



## ***MEDIA ALERT***

*Tuesday, September 22, 2009*

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### **The American Society of Human Genetics Announces Press Briefing Sessions & Webcasts Presented at 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

*Register to Attend or View Webcasts of Top Genetics Experts Presenting  
Their Latest Research Findings at ASHG 2009 Meeting, October 20-24*

BETHESDA, MD – September 22, 2009 – The world's top scientists and clinicians in the human genetics field will gather in Honolulu, Hawaii to present their latest research findings at the [59th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Human Genetics](#), from Tuesday, October 20, through Saturday, October 24, 2009, at the Hawaii Convention Center.

Founded in 1948, the [American Society of Human Genetics \(ASHG\)](#) is the primary professional membership organization for human genetics specialists worldwide. The Society's Annual Meeting is the world's largest gathering of human genetics professionals and a forum for renowned experts in the field to share their latest research results. With more than 260 platform and plenary presentations, 2,828 posters, 24 invited sessions and special symposia, and a number of press briefing events that will be webcast to the media, the 2009 ASHG Annual Meeting will provide journalists with a rich resource of new information about cutting-edge developments in human genetics and genomics research.

The Society recently announced the session topics and speakers that will be featured in this year's press briefing sessions at the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Honolulu in October. For those members of the press who cannot attend the ASHG 2009 meeting in person but still wish to view these press briefing sessions remotely, the Society will be producing online webcasts of all three media events.

#### ***PRESS BRIEFING SESSIONS:***

The ASHG Communications Office will be hosting three separate press briefing events onsite in the Hawaii Convention Center in conjunction with the Society's 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. These sessions will take place on Wednesday, October 21, and Thursday, October 22, 2009, in the ASHG Press Briefing Room on the third level of the Hawaii Convention Center (Room #319A). Please see the section below for more information about [press pre-registration](#) if you wish to attend the ASHG 2009 meeting in Honolulu.

For credentialed members of the media who will *not* be able to attend the ASHG 2009 Annual Meeting in-person, the Society will also be webcasting this year's press briefing sessions so that reporters can view them online at their own convenience. **If you cannot attend this year's Annual Meeting in Honolulu, but still wish to receive embargoed press releases from the Society and/or register to view webcast(s) of ASHG's press briefing events**, please e-mail your request to ASHG Press Office at [press@ashg.org](mailto:press@ashg.org), and *remember to include your contact information*.

ASHG invites all members of the press to attend (or view online webcasts of) the following press briefing events that will be held onsite at the Society's 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. All three sessions will feature presentations from prominent experts in the field on a diverse range of relevant "topics of interest" in human genetics, and two of the sessions will highlight a selection of some of the top abstracts being presented at this year's meeting. More information about the session topics, speakers and abstracts that will be featured in ASHG's press events is included below:

- **Press Briefing Session #1: "Personalized Medicine and the Future of Health Care Practice"**

Wednesday, October 21, 2009, from 10:00-11:00 a.m. (HST)

- [Edward McCabe, MD, PhD](#) – ASHG 2009 President; Physician-in-Chief, UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital; Executive Chair of Pediatrics, David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA
- [Alan Guttmacher, MD](#) – Acting Director, National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- [Muin Khoury, MD, PhD](#) – Director, CDC Office on Public Health Genomics
- [Roderick McInnes, MD, PhD](#) – Scientific Director, Institute of Genetics, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)

- **Press Briefing Session #2: "Understanding the Structure of the Human Genome: What is Essential and what is Expendable?"**

Wednesday, October 21, 2009, from 1:00-2:00 p.m. (HST)

- Leslie Biesecker, MD – [Session Moderator & Introduction](#)
- Michael Bamshad, MD – ["Next-Generation Mendelian Genetics by Exome Sequencing"](#)
- Gad Getz, PhD – ["The Next-Generation View of the Cancer Genome"](#)
- Terry Vrijenhoek – ["The First Map of Dispensable Regions in the Human Genome"](#)

- **Press Briefing Session #3: "Expanding Our Understanding of How Human Populations Have Evolved through Genetics Research"**

Thursday, October 22, 2009, from 12:00-1:00 p.m. (HST)

- Lynn Jorde, PhD – ["Toward a more Uniform Sampling of Human Genetic Diversity: A Survey of Worldwide Populations by High-density Genotyping"](#)
- Sarah Tishkoff, PhD – ["Complex Genetic History of Human Populations in East Africa"](#)
- Raymond Clarke, PhD – ["Tospeak, a Recently Evolved Primate Gene, Is Disrupted in a Family with Severe Vocal Impairment"](#)

To view a complete listing (and the full-text abstracts) of all scientific sessions and posters presented at the 2009 meeting, visit: <http://www.ashg.org/cgi-bin/2009/ashgSOE.pl/>.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS:**

Members of the media and general public can also receive news about the ASHG 2009 Annual Meeting through the following social media outlets:



[Follow ASHG on Twitter](#) (Hashtag: **#ASHG2009**)



[Find ASHG Fan Page on Facebook](#)



[Find ASHG on YouTube](#)



[Find ASHG on LinkedIn](#)

## **GENERAL PRESS INFORMATION AND ONLINE REGISTRATION:**

The ASHG 2009 Annual Meeting is open to print, online and broadcast news media, as well as health, medical and science reporters, and freelance writers on a verifiable assignment from an established news source. Complimentary meeting registration will be available to [members of the media](#) who provide [appropriate press credentials and identification](#). The Society offers reporters many resources onsite at the meeting, including news releases, press conferences, media interviews with top experts in the field, and a press office with free Internet access and complimentary refreshments.

Press attendees are strongly encouraged to [pre-register online](#) for the 2009 meeting in advance; however, we will continue to offer [onsite press registration](#) in the ASHG Press Office as well (located on the third floor of the Hawaii Convention Center, in Room 318). \* To pre-register for the ASHG 2009 meeting, please complete the online press registration application form at the following URL: [http://www.ashg.org/2009meeting/pages/press\\_register.shtml](http://www.ashg.org/2009meeting/pages/press_register.shtml).

For more information about ASHG's press guidelines, policies, and online press registration for the 2009 Annual Meeting, as well as details about this year's press briefing sessions, webcasts, speakers and experts available for interview, and other special media events and opportunities at the meeting, please visit: <http://www.ashg.org/2009meeting/pages/press.shtml>. For general information on the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, please visit <http://www.ashg.org/2009meeting>.

*Please direct all media inquiries to: ASHG Press Office, ASHG Communications Manager ~~and~~ e at [press@ashg.org](mailto:press@ashg.org), or by phone at 301-634-7346 (o) or at 240-281-2386 (c). For all onsite media inquiries during the ASHG 2009 meeting, please call at 240-281-2386.*

## **ABOUT THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HUMAN GENETICS**

Founded in 1948, The American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) is the primary professional membership organization for human genetics specialists worldwide. The nearly 8,000 members of ASHG include researchers, academicians, clinicians, laboratory practice professionals, genetic counselors, nurses and others involved in or with a special interest in human genetics.

The Society's mission is to serve research scientists, health professionals and the public by providing forums to: (1) share research results through the Annual Meeting and in [The American Journal of Human Genetics \(AJHG\)](#); (2) advance genetic research by advocating for research support; (3) educate future genetics professionals, health care providers, advocates, teachers,

students and the general public about all aspects of human genetics; and (4) promote genetic services and support responsible social and scientific policies. For more information about ASHG, please visit <http://www.ashg.org>.

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*\*Please note that all onsite press registrants will be required to provide [appropriate press credentials and identification](#) to ASHG Press Office staff before receiving a press badge to access meeting events.*

**ASHG EXPERTS & PRESS BRIEFING SPEAKERS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW**

Please contact ASHG Press Office at [office@ashg.org](mailto:office@ashg.org), or by phone at 301-634-7346 (o) or 240-281-2386 (c)