

ASHG

American Society of Human Genetics

ADVOCATE UPDATE

Election 2020 and Science Policy



With Election Day behind us, U.S. President-elect Biden is set to begin his transition as outlined on his [transition site](#). His priorities include responding to COVID-19, and “listen to science” is a stated key focus. On the congressional side, more than 30 candidates with STEM backgrounds ran for office with mixed [results](#), as noted in *The Scientist*. While the Democrats retain control of the House, control of the Senate remains to be determined.

The leaderships of some committees key for biomedical research are also set to change in the new Congress. This includes the House Appropriations Committee, with current Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-NY) retiring, and the retirement of Lamar Alexander (R-TN) current Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions.

Senate Draft Bill Allocates \$43.7 Billion for NIH Fiscal Year 2021



Last week, the Senate Appropriations Committee released the text of Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 funding bills, including [\\$43.7 billion for the NIH](#), a \$2 billion increase over FY 2020 levels. The House passed spending bills in July, providing the NIH with a total of \$47 billion, of which \$5 billion is set as emergency funding. Since the beginning of FY 2021 on October 1, the NIH has been operating

under a continuing resolution (CR) or temporary funding. The CR will expire on December 11. Congress is expected to negotiate the final FY 2021 appropriations in the coming weeks.

NHGRI 2020 Strategic Vision



Last month, the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) issued its [2020 Strategic Vision](#) outlining the Institute's research priorities and opportunities in human genomics in the coming decade. The Plan is organized into four main areas for genomics – guiding principles and values for human genomics; sustaining and improving a robust foundation; breaking down barriers that impede progress; and compelling genomics research in biomedicine. "Genomics is now prevalent across the research landscape, and so NHGRI focused its strategic attention on the most cutting-edge aspects of the field." – Eric Green, MD, PhD, NHGRI Director

In Other News

- NIH has released its final [Policy for Data Management and Sharing](#). The policy would require all grant applications to include a data sharing plan and will take effect in January 2023.
- Register for the upcoming webinar on December 2, [LawSeq: Facing the Legal Barriers to Genomic Research & Precision Medicine](#).
- Check out this [video](#) explaining the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) in an easy-to-understand manner, made by the Northshore University Health System.
- The Department of Health and Human Services is planning to revise a 2010 biosecurity guidance on customer and sequence screening for synthetic dsDNA orders, and is open to [public feedback](#) on the scope and effect of the existing guidance through January 4.

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