

**American Association of Biological Anthropologists
Science Advocacy Committee
2025–2026 Annual Report**

Submitted by Kate Clancy, Amy Non, and Sean Tallman

Op-Ed Webinar

On November 19th, 2025, the Science Advocacy Committee hosted a webinar, “Write It So They’ll Read It: Engaging the Public Through Op-Eds.” Our speaker was Inga Kiderra, Director of Communications for Social Sciences, UC San Diego. Out of 114 registrants, 58 attended, which is considered a pretty high turnout ratio! The feedback we received from this webinar was very positive.

Pollitzer Prize Collaboration

The Science Advocacy Committee collaborated with Kevin Hatala (Chair, Student Programs (Awards) Committee) on a Pollitzer Prize question that gave our students a chance to engage with science advocacy questions in this current moment. The prompt was:

“Recent legislative shifts in the US political landscape have significantly impacted science, healthcare, immigration, and pedagogy, among other areas that intersect with biological anthropology. As an advocate for science, write an op-ed for the general public that convinces readers of the importance of biological anthropology amid these changes. Specifically, how can bioanthropological perspectives and research improve lives? In your letter, provide examples from published research—and/or from your own research— that demonstrate how biological anthropology is relevant, beneficial, and worthy of funding.”

The SAC also helped judge Pollitzer submissions.

AABA Meetings Workshop Collaboration with Professional Development Committee

The Science Advocacy Committee collaborated with Andrea Taylor (Chair, Professional Development Committee) on a workshop proposal for the 2026 AABA meetings in Denver, entitled “Effective Science Communication in an Age of Willful Disinformation.” The proposal was accepted and the workshop will be on Thursday March 19th from 12-1:30pm, Governors Square 16 in the main conference hotel.

This workshop will begin with a panel discussion and Q&A with Lisa Marshall (science communicator at UC Denver), Sang-Hee Lee (video), Agustin Fuentes (trade books), and Cara Ocobock (podcasts). From there, workshop attendees will participate in small, facilitated group discussions, each centered around a different form of media.

So far there are several dozen registrants and we are still promoting the workshop to further increase attendance. We will disseminate an exit survey in order to assess whether this workshop was successful, and to determine additional interest in more science advocacy events and trainings.

Up next: Open SAC meeting

To expand our efforts beyond the three original committee members (Kate Clancy, Amy Non, Sean Tallman) and clarify our charge, we will be holding an open, virtual SAC meeting on April 24th at 11am PST/12pm MST/1pm CST/2pm EST. We will share upcoming activities we are planning, recruit volunteers for future events, and brainstorm new ideas for our committee to pursue. In particular, we hope to increase involvement from junior scholars to get a better sense of their interests and needs.

The strength of the current committee is that we found ways to work within standing committees in order to add science advocacy goals to existing programs. As we move forward, we want to continue with this spirit of collaboration, as well as grow our membership to imagine new efforts.