

# Elwyn L Simons, James B. Duke Professor of Biological Anthropology & Anatomy and Head, Division of Fossil Primates



## Contact Info:

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## Education:

- PhD, Princeton University, 1956
- D.Sc., University College, Oxford, 1995
- M.A. (Hon.), Yale University, 1967
- D. Phil, University College, Oxford, 1959
- M.A., Princeton University, 1955
- B.S., W.M. Rice University, 1953

## Research Interests: *Anthropoid origins and evolution*

### Current projects: Fayum paleoanthropology

Dr. Elwyn L. Simons is primarily interested in the history, general biology, and behavior of living and extinct primates. His primary research concerns focus on the early evolution of anthropoids in the late Eocene and early Oligocene of the Fayum Depression, Egypt; the paleoecology, dating, taphonomy, anatomy, and relationships of extinct placentals from these sites; dating, extinctions, anatomy, and relationships of giant subfossil lemurs of Madagascar; behavioral and conservation studies of extant Malagasy lemurs; the evolutionary history and relationships of middle and late Tertiary apes, as well as Plio-Pleistocene hominids. Dr. Simons has led over 70 field expeditions to Egypt, Madagascar, India, Iran, Nepal, and Wyoming.

He has held professional appointments at Yale University (1960-1977), Duke University (1977- present), and was the Director of the Duke Primate Center (1977-1991) and Scientific Director (1991- 2001). He has authored nearly 300 scientific publications and is the holder of many high honors. Dr. Simons is a member of the United States National Academy of Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, as well as many other professional associations. He was elected a “Knight of the National Order” by the government of Madagascar and has been the recipient of many awards including the prestigious Charles R. Darwin Award for Lifetime Achievement from the American Association of Physical Anthropologists.

## [Curriculum Vitae](#)

Representative Publications [\(More Publications\)](#) [\(search\)](#)

1. Seiffert ER, Simons EL, Attia Y. "Fossil evidence for an ancient divergence of lorises and galagos." *Nature* 422 (2003): 421-424.
2. Simons EL. "The cranium of *Parapithecus grangeri*, an Egyptian Oligocene anthropoid primate." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 98 (2001): 7892-7897.
3. Simons EL, Seiffert ER, Chatrath PS, and Attia Y. "Earliest record of a parapithecoid anthropoid from the Jebel Qatrani Formation, northern Egypt." *Folia Primatologica* 72 (2002): 316-331.
4. Seiffert ER, and Simons EL. "Astragalar morphology of Late Eocene anthropoids from the Fayum Depression (Egypt) and the origin of catarrhine primates." *Journal of Human Evolution* 41 (2001): 577-605.
5. Seiffert ER, Simons EL, and Fleagle JG. "Anthropoid humeri from the late Eocene of Egypt." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 97 (2000): 10062-10067.
6. Simons EL, and Seiffert ER. "A partial skeleton of *Proteopithecus sylviae* (Primates, Anthropoidea): first associated dental and postcranial remains of an Eocene anthropoid." *Comptes Rendus De L'Academie Des Sciences Serie II Fascicule a-Sciences De La Terre Et Des Planetes* 329 (1999): 921-927.
7. Simons EL, Plavcan JM, and Fleagle JG. "Canine sexual dimorphism in Egyptian Eocene anthropoid primates: *Catopithecus* and *Proteopithecus*." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 96 (1999): 2559-2562.
8. Simons EL. "The prosimian fauna of the fayum Eocene/Oligocene deposits of Egypt." *Folia Primatologica* 69 (1998): 286-294.
9. Simons EL. "Preliminary description of the cranium of *Proteopithecus sylviae*, an Egyptian late Eocene anthropoid primate." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 94 (1997): 14970-14975.
10. Simons EL, and Rasmussen DT. "Skull of *Catopithecus browni*, an early tertiary catarrhine." *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 100 (1996): 261-292.
11. Wunderlich RE, Simons EL, and Jungers WL. "New pedal remains of *Megaladapis* and their functional significance." *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 100 (1996): 115-138.