

To: American Association of Physical Anthropologists Executive Committee
From: Benjamin Auerbach, Chair of Committee for Community Partnership
Date: 11 April 2021
Re: Annual report

Dear Anne and Members of the AAP(B)A Executive Committee:

The Committee for Community Partnership for the AAPA has a current membership of five individuals: Drs. Benjamin Auerbach (chair), Shamsi Berry, Ellen Lofaro, Ripan Malhi, and Charlotte Roberts. Herein we report our activities over the last year and plans for the upcoming year. In brief, these consist of two surveys about legacy data management and sharing for information obtained from human remains associated with marginalized, underrepresented, or indigenous groups; one survey will be sent to the membership, and the other is proposed to be sent to the representatives from various indigenous or marginalized communities. We also are planning to organize a workshop, which we hope to be held in 2022, to bring all parties together to open a dialogue about how we should handle these legacy data. Details follow:

- With the approval of the Executive Committee, the committee's name was changed in May 2020 from the Repatriation Committee to the Committee for Community Partnership. This name change reflects the shifting responsibilities of the committee and needs of the association with respect to NAGPRA and other policies/laws protecting human remains associated with marginalized, underrepresented, and unrepresented groups globally. The committee continues its original charge, which was to serve as a liaison with the national NAGPRA committee, to give information and guidance to association members about working within these laws, as well as to provide support to the association in matters that relate to repatriation laws. However, the committee sees its role as expanding to provide guidance to the membership of the AAPA about best practices in partnering, when possible and appropriate, with all stakeholders when performing research using human remains. This is reflected in our activities this last year and planned for the upcoming year.
- With the Executive Committee, we put forward two nominees to serve on the National NAGPRA Review Committee in 2020, Dr. Ellen Lofaro and Dr. Heather Edgar. Unfortunately, neither of them was appointed, but we hope to have one of our members serve again in the future.
- The main focus of the Committee continues to be the development of best practices for the AAPA on how best to manage the sharing and archiving for legacy data acquired from sources associated from indigenous, marginalized, or unrepresented populations. By data, the committee refers to skeletal metrics, anthropometrics, isotopic data, and histological data, among other types. The populations to which this applies includes but is not limited to groups who have been historically marginalized by colonization, especially by Europeans. Examples include Native Americans, First Nations, Saami, Ainu, Andaman Islanders, and various African populations (such as the Efe or Khoisan).

Following the Workshop on Data Sharing held in Milwaukee in February 2019, organized by Drs. Trudy Turner and Connie Mulligan, it became apparent that the sharing of legacy data—

data already collected by researchers, often prior to legal or ethical policies—from these populations would require special principles in addition to the best practices and policies put forth by the AAPA for data archiving (see Turner TR, Mulligan CJ. 2019. *AJPA* 170:3-4).

The committee drafted a survey to be sent to the AAPA membership, which will help the association assess the extent of such data already collected and metrics for how these data have been shared to date. In addition, the survey asks the membership about their concerns, knowledge of existing practices, and opinions about how best to approach the topic of sharing of data obtained from historically marginalized and unrepresented populations. Our committee is working with Drs. Mulligan and Turner on behalf of the Data Archiving Committee to coordinate this survey with a new survey that they will be sending to the membership of the society. We hope that our surveys will be sent out to the membership by late spring or early summer.

- The committee still also plans to produce a short survey that would be sent to representatives from various indigenous or marginalized communities, which would request information about perceptions, concerns, and relationships with scientists forged by those groups. We also would use this survey to help find potential participants in a workshop following up on these surveys. This survey would likewise be submitted by mid-fall 2021, pending approval of the Executive Committee.
- Following up on these surveys, the committee will analyze the results and make the outcomes available as a report to the AAPA membership. The committee plans to leverage these data to organize and apply for funding to support a workshop to address data management and sharing from the sources noted above. Dr. Auerbach has already informally discussed the idea of a workshop with Dr. Rebecca Ferrell (NSF). This workshop would seek to bring together both representatives from the scientific community across multiple specialties and representatives from indigenous and other identified communities. This workshop would use the outcomes of the surveys to organize the sessions, and to work toward a goal of setting out a dialogue for best principles and procedures for addressing the sharing of sensitive legacy data. Ideally, this workshop would occur in 2022, depending on the state of the pandemic.

The committee realizes that a single solution will unlikely apply to all groups equally. For this reason, we anticipate that a set of general procedures, as well as best ethical practices, will be the outcome of this first workshop. It is likely that the committee will work together with the Data Archiving Committee and the Ethics Committee in developing these best practices. We hope that the workshop will also result in an ongoing dialogue and opportunity for inclusion of groups that have not commonly been included in the process of scientific inquiry conducted by biological anthropologists.

- Finally, with Executive Committee approval, the committee is looking toward finding two new members to rotate onto the committee this following year. Dr. Roberts' term will be ending in 2022, and the committee would like to recruit a student member.

Thank you all, again, for your continued support of the efforts of our committee. We greatly appreciate the hard work of the members of the Executive Committee.

On Behalf of the Committee for Community Partnership,
Benjamin M. Auerbach