The American Anthropological Association (AAA) has appointed Ushma Suvarnakar as the Association’s new director of meetings and conferences. Suvarnakar will be responsible for directing the Association’s annual meeting, special events and conferences.

“I am pleased to appoint Ushma Suvarnakar to this post,” said AAA Executive Director Ed Liebow. “She brings the Association a contagious level of enthusiasm and energy. She was recognized in January as the 2013 Professional Convention Management Association’s Distinguished Emerging Leader of the Year. Our meetings provide one of the main ways we promote a global exchange of ideas, which is central to our mission. We’re excited to have Ushma oversee this important service to our members and the field.”

Suvarnakar started with AAA on Mon., Nov. 24, 2014. A seasoned professional in organizing large meetings and scholarly conferences, Suvarnakar comes to AAA after four years with the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists and previous positions with the American Institute of Architects and the American Chemical Society. She was also featured in the October 2014 issue of Associations Now, a newsletter from the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE).

She earned her B.S. in business administration and a certificate in international business from the University of Pittsburgh. She earned her master’s degree from the George Washington University School of Business.

She has received numerous awards, most prominently:

- Executive Summary/The “A” List – ASAE’s Associations Now
- 2013 PCMA Distinguished Emerging Leader of the Year
- PCMA Convening Leaders Scholarship Recipient 2012, 2014
- PCMA Education Conference Scholarship Recipient 2011, 2013

Founded in 1902, the American Anthropological Association, with more than 10,000 members, is the world’s largest professional organization of anthropologists. The Association is dedicated to advancing human understanding and tackling the world’s most pressing problems.