

Vice President's Report – Business Meeting (4/10/17)
American Association of Physical Anthropologists, New Orleans, 2017
J. Josh Snodgrass

Annual Meeting Information

This year there was a substantial increase in abstract submissions (1346) over last year (1110). Preferred format as submitted: 432 podium, 731 poster, and 183 either. This year's program includes a record 1300 scientific presentations, which will be presented in podium or poster sessions on Wednesday evening or during one of the three full days of the meeting. Twenty-nine proposals were submitted for symposia. All were accepted, but not necessarily in the preferred format; one invited poster session later withdrew. The 71 sessions include 7 invited podium symposia, 21 invited poster symposia, 17 contributed podium sessions, and 26 contributed poster sessions.

As of 4/10/17, 16 presentations have been withdrawn; however, this includes only 1 podium presentation.

Notices of acceptance, day of presentation, and format were sent out on 12/29/16. A preliminary online program was posted on 2/1/17. The annual meeting program document was sent to Wiley for production on 3/1/17; it became available online on the AJPA site on 3/20/17. The final program was posted on 4/9/17.

In addition to the online program that Ed Hagen oversees, this year Ed developed a meetings app to allow easy tracking of sessions and other events from a smartphone; the app is available for Android and Apple.

Key Program Changes for 2017

The significant number of abstracts submitted necessitated substantial changes to the program—our only alternative to rejecting a large number of abstracts. Due to the size of our meetings we also chose to contract with a second hotel (the Westin New Orleans Canal Place) to host all PPA and HBA events. The biggest change in the program is that we are hosting two contributed poster sessions per day (each of which includes several of its own sessions). On Thursday and Friday, we will be presenting a morning session from 8 am-1 pm (with authors present 12:30-1 pm) and an afternoon session from 1:30-6 pm (with authors present 1:30-2 pm). To accommodate Saturday's March for Science (see below), Saturday morning contributed poster sessions conclude at 12:30 pm (with authors present 12-12:30); afternoon contributed poster sessions begin at 2:30 pm with authors present from 5:30-6 pm. Also, the main scientific program begins earlier this year with three invited Plenary Poster Sessions on Wednesday evening. These sessions address the practice and ethics of working with 'vulnerable' populations, integrating research into teaching, and training the next generation; these 'plenary' poster sessions run from 8-11 pm just down the hall from the Opening Reception.

Another key change is that the afternoon podium and invited poster sessions begin at 2:30 pm; this allows for an assortment of lunchtime events and workshops. This year's meeting includes an array of additional activities and workshops related to career development, mental health, mentoring, teaching and diversity, among other topics.

This year we had planned to transition away from our traditional AAPA Luncheon on Saturday (because of the high cost of the lunch) in favor of returning to holding a Plenary Lecture. However, the announcement of the March for Science in Washington, DC on Saturday, April 22, and its associated march in New Orleans at 1 pm, led us (in consultation with this year's planned speaker, Tony DiFiore), to cancel the Plenary Lecture and to instead reserve time so our conference attendees can march if they choose. We will convene at 12:30 pm in Bissonet where incoming president Leslie Aiello will give brief remarks and then lead a procession the 8 blocks to the start of the march. The New Orleans March for Science will begin at 1 pm (CDT) at City Hall/Duncan Plaza, though programming starts at noon (including speeches by president Susan Antón and AAPA member Agustín Fuentes).

Upcoming Change

Beginning with the 2018 meeting, we plan to have all authors load podium presentations from a central location—the Speaker Ready/Press Room. More information will be provided in the Call for Presentations.

Acknowledgments and Thanks

Thanks to members of the program committee: Rebecca R. Ackermann, Benjamin M. Auerbach, Eric J. Bartelink, Deborah Blom, Juliet K. Brophy, Habiba Chirchir, Anthony DiFiore, Elizabeth A. DiGangi, Geeta Eick, Dan T.A. Eisenberg, Omer Gokcumen, Yohannes Haile-Selassie, Ashley S. Hammond, M. Geoffrey Hayes, Rachel L. Jacobs, Haagen D. Klaus, Britney Kyle, Kristin L. Krueger, Joanna E. Lambert, Kristi L. Lewton, Scott D. Maddux, Felicia C. Madimenos, James J. McKenna, Elizabeth M. Miller, Magdalena Muchlinski, Robin G. Nelson, Jill D. Pruetz, Jennifer A. Raff, David A. Raichlen, Amy Rector Verrelli, Laurie Reitsema, Christopher A. Schmitt, Lauren Schroeder, Maja Šešelj, Liza J. Shapiro, Jon Stieglitz, Jay T. Stock, Nelson Ting, Larry Ulibarri, Samuel S. Urlacher, Erin R. Vogel, Vicki L. Wedel, Julie Wieczkowski, and Todd R. Yokley. Thanks also to the New Orleans Advance Team (Leslie Aiello, Susan Antón, Anthony DiFiore, Omer Gokcumen, Anne Grauer, Trent Holliday, and Christopher Schmitt, along with Burk representatives Lori Strong and Heide Rohland); I assembled this group in New Orleans last October to make session assignments, consider space issues, and make final decisions on abstracts. Thanks also to members of the AAPA Executive Committee for reviewing symposium proposals.

Thanks are also due to our meetings guru, Lori Strong (from Burk & Associates), for her tireless work with meeting planning and all its complex elements from working with exhibitors, assigning rooms, and arranging catering and AV, and helping to negotiate the contract with the overflow hotel. Also from Burk, Heide Rohland and Brett Burk assisted in numerous ways, including sorting out registration issues, organizing volunteers, arranging invitation letters and certificates of participation, and sending out meeting-related e-mail blasts.

Thanks also go to Ed Hagen, webmaster and system designer extraordinaire. Program assistant Julia DiFiore Rue was extremely helpful, as was University of Oregon undergraduate Chloe Spencer who helped developing the 2017 meeting website.

Thanks are also due to the other officers—Susan Antón, Leslie Aiello, and Anne Grauer—for sharing their wisdom, helping solve urgent problems, and filling in when I was unavailable.

Finally, special thanks go to Local Arrangements Chair, Trent Holliday, and his Local Arrangements Committee.

These meetings would not have been possible without these exemplary individuals, so please join me in thanking them!

Meeting metrics, 2012-2017

Meeting	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	Portland	Knoxville	Calgary	St. Louis	Atlanta	New Orleans
Registrations	1601	1634	1416	1552**	1536**	1895***
Abstracts submitted	1045	1053	1019	1080	1110	1346
Accepted	1018	1004	955	1065	1100	1311
Symposium (submitted/accepted/ presented)	16/16	23/20	22/20	22/22/21	25/25/23	29/29/28
Podium symposium sessions	8	6	7	6	7	7
Poster symposium sessions	8	14	13	15	16	21
Contributed Sessions	29	35	36	39	35	43
podium	18	17	19*	21*	18	17
poster	12	16	16	18	16	26
Evening poster	0	1	1	0	0	3
Withdrawals	n/a	19	30	37	9	16

*Includes half-sessions; **pre-registrations only; ***pre-registered as of 4/10/17