



June 3, 2008

Paul Karoff
Chief Communication Officer
American Academy of Arts & Sciences
136 Irving Street
Cambridge, MA 02138-1966

Dear Mr. Karoff:

The American Society of Human Genetics appreciates the American Academy of Arts & Sciences *ARISE* report— “*Advancing Research In Science and Engineering: Investing in Early-Career Scientists and High-Risk, High-Reward Research*”— in its careful search of the landscape of challenges for the scientific community, focusing on two critical issues that have been much discussed in the human genetics community: potential (and impending) loss of bright young researchers, and the limited ability to take risks in innovative scientific inquiry.

With the continued potential for participation in a vibrant and very rapidly growing area of research, human geneticists are very concerned, as the hope of application of genetic and genomics principles depends on both basic discovery and the long term translation of the findings to patients.

Therefore, ASHG encourages policy-makers and decision leaders to focus on the important assessment and recommendations of the AAAS *ARISE* report.

Sincerely,
Joann Boughman, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President, ASHG