



American Society of Human Genetics

ADVOCATE UPDATE

Upcoming ASHG Webinar



Exploring the Responsibility to Recontact

ASHG Webinar: June 25, 1-2 pm US ET

As part of ASHG's year-round programming, a discussion on recontacting research participants upon new interpretation of genetic and genomic variant results will be presented in a webinar on June 25, 1-2 p.m. EDT. The discussion will be led by Drs. Yvonne Bombard and Howard Levy, co-authors of the recently published [position statement](#) outlining the key issues and principles of this topic.

Register

New International Commission on the Clinical Use

of Heritable Human Genome Editing



The U.S. National Academy of Medicine (NAM), the U.S. National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and the Royal Society of the U.K., have launched the [International Commission on Clinical Use of Heritable Human Genome Editing](#). Following recent advances in gene editing technologies, the commission aims to develop a framework to assess scientific and ethical considerations in clinical applications of germline genome editing. [ASHG is a formal supporter](#) of the commission, which will be co-chaired by Kay E. Davies, PhD, and Richard P. Lifton, MD, PhD. Recognizing the timeliness of the topic, ASHG's Annual Meeting, taking place October 15-19 in Houston, will feature a 90-minute forum titled "Perspectives on Germline Gene Editing Regulation."

New Legislation to Allow Gene Patenting



Sponsors of the draft legislation, Senators Thom Tillis (R-NC) and Chris Coons (D-DE)

Last month, text for a draft bill that would reform Section 101 of the Patent Act was released. If passed, this legislation would effectively allow gene patenting. ASHG President-Elect Anthony Wynshaw-Boris, MD, PhD, stated "ASHG remains firm with our support of the 2013 Supreme Court ruling of *Association for Molecular Pathology vs. Myriad* that established that naturally occurring DNA is not patentable because it is a product of nature." ASHG has signed onto a [joint, multi-society letter](#) in opposition to the bill. Learn more about the [impact of the proposed legislation](#) and

background information on our blog.

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