Congress to Begin Work on 2021 Funding Bill for NIH

The Senate Appropriations Committee will reportedly begin drafting funding bills for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 next week. The equivalent committee in the House of Representatives is set to follow the week of July 6, with the new fiscal year beginning in October. Aside from the ongoing pandemic, a spending cap that significantly restricts the amount of money available to all federal agencies for FY 2021 is one of the many challenges Appropriators are facing. Early this year, ASHG joined other scientific organizations in recommending $44.7 billion for the NIH, a $3 billion increase over FY 2020.

NIH Continues to Issue COVID-19 Grant Opportunities

To date, the NIH has received about $3.6 billion in funding for coronavirus-related research activities, with Congress debating on additional funding in future relief legislation. As reported last month, the House passed H.R. 6800, Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act, which will provide NIH with an additional $4.7 billion. The bill is currently stalled in the Senate.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has developed a tracker for all HHS...
In Other News

- A new bill introduced in both the House and Senate, the Endless Frontier Act, would give the National Science Foundation (NSF) $100 billion over 5 years to invest in key technology areas including genomics.
- In a Science editorial, NIH Director, Francis Collins, MD, PhD, and other NIH officials outline new policies aimed at combating sexual harassment.
- ASHG Government and Public Advocacy Committee (GPAC) member, Allison McCague, PhD, describes why H.R. 3235, Access to Genetic Counselor Services Act, is important in improving healthcare in the latest edition of Nascent Transcript.