



MEDIA ALERT

August 27, 2009

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The American Society of Human Genetics to Host 59th Annual Meeting in Honolulu

World's Top Genetic Scientists to Present Latest Research Findings at ASHG 2009 Meeting, October 20-24 at the Hawaii Convention Center

BETHESDA, MD – August 27, 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, representing nearly 8,000 researchers, academicians, clinicians, genetic counselors, nurses and others with a special interest in this area. 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. In addition, nearly 250 U.S. and international exhibitors at this year's ASHG Exhibitor Trade Show will offer an unprecedented opportunity to view the latest advances in genetics-related products and services derived, in part, from work presented at previous ASHG meetings.

PRESS BRIEFING SESSIONS:

ASHG has planned three press briefing events that will be held in the Hawaii Convention Center during the week of the Society's 59th Annual Meeting. The Society will be webcasting this year's press briefing sessions, allowing [credentialed members of the media](#) who are unable to attend the ASHG 2009 meeting in-person to view the events through an online Web portal.

If you cannot attend this year's Annual Meeting in Honolulu, but still wish to receive embargoed press releases from ASHG and/or register to view webcast(s) of the Society's

press briefing events, please e-mail your request to ASHG Press Offices at press@ashg.org, and remember to include your contact information.

The press briefing events and scientific sessions at the ASHG 2009 meeting will feature presentations from prominent experts in the field on a diverse range of “hot” topics of interest in human genetics, including the following:

- 1000 Genomes Project
- Biotechnology
- Cancer Genetics
- Clinical/Translational Research
- Ethical, Legal, Social & Policy Issues
- Evolutionary & Population Genetics
- Family Health History
- Genetic Testing
- Genetic Variation of Common & Rare Diseases
- Genome Architecture (CNV & Structural Variation)
- Genome-wide Association Studies
- Neurogenetics/Psychiatric Genetics
- Pharmacogenetics (Susceptibility and Drug Response)
- Personalized Medicine
- Public Health Genomics & Education Initiatives
- Stem Cell Research
- Treatment of Genetic Disease/Gene Therapy

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 Group 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 room 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/.

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 59th Annual Meeting, please visit <http://www.ashg.org/2009meeting/>.

Please direct all media inquiries to: ASHG Press Office, ASHG Communications Manager, via email at 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 Kristen Long at press@ashg.org, or by phone at 301-634-7346 (o) or 240-281-2386 (c)