



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION FOR
ANATOMY

2023

YEAR IN REVIEW

Message from the President

As we reflect on the past year, I would like to share some of our achievements that have benefited you as members and allowed us to grow our community.



One of the main highlights from the past year was undoubtedly our first independent annual meeting in over 30 years. It gathered over a thousand participants, with over 500 abstracts being presented. The enthusiasm was palpable in every hallway, and I look forward to another great meeting in Toronto.

Our journals continued to bring you the best scholarship in anatomical sciences and education and now have a uniform look. Together, they coordinated efforts to lead the “Inspiring Scientific Curiosity and Discovery” monthly webinar series, with some sessions breaking record attendance with over 100 participants. The Anatomical Record also won the 2023 APEX Award for Publication Excellence for its special issue, “Evolution of a Discipline — The Changing Face of Anatomy.”

We announced three new awards: Predoctoral Fellowship, DEI Dissertation Completion Award, and EUREKA EDI Undergraduate Research Award, which increased our scholarship, grant, and awards portfolio by an additional \$100,000. Our 2023 programs saw a second edition of the

very popular SciComm Bootcamp and a successful regional meeting in Texas. We also graduated the first cohort of Anatomy Scholars and continue to graduate members from the Anatomy Training Program. Our mentorship program now includes nearly 80 users and is growing.

The board has also been very active, working in small groups to dive into critical strategic aspects of the organization to pave the way to our future.

Join me in thanking the AAA staff (Christine, Colby, Kelly, Liz, Natalie, Paul). None of these accomplishments would have been possible without their dedication and hard work. Let me also thank you — the members of AAA — for your engagement in all our activities. Together, we are the thriving community of anatomical sciences.

The past year was my first year serving as president of AAA. I would like to thank Valerie DeLeon, our current past president, for leading the organization over two unconventional years and leaving it in such great shape. I am looking forward to another productive year together in 2024.

Martine Dunnwald, PharmD, Ph.D., FAAA

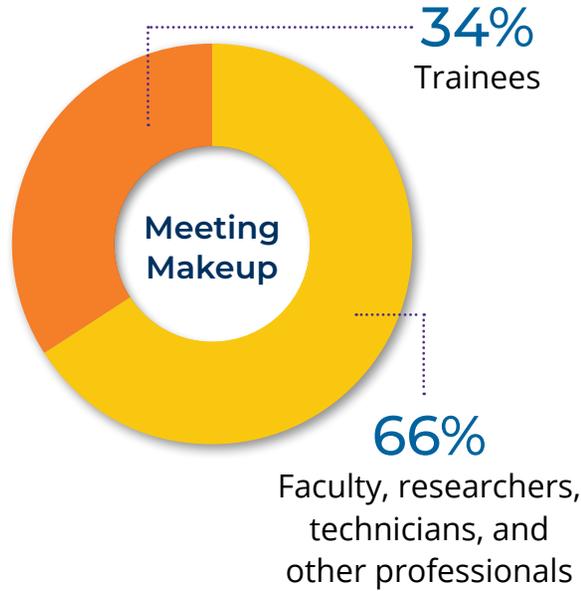
President

University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

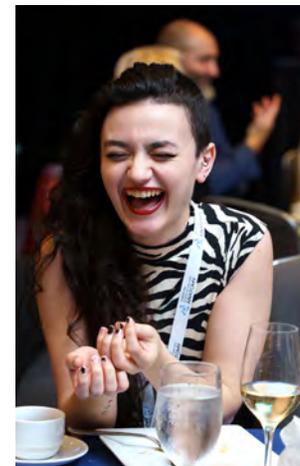
Meetings

Annual Meeting

This year, we hosted our first independent annual meeting in over 30 years. Anatomy Connected took place in historic Washington, D.C., and a successful meeting it was! From March 25–27, 2023, nearly **1,040 people** gathered at the JW Marriott to share our values of community, respect, inclusion, integrity, and discovery.



QUICK STATS	13	232	137	473
	Exhibits	Student travel awards	Oral presentations	Poster presentations



Regional Meeting

The 2023 Regional Meeting was held at the University of the Incarnate Word, School of Osteopathic Medicine, San Antonio, Texas, on October 7th, 2023. We welcomed just over 130 registered participants from nine states and four countries to explore the educational and professional integration of anatomical sciences with osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM).



QUICK STATS

51

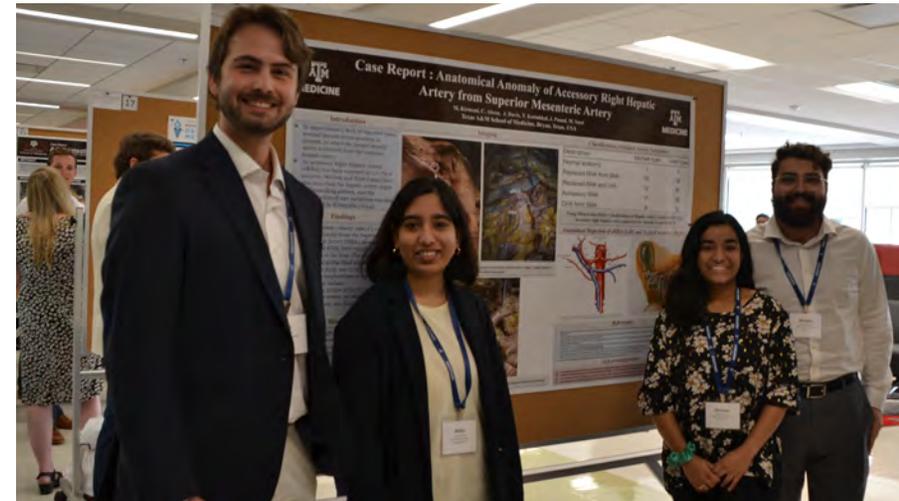
Poster presentations

3

Best abstract awards/oral presentations

6

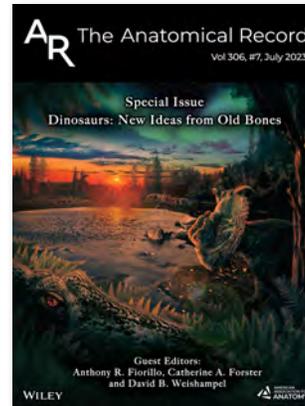
Best poster presentation awards



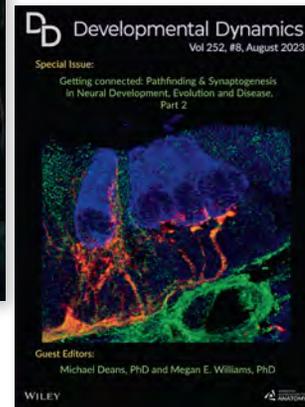
Journals

Not only did our family of journals get a cohesive new look this year but The Anatomical Record was awarded the 2023 APEX Award for Publication Excellence for the *Evolution of a Discipline — The Changing Faces of Anatomy* special issue. The award was given based on the Writing — Entire Issue category along with four other publications. The success of this issue is a testament to the remarkable work of editors Jason Organ, Amber Comer, and Jeffrey Laitman, who spearheaded and coordinated the award-winning issue.

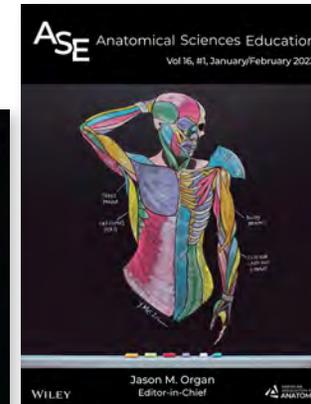
Topics addressed in this special issue include the Task Force's report on structural racism within the organization, discussions of antisemitism in the study of anatomy, Nazi anatomists, and eugenics, to name a few. The importance of this issue cannot be understated as it reframes our interactions with anatomy as a study and practice while suggesting a better path forward as an organization.



The Anatomical Record

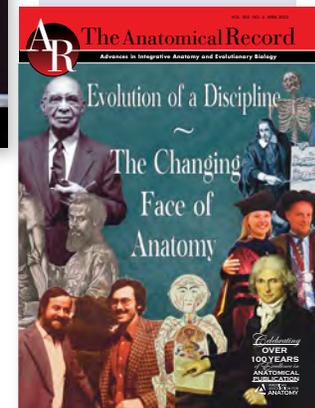


Development Dynamics



Anatomical Sciences Education

The Anatomical Record
Wins 2023
APEX Award



“I think this award recognizes the importance of the innovative, introspective work of the journal, editors, authors, and AAA as a whole in acknowledging our shared past. Instead of focusing purely on science (as in our typical issues), we took a step back to critically evaluate the history and ethics of anatomical sciences through time from a variety of perspectives and then tried to lay the foundation for moving forward together toward a more equitable future.”

— Heather F. Smith, *Editor-in-Chief of The Anatomical Record*

From Pages to Practice

Inspiring Scientific Curiosity and Discovery Series

Organized by our trio of journals, the Inspiring Scientific Curiosity and Discovery Series contained some of the most well-attended webinars this year, boasting more than 100 attendees at the [Changing Perspectives of Ethics in the Anatomical Sciences: Public Dissection and Other Contemporary Challenges](#) lecture.

Jason Organ, the Editor-in-Chief of the *Anatomical Sciences Education* Journal, joined the webinar series this year after settling into his new role. He expressed the value of collaboration and shared his hopes of seeing the three journals create resources from which members can benefit.

“It was wonderful for Anatomical Sciences Education (ASE) to join the webinar series jointly run by Developmental Dynamics (DD) and Anatomical Record (AR) because it allowed us to work together in a new capacity. Now, all three AAA journals work collaboratively in a way I haven’t seen before, and it is leading to new avenues for collaboration as well. I’m really grateful to work closely with Paul Trainor and Heather Smith to enhance AAA’s family of journals.”

The monthly webinar series has brought anatomy research from our journals to life in an interactive format; the addition of Anatomical Sciences Education this year brings a broader range of content to you, our members, and our audience, to provide more enriching experiences.

“One of the appeals of the seminars is the breadth of topics covered from presenters based all over the world. From Dr Paolo Forni we learned about the development and physiology of our sense of smell; from Dr Elly Tanaka, differences in the regeneration capacities of salamanders and humans; and from Dr Julie Siegenthaler, how neurovascular interactions in the meninges are integral to nervous system development and in the pathogenesis of disease.”

— Paul Trainor, *Editor-in-Chief of Developmental Dynamics*

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Anatomy Scholars Program

The Anatomy Scholars Program kicked off 2023 with the introduction of the second cohort and ended the year with the graduation of the inaugural group of scholars. In keeping with the mission of the program, which is to support and increase retention

of Early Career Underrepresented Minorities (URM) in STEM academia in the United States and Canada, both cohorts met both collectively and individually throughout the year for informational modules, mentor meetings, and peer bonding.

We proudly presents the first graduating cohort of the Anatomy Scholars Program



Jailenne Quinones

Successfully defended her thesis in 2022. Currently an Assistant Professor at Sam Houston State University, tenure track.



Caio Sarmento

Organized a session to be held at Anatomy Connected 2024. Currently an Assistant Professor at California State University in Fresno, tenure track.



Andre Tavares

Secured KO1 funding from NIH with the aid of ASP Mentors and facilitators. Currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Delaware, tenure track.

Throughout year two of the program scholars finished Modules that covered a wide variety of content, which included:

- Communications Training with Jason Organ.
- Teaching and mentoring with Malli Barremkala.
- Service in Academia with Heather Smith.
- Grants and funding with Facilitators Kimberly Topp, Ralph Marcucio, and Mary Barbe from the University of California, San Francisco, and Temple University.

A third cohort of two new scholars has now been accepted into the program, joining Diana Rigueur (Cohort 2), who has successfully submitted an R21 with the aid of ASP Mentors and facilitators and was the recipient of a university-wide Distinguished Teaching Award. Dr. Rigueur is currently a Faculty Lecturer at University of California Los Angeles. Irisa Arney, Assistant Professor from Western University of Health Science, and Oheneba Boadum from The University of Mississippi Medical Center joined Dr. Rigueur in January 2024.

“The Anatomy Scholars Program has been a transformative chapter in my professional life, and I extend my deepest thanks for the opportunities it provided. The mentorship, expertise in anatomical sciences, encouragement, and genuine interest in our professional development have driven my success in this program.”

— Jailenne Quinones, *ASP Cohort 1 Graduate*

Global Neuroanatomy Network

The Global Neuroanatomy Network (GNN) was officially launched on November 20th, 2023 as an affiliate of AAA. The network offers complimentary access to a wide array of neuroanatomy teaching resources available for delivery and assessment worldwide to maximize student reach and impact.

The GNN innovation team has presented five international abstracts to increase global interest. Additional abstract submissions were submitted to Anatomy Connected 2024, IAMSE 2024, and others. To further promote and increase awareness of the network, the GNN innovation team has designed, printed, and distributed 3D printed logos (with QR code stickers) and GNN logo stickers at several conferences, including Anatomy Connected 2023, Neuroscience Teaching Conference, Asia Pacific International Congress of Anatomists & Australian and New Zealand Association of Clinical Anatomists Joint Conference at the end of 2023 in New Zealand.

The ultimate goal of GNN is to create a reliable, high-quality international network to locate and share ideas, support, and teaching materials. We anticipate this resource will greatly impact the new year and drive our goal of becoming a more equitable and inclusive organization for anatomical scientists and educators to call home.



SciComm Bootcamp

SCBC is a two-day, hands-on professional development workshop in effective science communication (SciComm) strategies founded in 2019 from an Innovations Grant to Jason Organ and Krista Hoffmann-Longtin. After a hiatus because of COVID, the SCBC resumed its intended biennial cadence on October 19–20, 2023, at Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis, IN. The purpose of the SCBC, are to equip a cadre of AAA members with a toolkit of methods proven to enhance the effectiveness of science communication and to provide a collegial and interactive environment where SCBC participants can practice the communication skills they learn in real time, network with others, and train to communicate science with the media and with policymakers and to establish AAA as the leader among FASEB organizations for science communication training and public outreach.

Over the two days of the workshop, participants focused on formal communication training in applied improvisational theater. The applied improvisation training focused on teaching participants to connect effectively with their audience in real-time, to distill their message into language that is free from jargon and easily understood by the public, and to use storytelling as a mechanism for these tasks. This training formed the bulk of the curriculum for the first day and a half of the workshop. The last half of the second day focused on communicating with the media.

The twenty participants, including both members as well as non-members, consisted of faculty, early-career researchers, graduate students, and staff.

Mentor Match Program

Our members-only mentoring program, [Mentor Match](#), was developed to assist student, postdoc, and early-career faculty members with their transition into the field of anatomy and help them meet their professional development and networking goals. Mentors or mentees can be right down the street or on the other side of the world. Participants have self-select based on areas of interest and/or needs.

QUICK FACTS

76

Users

39

Mentors

37

Mentees



Jennifer Dennis

Mentor: “At first glance, one might think that Mentoring is about helping someone new to the organization, or more junior in their career — and those interactions are fundamental to supporting anatomists and growing the future of Anatomy. I immensely enjoy giving back to mentees in ways that my mentors encouraged and helped me along the way, but mentoring is also *reciprocal*. The impactful benefit of fresh perspectives, budding excitement, innovative ideas, and novel ways of thinking about Anatomy cannot be overstated. I have learned far more from my mentees than they realize.”



Douglas Gould

Mentor: “Participation in the mentoring program has allowed me to establish relationships with members that otherwise would not have been possible, I have gained much insight from learning other perspectives, particularly from more junior faculty in Anatomy.”



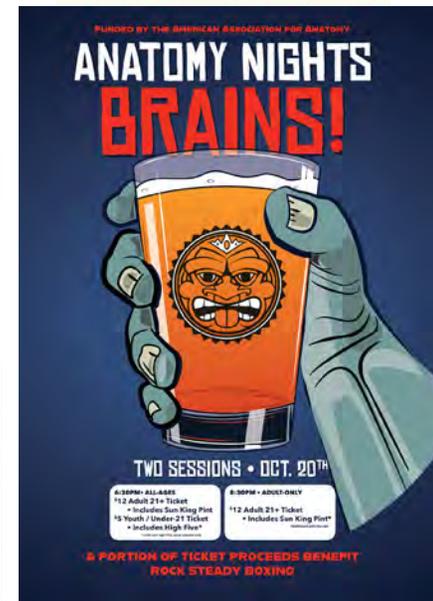
Jude Nnaka

Mentee: “The AAA Mentoring program connected me with seasoned professionals whose guidance and insights have been crucial in helping me navigate my career path.”

Anatomy Nights

The intention of Anatomy Nights is to bring anatomy education into the public sphere through the fundamental practice of (non-human) dissection. These programs make anatomy more accessible to the public in a fun atmosphere while ensuring anatomists are involved in public engagement events where they can circulate accurate information about the human body. The program has been used to examine short-term memory retention of brain, heart, and lung clinical anatomy in program participants in venues worldwide, including UK, Australia, Canada, Europe, New Zealand, and Indianapolis (the only US location).

Anatomy Nights: Brain Edition, presented in October 2023, was the first Anatomy Nights event sponsored by the American Association for Anatomy. A team of anatomists from Indiana University School of Medicine taught brain anatomy to approximately 70 patrons at Sun King Brewing in Indianapolis, IN. Proceeds from ticket sales benefited Rock Steady Boxing, a non-profit gym based in Indianapolis dedicated to providing effective physical activity for Parkinson's patients.



Awards

Launched in 2023

In 2023, we expanded our portfolio of awards, grants, and scholarships by an additional \$100,000, now topping out at over \$650,000. These opportunities provide much-needed financial support to undergraduate and graduate students, enabling them to conduct groundbreaking research and make valuable contributions to the field. The new awards include the Predoctoral Fellowship, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Dissertation Completion Award, and the EUREKA EDI Undergraduate Research Award. Below are our first time winners!



Predoctoral Fellowship, Nicole Moody

This Award is designed to develop the pathway of future anatomical scientists by providing funding for students who are current or new members completing their first masters or first doctoral degree. This mechanism will support all graduate students as they fully engage with their research in anatomical sciences.



DEI Dissertation Completion Award, Cassandra White

This Award is designed to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in the anatomical sciences by providing dissertation completion awards to underrepresented minority (URM) graduate students who are current or new members. This mechanism will support URM graduate students at a key transition, from PhD completion to either postdoctoral studies or a first academic job, thus, promoting their retention in science and the AAA.



EUREKA EDI Undergraduate Research Award, Adam Arca

The EUREKA Award is presented to an underrepresented minority undergraduate student interested in research at this early critical stage by better preparing them for graduate training, or as a springboard to employment in science and health research fields, including scientific outreach and medical education.

Other Awards and Recipients

It fills us with joy to offer such a wide array of awards, grants, and scholarships to our members! Below is a comprehensive list of awards that we have given throughout 2023, but may not have been covered in a press release. To learn more about all of the awards we offer please visit our [website](#) and explore the different opportunities.

Postdoctoral Fellowship

- [Alpen Ortug](#)
- Lorena Maili

Science Advocacy Fellowship

- Laura Johnson

Anatomy Training Program

- Darlington Onyejike



Research Meetings Outreach Grants

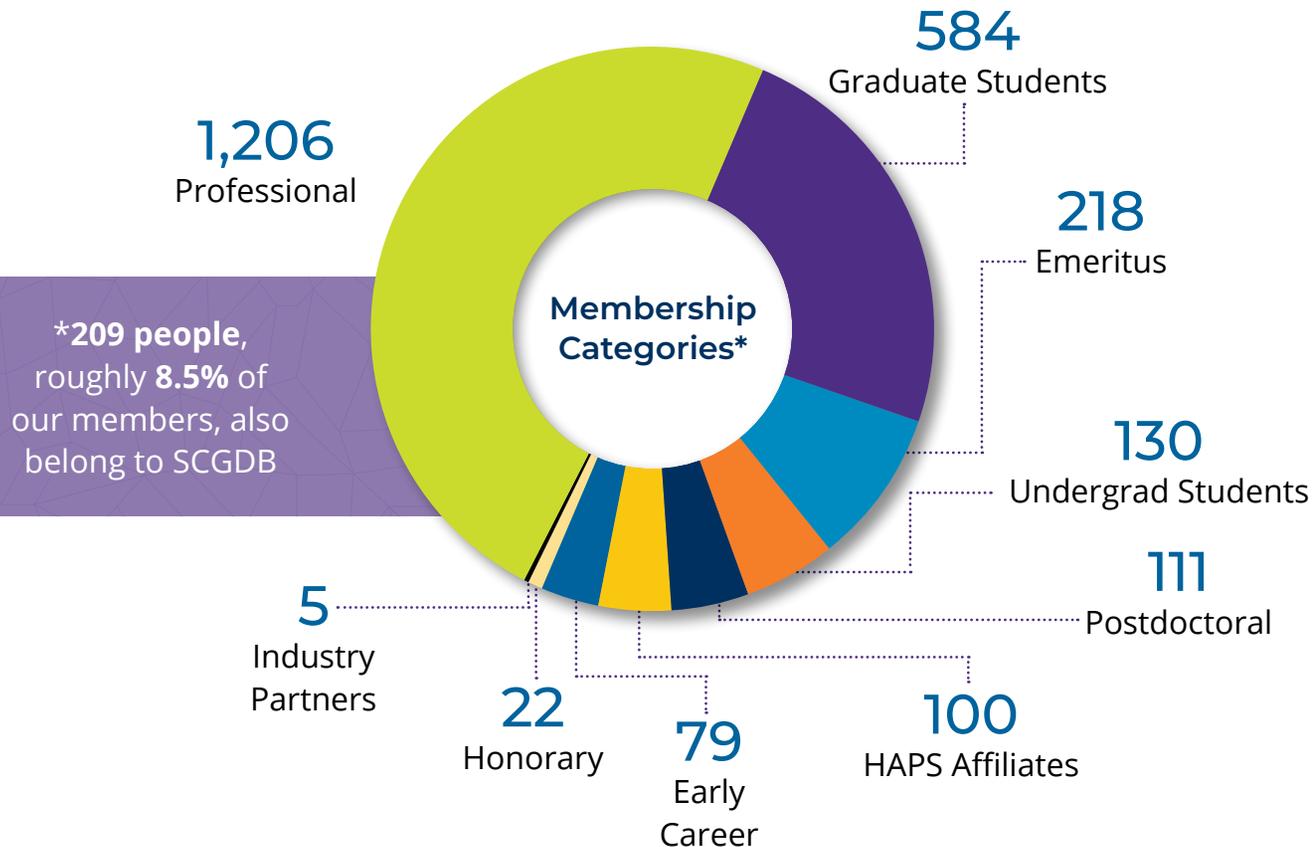
- Jason Bourke
- Tim Smith
- Amy Merrill
- Georgios Skandalakis
- Junhua Xiao
- Chloe Josefson
- Stacey Skoretz

Short-Term Visiting Scholarships

- Christine Harper
- Katherine Gustilo
- Stacey Dunham
- Rebecca Pratt

Membership

As of late December 2023, we have a total of 2,455 members based in 67 countries. We aspire to create a diverse community that offers a wide perspective on anatomical sciences and how we engage with the subject matter. When members were asked via survey to describe the positive attributes that define AAA, respondents cited scholarly, informative, collaborative, supportive, and relevant. We are proud that our members embrace and appreciate our dedication to these core values.



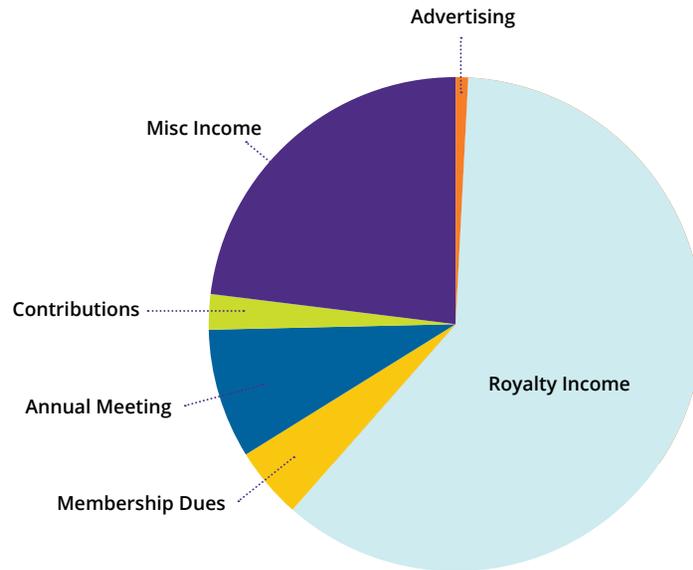
The top benefits of membership continue to be:

- Anatomy Connected
- Access to scholarly journals including: ASE, DD, or AR
- Member-only online community, Anatomy Network, which includes 49 special interest groups
- Opportunities to expand one's network of peers
- Ability to connect with our global membership comprised of scientists and educators who conduct research on a wide range of topics from humans to fossils and everything in between

2023 Financials

Supporting Our Members

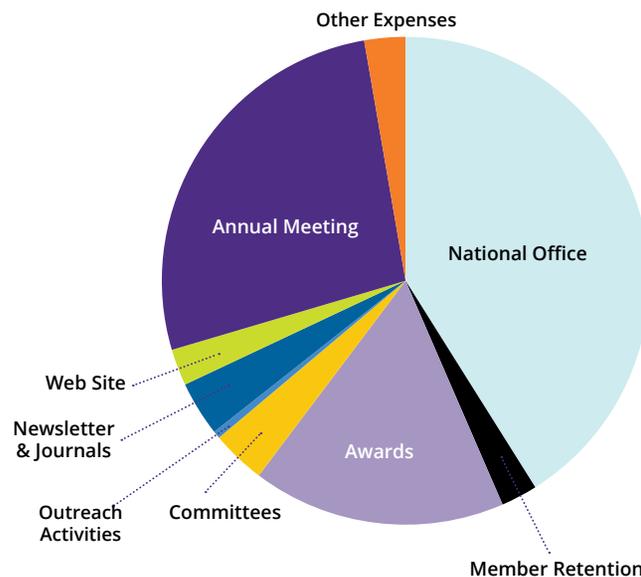
AAA remains financially healthy and committed to supporting its members by investing in programs and services that strengthen our mission and strategic goals. These charts provide an overview of revenue sources and primary expense categories as of December 31, 2023.



Total Income \$2,855,233

Income by source

Advertising/List Sales.....	\$30,533
Royalty Income.....	\$2,250,439
Membership Dues.....	\$173,456
Annual Meeting Income.....	\$314,855
Journal Print Fee Income.....	\$850
Contributions.....	\$85,100
Miscellaneous Income.....	\$854,902



Total Expenses \$2,859,928

Expenses breakdown

National Office.....	\$1,216,204
Member Retention & Development	\$71,619
Awards.....	\$497,619
Committees, Board, & Governance.....	\$106,326
Outreach Activities	\$14,678
Newsletter & Journals.....	\$107,677
Web Site.....	\$71,678
Annual Meeting & Regional Meeting.....	\$795,112
Other Expenses	\$80,671

Board of Directors

The Association held its annual election for the Board of Directors in January, with two new members joining the Board in April 2023.

PRESIDENT

Martine Dunnwald, *PharmD, Ph.D., FAAA*
University of Iowa

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Anne Burrows, *Ph.D., FAAA*
Duquesne University

PAST PRESIDENT

Valerie DeLeon, *Ph.D., FAAA*
University of Florida

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Raj Ettarh, *M.D., Ph.D., FRSM, FAS, FAAA*
California University of Science and
Medicine

PUBLICATIONS CHAIR

Kem Rogers (Ex-Officio), *Ph.D., FAAA*
University of Western Ontario

STUDENT/POSTDOC DIRECTOR

Andrew Cale, *Ph.D.*
Indiana University

Tarimobo Otopo, *M.D., Ph.D.*
University of Toronto

DIRECTORS

Kirsten Brown, *Ph.D.*
George Washington University

Melissa Carroll, *Ph.D.*
George Washington University

Samuel Márquez, *Ph.D., FAAA*
SUNY Downstate

Allison Nesbitt, *Ph.D.*
University of Missouri-Columbia

Olusegun Oyedele, *M.D., Ph.D.*
University of British Columbia

Joy Reidenberg, *Ph.D., FAAA*
Icahn School of Medicine – Mount Sinai

Lisa Taneyhill, *Ph.D., FAAA*
University of Maryland – College Park

Katherine Willmore, *Ph.D.*
University of Western Ontario





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