A Note from Training & Development Committee Chair Lauren Tindale

ASHG Trainee Leaders aim to create and expand opportunities for all trainees in human genetics. Trainees have specific concerns including career exploration, trainee-mentor relationships, networking, funding, skill acquisition, and job opportunities. The Training and Development Committee (TDC) continually works to develop online resources and sessions at the annual meeting that are specifically geared to the interests of ASHG trainee members. Trainee Leaders are also present on all standing committees at ASHG and provide an invaluable trainee voice across the society’s leadership.

Please feel free to explore the ASHG trainee resources, contact one of our Trainee Leaders, or get involved by applying to our leadership opportunities in the fall!

Best regards,
Lauren

Lauren Tindale  
Training & Development Committee (Chair)  
PhD candidate, Canada’s Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre, Simon Fraser University  
I study the genetics of healthy aging and longevity in a group of Super-Seniors.  

*Innovative, perceptive, perseverant*
Beryl B Cummings
Program Committee
Graduate Student, Massachusetts General Hospital, Broad Institute, Boston, USA
My work focuses on using transcriptome sequencing to inform variant interpretation and rare disease diagnosis. 
Witty, helpful, resilient

Burcu Darst, PhD
Training & Development Committee
Postdoctoral Scholar, University of Southern California
My research uses genomics to understand the onset of complex diseases, including prostate cancer and Alzheimer’s Disease. 
Adventurous, determined, resilient

Emily Davenport, PhD
Training & Development Committee (Chair-Elect)
Postdoctoral Fellow, Cornell University and the Max Planck Institute for Developmental Biology
My work focuses on understanding what determines human gut microbiome composition, including environmental and host genetic factors.
Determined, diligent, sarcastic
Ky’Era Actkins
Training & Development Committee
PhD Candidate, Meharry Medical College
I study the genetics underlying health disparities.
*Imaginative, optimistic, friendly*

Ted Han, PhD
Training & Development Committee
Postdoctoral Researcher, National Human Genome Research Institute
I am a post-doctoral fellow at NHGRI studying rare Mendelian disorders with a focus on lysosomal storage disorders and neurodegenerative diseases while also working with the Undiagnosed Diseases Program.
*Calm, curious, practical*

Ha Eun Kong
Awards Committee
MD/PhD Candidate, Emory University School of Medicine
I am investigating the molecular basis for the pathogenesis of Fragile X Tremor and Ataxia Syndrome (FXTAS).
*Driven, curious, friendly*
Grace Kwon
Training and Development Committee
MD/PhD Candidate, University of Connecticut and The Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine
My research focuses on the role of long noncoding RNAs in allergic asthma, specifically in airway epithelium.
Eccentric, dependable, cat mom

Mila Mirceta
Training and Development Committee
PhD Candidate, Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto
My research focuses on understanding the mechanism of DNA expansion in the C9orf72 gene that causes amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and frontotemporal dementia (FTD).
Passionate, outgoing, reliable

Zachary Nevin
Board of Directors
MD/PhD Student, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine
I am developing human organoid models of genetic brain diseases while finishing med school.
Imaginative, inquisitive, sincere
Alexis Norris, PhD  
Information and Education Committee  
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Kennedy Krieger Institute & Johns Hopkins University  
My research utilizes computational tools to identify genes and pathways dysregulated in psychiatric disorders.  
*Enthusiastic, engaging, and empowering*

Christopher Robles  
Training & Development Committee  
PhD Candidate, University of California, Los Angeles  
My research focuses on ancient DNA, and developing statistical methods to analyze large data sets and determine how Neanderthal ancestry impacts modern human phenotypes.  
*Adventurous, energetic, compassionate*

Xinchen Wang, PhD  
Awards Committee  
Postdoctoral Fellow, Columbia University  
My research focuses on studying how mutations and genetic variation in the non-coding genome contribute to human disease.  
*Curious, driven, imaginative*
2018 Trainee Working Group Members

Trainee Newsletter Working Group
Burcu Darst – University of Southern California (leader)
Sumantra Chatterjee – NYU Langone Medical Center
Ted Han – National Human Genome Research Institute
Sarah Gagliano - University of Michigan
Allison McCague - Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Sarah Smieszek - Case Western Reserve University
Kathryn Vaillancourt - Douglas Mental Health University Institute
Brooke Wolford - University of Michigan
Jennifer Zieba - Baylor College of Medicine

Trainee Paper Spotlight Working Group
Emily Davenport - Cornell University (leader)
Grace Kwon - University of Connecticut, The Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine
Mila Mirceata - Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto

#ASHGtrainee Twitter Working Group
Emily Davenport - Cornell University (co-leader)
Christopher Robles - University of California, Los Angeles

FASEB Training & Career Development Subcommittee Working Group
Doug Dluzen – Morgan State University (Chair)
Emily Davenport - Cornell University