

**American Association of Biological Anthropologists
Professional Development Committee
2023-2024 Annual Report**

Submitted by Lauren Schroeder

Early Career Liaison Program

We received three excellent applications for the Early Career Liaison program. The applications covered important topics including open science and data sharing, the ethical use of human skeletal data in teaching and beyond, and LGBTQIA+ community advocacy. Dr. Nicole Torres-Tamayo (Postdoctoral Research Associate, University College London) was chosen as our new Early Career Liaison. In her application, Dr. Torres-Tamayo details her advocacy work in open science, the importance of data sharing, but also the ethical concerns regarding the sharing of data from human individuals. During her tenure, Dr. Torres-Tamayo will work closely with the Publications Committee, specifically Dr. Trudy Turner, to find mechanisms for retroactive data sharing in publications and to develop information-sharing initiatives on open science to early career scholars in Biological Anthropology. She will also be liaising with Dr. Yohannes Haile-Selassie of the Ethics Committee on issues and concerns related to the sharing of data from human individuals. We wish her the best during her appointment as the AABA Early Career Liaison, and we thank Dr. Justin Lund for his service as outgoing Early Career Liaison.

Cobb Professional Development Grants (CPDG)

The AABA CPDG committee reviewed 25 applications for the 2023-24 grant cycle. The applicants spanned multiple continents, with all subfields of biological anthropology represented. Overall, the pool of applications was very strong, reflecting the excellence of our early career investigators. Each application was reviewed by three or four committee members. In reviewing proposals, the committee considered the significance of the work, the quality of the proposal, the potential impact of the award on the applicant's career (including career stage and access to other funding sources), and the strength of the recommendation letter and CV. The committee recommended funding five proposals, up to \$7,500 each. Award and declination letters were emailed to applicants on March 6, 2024. The award recipients are as follows:

Victoria Dominguez

Assistant Professor, Lehman College

The Influence of Age on Porosity and Remodeling Across the Skeleton

Arwa Kharobi

Assistant Professor, Masaryk University

Experimental Study on the Osteocalcin Index to Detect Biochemical Markers of Stress in Human Bones (Hyksos, Egypt)

Kristen Savell

Assistant Professor, Sacred Heart University

Limb segment length, gait transition & cost of transport during slope-walking

Melandri Vlok

Lecturer, The University of Notre Dame Australia

Investigating patterns of tropical disease with climate change in coastal and lowland populations in prehistoric Vietnam

Ashleigh L Wiseman

Leverhulme Trust/Isaac Newton Trust Early Career Fellow, University of Cambridge

Beyond the bones: Enhanced phylogenetic bracketing of hominin soft tissues

A committee of 22 AABA members, including the Chair, reviewed the pool of eligible proposals. I appreciate the time and effort that each reviewer provided in assessing these applications, and the helpful and constructive feedback given to each applicant.

In addition to the Chair, our committee this year was:

Benjamin Auerbach	Celeste Gagnon	Cara Ocobock
Karen Baab	Anne Grauer	Megan Perry
Andrew Barr	Lesley Gregoricka	Marin Pilloud
Elizabeth Berger	Mark Hubbe	Mary Silcox
Michelle Bezanson	Jason Kamilar	Julie Teichroeb
Michele Buzon	Lyle Konigsberg	Noreen von Cramon-Taubadel
Sharon DeWitte	Elizabeth Miller	Scott Williams

Professional Development Panel/Workshop

The AABA Professional Development Committee and the Biological Anthropology directorate of the NSF ran a joint hybrid workshop on **Wednesday, March 20, 8 am-12 pm** at the 2024 AABA annual meeting in Los Angeles focused on a mock review exercise. In this workshop, early career scholars were introduced to the NSF merit review process by helping to review past senior NSF proposals provided by biological anthropology researchers using the NSF merit review guidelines. A panel of seasoned reviewers, Drs Christopher Schmidt, Andrea Taylor, Claudia Vallengia, Kieran McNulty, and Sharon DeWitte assisted workshop participants in the mock review of these proposals. The NSF program directors of the Biological Anthropology directorate, Drs Rebecca Ferrell and Marta Alfonso-Durruty provided details of the merit review process. A portion of the workshop was also dedicated to discussing the development of a meaningful ethics statement.