

Report to the American Association of Biological Anthropologists (AABA)

**American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Section H, Anthropology
George R. Milner, Section H Secretary**

I should start by thanking Steve Leigh for inviting me to report on what is happening in Section H, Anthropology, of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Unfortunately, I could not attend the AABA meeting this year, so Steve is also presenting this report.

The current year – 2023 – is a period of major transition for the AAAS, and therefore Section H. This is the first year of the organization's new governance structure. It has been several years in the making, and one of our AABA members, Karen Strier, was heavily involved in that process.

The new AAAS structure is designed to increase governance transparency, to ensure the organization becomes more inclusive, and to recognize and represent today's diverse scientific workforce. It is the second major governance change since the founding of the AAAS in the 19th century. The previous change took place about 70 years ago.

Needless to say, the AAAS from top to bottom is currently feeling its way through this process. For the sections, the immediate concern is to put into practice the intended roles of an expanded group of section officers who started their terms on January 1, 2023. Over the next couple of years, elections will be held for each of the positions, shingling in people to maintain continuity.

The AABA is well represented in the current AAAS officers. In fact, the majority are AABA members. For example, Anne Stone is Chair and Susan Antón is Council Delegate. If anyone in today's audience is also an AAAS member and is interested in running for office, I encourage you to contact either Anne or me.

In 2022, I am pleased to say that 11 new Section H Fellows were named, with AABA members being well represented among them. Our 2023 Robert W. Sussman Award went to Sheela Athreya. To quote from the announcement, she "exemplifies the spirit of this award with her outstanding contributions to understanding the evolution of the genus *Homo* in the middle and late Pleistocene, especially with in Southern and Eastern Asia, and with her holistic approach to investigating variation within and across populations." The section is pleased that the outstanding achievements of so many of our colleagues have been recognized over the past year.

I'll close by saying that next year's AAAS meeting will be in Denver. I look forward to seeing many of you there.