

Board of Scientific Affairs 2025 Annual Report

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In 2025, the Board of Scientific Affairs (BSA) advanced its mission to strengthen psychological science, elevate its visibility, and support the scientific workforce amid a rapidly evolving policy and research environment. BSA focused on population health, trust in science, and federal funding advocacy while partnering across APA governance and with external stakeholders.

Population Health

- Contributed to APA's Essential Science Conversation on climate and population health.
- Advanced a proposal for a series of published commentaries on population health.
- Identified systems-level research priorities for prevention and public health.

Increasing Trust in Science

- Strengthened communication about the rigor, impact, and relevance of psychological science.
- Encouraged participation in APA media opportunities (Media Referral Service; science newsletters).
- Reinforced science-based messaging for workplaces, schools, clinics, and communities.

Advocacy for Federal Funding and Science Policy

- Reviewed NIH/NSF funding shifts and implications of indirect cost caps, dataset restrictions, and restructuring.
- Identified underfunded scientific domains and priority areas for advocacy.
- Collaborated with APA advocacy staff and external coalitions to support behavioral science funding.

APA Governance Collaboration

- Held joint meetings with governance partners for coordinated advocacy and communications.
- Provided input on Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing, AI in assessment, and Ethics Code review.

Convention 2025

- Featured sessions on diversity science, technology and the future of work, and federal science initiatives.
- Facilitated three Critical Conversation sessions aligned with Science Summits.
- Hosted a Science Town Hall with the Director of NIH's Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research.

Workforce and Early Career Support

- Discussed strategies to support scientists affected by funding cuts and instability.
- Explored communication tools and mentorship pathways for early-career researchers.
- Raised equity concerns about access to federal datasets and workforce implications.