology* (1980-1986) as well as editor of the *American Journal of Human Biology* (1990-2002). His continued research with a number of populations, both at home and abroad, has led to friendships with an international network of colleagues. This research has led to the publication of over seven-hundred scholarly articles.

Given this admirable academic career, it is no surprise that Bob Malina has been awarded a number of academic honors. Among these perhaps it is noteworthy to mention four honorary doctoral degrees (Catholic University of Leuven, Faculty of Biomedical Sciences, Leuven, Belgium 1989; University of Kraków, Bronisław Czech College of Physical Education, Kraków, Poland 2001; University of Wrocław, College of Physical Education, Wrocław, Poland 2006; University of Coimbra, Faculty of Sport Sciences and Physical Education, Coimbra, Portugal 2008).

It is my pleasure to introduce this volume of articles in those fields to which my brother has dedicated himself, and which have provided him with decades of experience, study and global recognition.