

**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 Amy Rector for inviting me to report on Section H (Anthropology) of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

This past year has seen many changes in the AAAS as it transitions to a new governance structure. In 2023 and 2024, we are continuing to see evidence of growing pains, but the result will be well worth the considerable effort that has been involved in the governance changes, from the highest levels of the organization down to individual sections. The intent of new governance structure – and I understand it is the first such thorough change in over 70 years – will be to ensure more transparency in the organization’s functioning, to foster a more inclusive environment, and to better represent today’s diverse scientific workforce. Biological anthropology has been well represented in this process, notably by Karen Strier who for several years was heavily involved in the planning that led up to what is happening today.

One of the most notable changes for section members is the expanded group of section officers. Appointed positions during the first year of the transition have been replaced, in part, by elected officers. This process will continue until officer terms are staggered so there will be continuity over time in personnel on each section’s Steering Group. The AABA is well represented in the Section H Steering Group for 2024. Anyone interested in running for office should contact Denise Su (Chair) or me as soon as is convenient.

I am pleased to say that 10 new Fellows from Section H Fellows were elected this past year, with AABA members being among them. Our 2024 Robert W. Sussman Award – presented at the AAAS annual meeting last month – went to Robin G. Nelson of Arizona State University. To quote from the announcement, she “exemplifies the spirit of the Sussman Award for her outstanding contributions to understanding human relationships and their evolutionary impact. She is a leader in efforts to advance equity and redress historical harms in the field of anthropology.” The section is pleased that the outstanding achievements of so many of our AABA colleagues have been recognized over the past year.

Perhaps it is best to close by saying that next year’s AAAS meeting will be in Boston in mid-February. I’m sure we can all agree with the sentiment expressed in the aspirational theme of the Boston meeting: Science Shaping Tomorrow. While it might not be the best time of year for air travel, I look forward to seeing many of you there.