

The American Society of Human Genetics

Policy Statement

November 2007

ASHG Response to Recent Comments on Intellectual Ability

Statement of the American Society of Human Genetics:

The [American Society of Human Genetics \(ASHG\)](#) is committed to scientific integrity, and values the contributions of researchers and clinicians around the world to the advancement of human genetics.

On October 14, 2007, *The Sunday Times* (London, U.K.) quoted speculation by geneticist Dr. James Watson regarding alleged intellectual inferiority among Africans. ASHG finds the comments to be tragically misguided and without scientific foundation. Watson later apologized "unreservedly" for his comments, stating that there is no scientific basis for such beliefs.

These events underscore the importance of ASHG's commitment to accurate reporting of scientific data and to rigorous assessment of the data, to assure the benefit of genetic research to all people.