

**2022-2023 Vice President's Report**  
**Business Meeting (April 21, 2023, Submitted April 17, 2023)**  
**92nd Annual Meeting of American Association of Biological Anthropologists**  
**Reno, Nevada and online**  
**Kristi L. Lewton, Vice President**

### **Introduction**

The Vice President chairs the Program Committee and coordinates AABA programming throughout the year. In 2022-2023, this centered on organizing the 92nd Annual Meeting in Reno, Nevada and online. This is the first time that AABA has held a conference in Reno, and only the second time in Nevada. Tasks related to organizing the annual conference included program committee formation, symposium proposal review, abstract submission review and notification, workshop proposal review, webinar coordination, scheduling the conference events, publication of the annual abstract volume, and publication of the conference program.

As in 2022, AABA decided to hold a hybrid conference with both in-person and virtual components for scientific presentations, workshops, and select other events. This decision was based on anecdotal reports from AABA attendees that they appreciated the opportunity to attend AABA virtually when constraints such as the COVID-19 pandemic prevented in-person participation.

### **Program Committee**

A call for program committee volunteers was distributed to AABA members in June 2022 with a deadline to apply by July 8, 2022. Eligible regular members applied by web form. The program committee includes 69 members, a mix of returning and new members. The committee includes members from a range of career stages and international institutions. Amber Jaeger served as the assistant to the Vice President. Program committee roster for 2022-2023:

Donovan Adams	Lauren Halenar-Price	Gwen Robbins Schug
Francisca Alves-Cardoso	Angela Harden	Krithivasan
C. Eduardo Amorim	Kevin Hatala	Sankaranarayanan
Benjamin Auerbach	Amber Heard-Booth	Amy Schreier
Karen Baab	Megan Holmes	Maja Šešelj
Shara Bailey	Jennifer Hotzman	Eric Shattuck
Heather Battles	Kent Johnson	Michelle Singleton
Jonathan Bethard	Saige Kelmelis	Elizabeth St Clair
Vanessa Campanacho	Brittany Kenyon-Flatt	Katie Starkweather
Tara Cepon-Robins	Andrew Kim	Sean Tallman
Colleen Cheverko	Krystiana Krupa	Catherine Taylor
Maria Ana Correia	Myra Laird	Nicole Torres Tamayo
Susanne Cote	Nathan Lents	Bethany Usher
Miguel Delgado	Christopher Lynn	Caroline VanSickle
Nathaniel Dominy	Heli Maijanen	Catalina Villamil
Amanda Ellwanger	Lumila Paula Menéndez	Amelia Villaseñor
Nicholas Ellwanger	Christina Nicholas	Cara Wall-Scheffler
Kori Filipek	Heather Norton	Kerryn Warren
Rebecca George	Megan Perry	Julie Wieczkowski
Rebecca Gilmour	Marin Pilloud	Scott Williams
Halszka Glowacka	Stephanie Poindexter	An-Di Yim
Jesse Goliath	Sean Prall	Chi Zhang
Mark Grabowski	Kathryn Reusch	
Elaine Guevara	Terry Ritzman	

### **Webinars**

Demand for webinars seems to have decreased with the return to more in-person academic events as the COVID-19 pandemic enters its fourth year. The Program Committee solicited ideas for webinars throughout the year but had difficulties identifying individuals willing to host these events. AABA hosted two webinars in November 2022 and planned a third for early 2023 (which has been postponed). The November 2022 webinars (see below) were recorded and the recordings can be found on the AABA website.

### *Understanding Genetic Ancestry and Its Implications*

*Co-Sponsored by AABA and AAAG*

What can genetic ancestry tell us about our ancestors and disease risk? How might it influence the ways people identify themselves and communities? What are the promises and pitfalls of commercializing genetic ancestry technologies? This month, the American Association of Biological Anthropologists (AABA) is partnering with the American Association of Anthropological Genetics (AAAG) to bring a panel of three experts working in industry and academia who will discuss the broader implications of genetic ancestry for researchers, society, individual health, and identity. Join us to discuss this fascinating topic and examine the meaning and nuances of the concept of genetic ancestry.

Organizer: C. Eduardo Guerra Amorim (California State University Northridge)

Panelists:

- Graham Coop (University of California, Davis)
- Gen Wojcik (Johns Hopkins University)
- Janina Jeff (Population Geneticist & Host/Creator of *In Those Genes* Podcast)

### *Discussion with the AABA Task Force for the Ethical Study of Human Remains*

The AABA Task Force for Ethical Study of Human Remains is focused on developing a roadmap for determining what constitutes ethical study and disposition of human remains and biological samples with consent when research is warranted. This roadmap is to be based on the desires and attitudes of descendant communities and feedback from members of the AABA. The Task Force will also release a white paper with an overview of survey results from a survey focusing on how members of the AABA work with human remains. Survey data were collected in March during our conference. The white paper will be made available in advance of the webinar.

The webinar will expand on results from the survey. In addition, members of the Task Force will be available for dialog, questions, and discussion. The webinar will provide opportunities to discuss next steps and activities for future project phases. We encourage AABA members to respond to the ideas, perspectives, and insights presented during the webinar.

Task Force Co-Chairs: Fatimah Jackson (Howard University), Ben Auerbach (University of Tennessee, Knoxville)

Panelists:

- Jennifer Caldwell, assistant professor, Louisiana State University, Pennington Biomedical Research Center
- Carter Clinton, postdoctoral scholar, Pennsylvania State University, Department of Anthropology
- Joseph Jones, lecturer, William and Mary, Department of Anthropology
- Carmen Mosley, NAGPRA Repatriation Manager, Museum of Us

## Invited Symposia

Proposals for invited symposia were due on August 15, 2023. The Program Committee received 13 invited symposium proposals, which were reviewed by both the Program Committee and the Executive Committee. All 13 proposals were accepted. Accepted proposals included 5 podium, 6 poster, and 2 online only.

Invited Symposia	Organizers	Format
A century of Sir Arthur Keith's stages of hominoid evolution	Scott Williams & Thomas Cody Prang	Podium
AAAG/AABA Joint Symposium: Born Which Way?: Biological and Genetic Engagement in Sex, Gender, and Sexuality Research	Christopher Schmitt & L. Zachary DuBois	Podium
American First Routes: an Interdisciplinary View	C. Eduardo Amorim & Tábita Hünemeier	Podium
Queering research: uses of LGBTQIA+ perspectives and queer theory in biological anthropology	Samantha Archer & Alexandra Kralick	Podium
Toward a holistic approach - Investigating the genetic underpinnings of phenotypic variation	Dori Kenessey & Kamar Afra	Podium
Coming to the Caribbean - Celebrating 85 Years of Rhesus macaques at Cayo Santiago; New Endeavors of Non-Human Primate Research	Qian Wang	Poster
Forensic Anthropology as Practiced in the United States: Qualifications, Standards, and Ethical Practice	Marin Pilloud, Nicholas Passalacqua, Eric Bartelink, Melanie Beasley	Poster
Human Evolutionary Biomechanics: Past, Present, and Future	Steven Lautzenheiser & Michael Berthaume	Poster
Integrating dental wear	Almudena Estalrich & Kristin Krueger	Poster
Symposium: A Session to Honor the Legacy of Bill Kimbel	Shara Bailey & Amy Rector	Poster
Un-presentations: Translating Biological Anthropology Research via Creative Expression	Michelle Bezanson, Jessica Brinkworth, Negin Valizadegan	Poster
Reconstruction of activity in the past: what's going on in Latin America	Soledad Salega & Claudia Rojas-Sepúlveda	Virtual - Podium
Archiving and Sharing Craniofacial data: from 1D to 3D and beyond	Noriko Seguchi & Stephen Ousley	Virtual - Poster

## **Abstract Submission and Review**

### Abstract submission

The abstract submission portal was opened on September 15, 2022. Abstracts for the 2023 annual meeting were due October 17, 2022. There were a few requests for submission of late abstracts after the submission deadline, which were declined. A total of 775 abstracts were submitted, which is on par with the abstract submissions for the 2022 annual meeting in Denver, Colorado. However, these metrics still fall behind pre-pandemic counts by 30% (e.g., there were 1121 abstract submissions in 2019).

At the time of abstract submission, authors could choose to present in-person, online, or at both venues. Venue preferences for contributed abstracts at the time of submission were: in-person 80%, online 9%, both 11%. However, in the months leading up to the conference, there were several requests to change from online to in-person or from both to in-person only. In other words, as the conference neared, there was a trend toward attendees changing their venue preference to in-person only. Venue preferences for contributed abstracts as of April 3, 2023 are: in-person 84%, online 8%, both 7%.

### Abstract review

Abstracts were assigned to two members of the Program Committee for review with a review deadline of November 18, 2022. Most reviews were received by the deadline, and all reviews were received by November 23, 2022. Abstracts with one or more recommendations to reject received an additional round of review. After this second round of review a total of 11 abstracts had received at least two recommendations to reject. I evaluated each of these, offered revision based on reviewer comments, and ultimately rejected 2 abstracts. Abstracts were rejected on the basis of a lack of evidence of data analysis or results. Authors of rejected abstracts were notified on December 1, 2022.

Authors of accepted abstracts were notified on December 5, 2022. Following the advance team visit to Reno, Nevada on February 1-3, 2023, authors of accepted abstracts were notified of the presentation schedule on February 10, 2023.

## **Workshop Proposals**

We received 11 proposals for workshops by the November 15, 2022 deadline. Workshop proposals were evaluated by AABA President Steve Leigh and myself. All workshop proposals were accepted and organizers were notified on December 17, 2022. Two workshops were later withdrawn by the organizers. Three additional workshop/panel events were planned by AABA committees. Three of these events are scheduled to be live streamed to the virtual platform.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Workshop/Panel</b>	<b>Organizers</b>
19-Apr	*SlicerMorph: an open-source toolkit for 3D imaging and morphometric analysis	Chi Zhang & Murat Maga
19-Apr	*Introduction to Ancient DNA Analysis	Elena I. Zavala, Ainash Childebayeva, Laurits Skov
19-Apr	Up Goer Five: Using Simple Language to Communicate Your Research to the Public	C. Kinley Russell & Briana Pobiner

19-Apr	COD-WIN Panel: Experiencing and negotiating the dynamics of power: beginning the conversation	Anne Stone & Michelle Bezanson
20-Apr	Social Network Analysis in R for Biological Anthropologists	James Holland Jones
20-Apr	Primate Interest Group Workshop	Lydia E. O. Light, Michelle Rodrigues, Andrew Halloran
20-Apr	*Professional Development Committee Workshop: Let's Get Funded! Strategies for Writing Successful Grant Proposals	Lauren Schroeder
20-Apr	Improv for Anthropologists: Boosting creativity, confidence, and collaboration for teachers, researchers, and public outreach through improvisational training	Amanda L. Ellwanger, Marc Kissel, Natalia Reagan
21-Apr	Training for Equitable Peer Review in Biological Anthropology	Trudy Turner & Sheela Athreya
21-Apr	Leadership in a liminal space: chairing departments during times of uncertainty	Amy Rector
21-Apr	Identifying and Recording Periosteal New Bone Formation (PNBF) in Fetal-Infant Individuals	Claire Hodson
22-Apr	COD Disability workshop: Dialogues and Pathways Towards a more Accessible Biological Anthropology	Katie Kinkopf & Saige Kelmelis
*indicates workshop is live streamed		

### Scientific Session Formation and Advance Team Visit

Scientific sessions were assembled by seven subcommittees of the Program Committee (Bioarchaeology, Forensics & Dental, Functional Anatomy, Genetics & Education, Human Behavior & Biology, Primatology, and Paleoanthropology). Each subcommittee had 3-4 members (i.e., 27 members of the Program Committee were on subcommittees). Each subcommittee was tasked with grouping contributed abstracts into podium, poster, and virtual sessions and assigning chairs to each session. The number of podium sessions per subject area was based on the proportion of abstracts in each subject area:

- Bioarchaeology = 4
- Dental Anthropology = 1
- Education in Biological Anthropology = half session
- Forensic Anthropology = 1
- Functional Anatomy/Tissue Biology = 2
- Genetics and Genomics = 2
- Human Behavior = half session
- Human Biology = 2
- Paleoanthropology = 3
- Primatology = 3

Subcommittees were given a month to complete this task, and all sessions were formed by mid-January.

The AABA Advance Team visited the conference venue in Reno from February 1-3, 2023. The team included Lori Strong (Burk & Associates), Jonathan Bethard, Leslea J. Hlusko, Steven R. Leigh, Stephanie Meredith, Marin Pilloud, and Richard Scott. Because the sessions were formed prior to the advance visit, the team focused on scheduling sessions (assigning sessions to rooms, days, and times) and entering the sessions into the AABA meetings database.

The programming schedule during the virtual week of the conference was based on presenters' individual time zones. Presenters in the virtual conference were located across the globe, with presenters in, for example, Japan, Australia, South Africa, Argentina, and California. A survey was sent to all presenters asking them to indicate their availability on April 3-5 and session times were based on survey results. As a result, the live, virtual sessions ran from 2am to 7:30pm PDT. BAI staff ran the AV for the virtual sessions (i.e., administering the Zoom meeting and livestreaming the session to the X-CD platform) with the exception of three virtual sessions that convened outside of EDT business hours, which were staffed by Kristi Lewton and Jonathan Bethard.

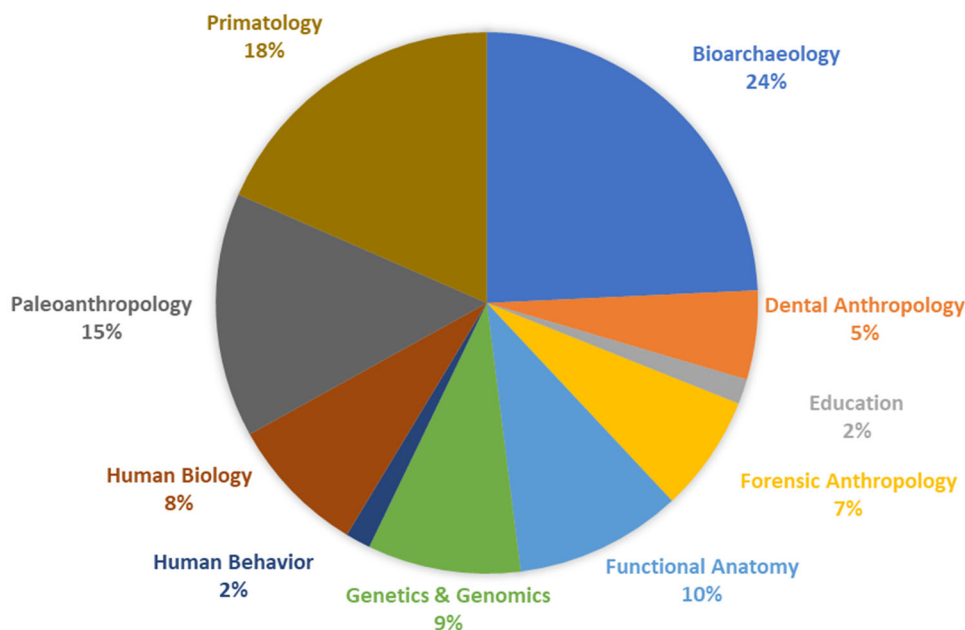
**Abstracts**

As of April 3, 2023, there are 602 contributed abstracts and 154 invited abstracts for a total of 756 abstracts. The proportion of contributed abstracts by subfield are in Table 1 and Figure 1.

**Table 1. Number of contributed abstracts in each of the ten major topic areas.**

Bioarchaeology	146	Genetics & Genomics	55
Dental Anthropology	32	Human Behavior	9
Education	9	Human Biology	50
Forensic Anthropology	42	Paleoanthropology	88
Functional Anatomy	60	Primatology	111

**Figure 1. Proportions of contributed abstracts in each of the ten major topic areas.**



The abstract volume was submitted to Wiley on February 16, 2023 and proofs were submitted on March 22, 2023.

### **Meetings Program, Virtual Platform, and Accessibility**

AABA signed a contract with a new virtual platform in February 2023—X-CD— after the previous virtual platform that was used in the 2022 and 2021 conferences (Pathable) was discontinued. Materials uploaded to the platform (i.e., posters and videos) and recorded sessions will be viewable through September for registered conference attendees.

The meetings program was finalized by February 10, when authors were notified of their presentation schedule. The first draft of the full meetings program was published on the AABA website on March 1. Updates were published thereafter until the program was sent to the printer on March 31, 2023.

Live attendance at virtual sessions ranged from 18 to 48 individuals (including AABA/BAI staff attendance).

To increase accessibility of the annual AABA conference, we created a survey that accompanied abstract submission to query attendees on accommodation needs (e.g., oral presentation transcription, single level/no stairs). This effort was led by Early Career Liaison Katherine Kinkopf. Of the surveys submitted by the abstract submission deadline, 2% requested an accommodation.

All podium presentations use voice-to-text transcription using Powerpoint subtitles. We have a quiet room with low lighting and reduced sensory stimulation, a Family and Lactation Respite Room, and access to a secure refrigerator for medications. We also have proximity badge stickers for attendees to indicate their preference for physical space while interacting with colleagues.

### **Meeting Registration**

As of April 17, there are a total of 1306 individuals registered for the 2023 annual meeting. International registrants from 37 countries make up 18% of meeting registrations, which is on par with meetings back to 2019 (Appendix 3).

### **Acknowledgements and Thanks**

I sincerely thank everyone who helped organize the 2023 program. I am immensely grateful to the 69 members of our Program Committee who conducted and completed symposium and abstract reviews thoughtfully, thoroughly, and expeditiously. Additional thanks go to the 27 members of the Program Committee who took on the task of organizing the contributed sessions for both the Reno and the Online programs.

Thank you to the Advance Team who met in Reno to set the schedule for the Reno program: Jonathan Bethard, Leslea J. Hlusko, Steven R. Leigh, Stephanie Meredith, Marin Pilloud, and Richard Scott and to the graduate student volunteers Ashley Baeza, Reecie Dern, Dori Kenessey, and Emily Smith.

Thank you to Ed Hagen, our website and abstract database developer, without whom our program would not be possible. The Program Assistant Amber Jaeger has been a tremendous help and I am very grateful for her amazing organizational skills. I also want to thank Maggie Hoffman for lending her incredible primate images to the AABA meetings swag.

I thank our partners from Burk & Associates, including Annual Meeting Executive Director Lori Strong, Heide Rohland, Mary Lou Scarborough, Brett Burk, Cooky Bysura, Jill Drupa, Amy Sullivan, Sean Sullivan, Raelene Sok, Elizabeth Terry-Humen, and Ruedi Birenheide. This team helped with registrations, organizing student volunteers, sending emails to the membership, producing our printed materials, interfacing with the exhibitors, and coordinating webinars.

Thank you to our hosts in Reno, Marin Pilloud and Richard Scott, for helping to make this meeting a success.

## Appendix

### *Appendix 1. 2022-2023 Timelines.*

<b>Event/Process</b>	<b>Open Date</b>	<b>Close Date</b>	<b>Reviews Complete</b>	<b>Notification Date</b>
<b>Program Committee Formation</b>	5/23/2022	7/8/2022	NA	7/17/2022
<b>Symposium proposals</b>	7/15/2022	8/15/2022	8/31/2022	9/9/2022
<b>Abstract submission</b>	9/15/2022	10/17/2022 deadline, 10/26/2022 assigned to reviewers	11/23/2022	12/1/2022 (reject), 12/5/2022 (accept)
<b>Workshop proposals</b>	9/30/2022	11/15/2022	12/17/2022	12/17/2022
<b>Presentation schedule</b>				2/10/2023



**Appendix 2. 2022-2023 and historical meetings metrics.**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>Austin</b>	<b>Cleveland</b>	<b>Los Angeles (canceled)</b>	<b>Baltimore</b>	<b>Denver</b>	<b>Reno</b>
Registrations	1901	1802	NA	1079	1281	1250 (as of 4-3-2023)
Abstracts submitted	1229	1121	1247	458	785	775
Abstracts accepted	1214	1090	1226	457	776	772
Symposia (submitted/accepted/presented)	26/26/24	23/22/21	26/25/24	8/8/8?	13/13/13	13/13/13
Podium symposium sessions	8	7	6	NA	6	5
Poster symposium sessions	16	14	18	NA	5	6
Online symposium sessions	NA	NA	NA	8	2	2
Contributed sessions	51	41	46	70	85	58
Podium sessions	22	18	23	NA	18	21
Poster sessions	29	23	23	NA	18	20
Evening poster sessions	2	1	0	NA	0	0
Online sessions	NA	NA	NA	70	49	16

Withdrawn submissions (as of 4/16/2023)	30	16	11	5	17	23
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***Appendix 3. International AABA registrants by country, 2019-2023.***

Country	2019	2021	2022	2023
Albania	1			1
Argentina	1	5	4	3
Australia	6	7	7	7
Austria	2	4	5	4
Belgium	4	2		3
Brazil	16	6	4	3
Canada	74	51	34	46
Chile	1	1		2
China	23	2	1	3
Colombia	2	1		4
Croatia	3	1		3
Cyprus	1			
Czech Republic	5	1	2	5
Denmark	5	2		2
Egypt, Arab Rep.	1			
Estonia	1			
Ethiopia	2			
Finland	4			
France	17	4	1	2
Germany	21	14	14	14
Greece	1			5
Hong Kong SAR, China	1			1
Hungary				1
Iceland	1			
India	2	3	2	2
Iran, Islamic Rep.	1			
Israel	2	3		5
Italy	2	2	2	6
Japan	4	4	2	3
Kenya	1			
Korea, Rep.	1	2		
Lebanon	1			2
Malaysia				1
Mexico	4	12	4	3
Netherlands	3	1	4	
New Zealand	7	5	1	1
Nigeria	2	2	1	
Pakistan	1			
Panama	1	1		1
Peru	2			
Philippines				1
Poland	3	3	4	2
Portugal	1			1
Puerto Rico				1
Russian Federation	2	3		
Singapore	1			1
South Africa	4	18	12	11
Spain	11	5	8	11
Sweden	1	1	1	
Switzerland	4	8	6	7
Tanzania	1			
Thailand				1
Uganda	2			
United Kingdom	60	27	35	26
Total count	301	201	170	195
% of registrants	17%	19%	15%	18%