

To: Susan Anton, President, AAPA

From: Karen Strier, AAAS Affiliate (and AAAS Section H Secretary)

Date: 23 February 2017

Re: AAAS news, 2017 Annual meeting

The AAAS Affiliates met with AAAS officials on February 17, 2017 from 10am-12pm. We were greeted by AAAS CEO Rush Holt, who emphasized the AAAS as a positive “force for science” and advocated a nonpartisan, pro-science position.

We were given updates on the Federal R&D budget, which had not (at the time of the AAAS meeting) been approved and was operating on 2016 levels. The congressional outlook is looking strong for some science areas, like NASA and NIH, weaker for others such as EPA regulations. There are ongoing discussions pertaining to visas. AAAS has taken a number of actions including their website about R&D funding news, Rush Holt’s testimony to congress, and involvement in the Climate Science Day March, which will be accompanied by information/guidelines for making it nonpartisan pro-science. AAAS also wrote a letter opposing the original Immigration Ban that many other scientific societies (including AAPA) signed onto.

AAAS membership declined in the first part of 2016 but climbed above 2016 levels after the elections, especially among younger (<30 yr old) people.

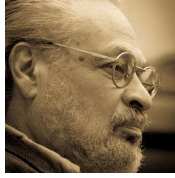
The AAAS would like to offer to select Affiliate groups the chance to get a ½ price membership for joining AAAS. This may be something for AAPA to consider.

Analyses by Jeremy Berg, Editor-in-Chief of the Science family of journals shows the distribution of topics published emphasizes physical sciences, earth sciences, and biomedical sciences. Note that behavioral sciences are not highly published.
<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/355/6320/9.full>

AAAS has adopted the Trellis Communications Tool, which can be used to communicate with anyone inside or outside of AAAS, as long as they develop a Profile. Section H has its own Facebook page, AAAS Section H, which anyone can access to read, and we’ve been using this more than Trellis.

Obs: AAAS CEO Russ Holt attended the first part of the Section H Business meeting, at which time he informed us of a new initiative he would like to launch, in which experts from each section identified papers in their field that have been published in *Science* that have changed the field. These experts would then be asked to contribute essays about the influential papers and where those fields are heading.

Section H also announced a new award, the “Robert W. Sussman Award for Scientific Contributions to Anthropology” from Section H (Anthropology), American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the purpose of which is: To recognize meritorious scientific contributions to the field of anthropology by mid-career anthropologists. See attached.



Robert W. Sussman* Award for Scientific Contributions to Anthropology

**Section H (Anthropology)
American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)**

Purpose: To recognize meritorious scientific contributions to the field of anthropology by mid-career anthropologists.

Criteria:

- Mid-career is generally defined as about 10-20 years post PhD. In academic rank, the individual would typically be an associate to early full professor.

Process:

- Nominations of mid-career candidates will be solicited from among the membership of Section H via electronic messages using AAAS communication platform and the Section H social media (e.g., facebook) page. Members of the Section H Nominating Committee may also submit nominations of candidates. Nominations will be solicited in early March, with a deadline of April 30. Nominees do not need to be members of AAAS. *Self nominations are not accepted.*
- A nomination will consist of a nominating letter (maximum 2,000 words), describing the relationship of the nominator to the candidate, the candidate's most significant contributions and why they are lasting, and the candidate's trajectory for making continuing contributions to science in the spirit of the mission and goals of AAAS. The nominating letter should be accompanied by the candidate's CV and complete contact information.
- Nominations will be compiled by the Secretary of Section H, who will also chair the Selection Committee but who will not vote except to break a tie. The voting members of the Selection Committee will be the other members of the Steering group of Section H, which includes the section chair, chair-elect, past chair, and 4 members-at-large.
- Any Conflict of Interests (e.g., recent co-authorships, co-PI on grants, student-mentor relationships) will be declared by Selection Committee members. Committee members will not rank candidates with whom they have a COI.
- Efforts will be made to select Awardees from across the full range of scientific subdisciplines in Anthropology.
- Ordinarily, awards will be given to individuals.
- Award winners will be notified by September 1, and the award will be announced via Section H social media as soon as communication with the winner has been made.
- Award winners will be encouraged to attend the next AAAS meeting, with the award presentation held at either the Section H Reception or Business meeting.
- Award winners will receive a Certificate for the year in which the award is presented.
- The award will be named in honor of Robert W. Sussman and the first award will be thus entitled: "2018 Robert W. Sussman Award for Scientific Contributions in Anthropology, from Section H (Anthropology) of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)."
- Nominations due to Karen Strier (kbstrier@wisc.edu) by APRIL 30, 2017

**As recorded in the minutes from the 2017 Section H Business meeting: "Bob Sussman embodies the science and spirit of Anthropology. From fieldwork on lemurs to human biology to deconstructing the evils of race, his legacy of mentorship, caring, and dissemination of knowledge will be with us forever."*
