Clarification of Terms

- Four **bones** make up the pelvic girdle:
  - Sacrum
  - Coccyx
  - Two hip bones...which are comprised of:
    - Ilium
    - Ischium
    - Pubis

- The pelvic girdle is also referred to as the pelvis

- **Joints** in the pelvis girdle:
  - Right and left sacroiliac joints
  - Symphysis pubis
  - Lumbosacral joint

Function of Pelvis

- Supports the weight of the body through the vertebral column and passes that force onto the hip bones
- Receives ground forces during walking and transmits them upward toward the vertebral column
- Supports and protects pelvic viscera
- Provides attachment site for muscles
- Makes up bony portion of birth canal
The Male and Female Pelvis

- The area within the pelvis cavity is greater in women
- The pelvic arch is wider and more rounded in women

Sacroiliac Joint...Osteology

- The two bones of the SI Joint are:
  - Sacrum
  - Ilium

Innominate Bone
The actual type and amount of movement occurring at the SI joint is the subject of considerable controversy.

However, it is generally accepted that the motions that do occur at the SI joint are:

- **Nutation**
  - Sacral flexion (anterior rotation of the sacrum in relation to the ilium)
  - The base of the sacrum (on the superior end) moves anteriorly and inferiorly
  - Occurs WITH trunk flexion or hip extension

- **Counternutation**
  - Sacral extension (posterior rotation of the sacrum in relation to the ilium)
  - The base of the sacrum moves posteriorly and superiorly
  - Occurs WITH trunk extension or hip flexion

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**Nutation**

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**Counternutation**

- Sacral extension (posterior rotation of the sacrum in relation to the ilium)
- The base of the sacrum moves posteriorly and superiorly
- Occurs WITH trunk extension or hip flexion

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**Mansfield, Fig 8-44**
Sacroiliac Joint...Supporting Structures

Because the SIJ is meant to absorb a great deal of stress while providing great stability, it is heavily endowed with ligaments.

Lippert, p251

Pubic Symphysis

Osteology
- Right and left pubic bones join anteriorly

Motion
- Little movement, except during childbirth

Supporting Structures
- A fibrocartilagenous disk lies between the right and left pubic bones
- Held together by the superior and inferior pubic ligaments

Lippert, p252
Lumbosacral Joint

- **Osteology**
  - Joint made up of 5th lumbar vertebra and 1st sacral vertebra

- **Motion**
  - Pelvis motion occurs in all 3 planes

- **Supporting Structures**
  - Intervertebral disk
  - Ligaments

Muscle Control

- The pelvis is moved and controlled by groups of muscles acting as force couples.
References