ENVISIONING A FUTURE IN WHICH PEOPLE EVERYWHERE REALIZE THE BENEFITS OF HUMAN GENETICS AND GENOMICS RESEARCH
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) is the leading professional scientific membership organization for human genetics and genomics researchers in the world. The Society’s members include researchers, clinicians, genetic counselors, and others who have a special interest in the field of human genetics and genomics research. In addition to serving and representing its members, ASHG also works to increase the availability of reliable information about genetics and genomics to the public.

MISSION
Advance the field of human genetics and genomics through excellence in research, education, and advocacy.

VISION
People everywhere realize the benefits of human genetics and genomics research.

CORE VALUES
› Integrity
› Rigor
› Inclusion
› Innovation
› Collaboration
› Social responsibility

The pandemic prompted ASHG to speed its already-planned expansion into digital programming to serve you with outstanding professional education, networking, and career events, including our first-ever Virtual Meeting with more than 6,000 attendees. We also rose to speak out and take action on vital societal challenges around us including pursuit of a proactive legislative advocacy agenda, a major report on the economic and functional impact of genetics and genomics research, and new programs and enhanced leadership capacity to advance diversity, equity and inclusion throughout our work. We have also launched new digital platforms and groups to connect our community year-round on shared interests, and we are engaging the public about the exciting advances and fundamental knowledge in human genomics.

Throughout, ASHG has worked to sustain and deploy its financial strength to support you through this critical time, investing in heavily discounted membership rates in 2020 and new strategies to increase accessibility for researchers in developing nations. We also are able to continue to look ahead and invest in upcoming programs in the year ahead. Look for new initiatives to engage early career scientists in advocacy, build a more diverse pipeline into genetics research, acknowledge our field’s harms and contributions to systemic racism, support for the continued open access publishing model, and expansion of our growing range professional education resources. Achieving our shared vision and enduring through challenging times is possible thanks to your support. The Board and staff team is united in helping the Society endure and thrive for you and our community for decades to come.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement!

Sincerely,
Gail P. Jarvik, MD, PhD
2021 ASHG President
ASHG works to build a vibrant and collaborative community of human genetics and genomics professionals in research, medicine, and education from across the world.

"I have enjoyed being a member of ASHG for many years. We are all part of the same ecosystem, ultimately serving patients, and working together cross-functionally enables us to reach goals of health, access, affordability, and advancing science faster."
— Carrie Haverty, MS, CGC
Head of Product Management, Mirvie

ASHG launched an online community in spring 2021 called ASHG Connect wherein members can actively connect, communicate, and collaborate with each other and Society leaders. The community features an open and multiple specialty forums for member connection around workforce and scientific topics, including:

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Forum
- Early Career / Trainee Forum
- Industry Scientist Forum
- Bioinformatics and Computational Methods Shared Interest Group
- Phenotypes & Genotypes Shared Interest Group
- Emerging Laboratory Technologies Shared Interest Group

Members can sign up to join Shared Interest Groups or SIGs – with no fee to join in 2021 or 2022!

MEMBER BENEFITS
- Reduced rates for the ASHG Annual Meeting
- Free online subscription and no publishing fees for AJHG
- 20% off publishing in Human Genetics and Genomics Advances
- Access to key professional education, career, and networking resources including:
  - Webinars, journal clubs, workshops, and podcasts
  - Online career center and annual career fair
  - Members-only online community, ASHG Connect, and online directory
- Service on Board and committees along with voting rights
- Policy resources and representation in advocacy efforts
- Public engagement opportunities thru the Genetics Engagement & Education Network
- Exclusive access to members-only publications:
  - The Messenger, quarterly digital magazine
  - SNP, weekly e-newsletter
  - Nascent Transcript, quarterly trainee e-newsletter
  - Advocate Update and Engage, periodic specialty e-newsletters

INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

The private sector (i.e., industry) contributes tremendously to the advances made in human genetics and genomics research. Recognizing this, the ASHG Board appointed an Industry Engagement Task Force to affirm and encourage the Society’s work to highlight and incorporate the experiences, voices, and science from members working in industry. In 2021, the Task Force presented an Industry Engagement Action Plan with recommended activities that the Membership Engagement Committee will help the board prioritize and undertake over a three- to five-year period.

"Industry members are excited to engage more deeply with the Society and relevant activities because we share the same passion for genetics as any other professional sector. Participation from all workforce sectors throughout the Society is critical because diversity of ideas, perspectives, and experiences are necessary to advance scientific discovery."
— Danjuma Quarless, PhD
Member of ASHG Industry Engagement Task Force, Incoming Chair of ASHG Career Development Committee
ASHG’s 70th annual meeting and first ever virtual meeting attracted thousands of human genetics and genomics professionals to discuss the latest research, unveil new technologies and tools, and spark collaborations that advance research and medical discoveries.

6,382 ATTENDEES FROM 79 COUNTRIES

18 Invited Sessions
202 Abstract-Driven Presentations
2,181 Abstracts with 62 Late-Breaking COVID-19 Abstracts
85 Sponsors with 33 CoLabs, Exhibitor, & Ancillary Events

ASHG’S 70TH ANNUAL MEETING

PLATINUM SPONSORS

Thanks to the following organizations for their lead sponsorship of the 2020 Virtual Meeting!
Through the Society’s journals and other publications, ASHG members share the latest scientific breakthroughs and perspectives on important issues with the research community.

**THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HUMAN GENETICS**

Known for its scientific excellence and rigor, The American Journal of Human Genetics (AJHG) is one of the leading journals in the field of genetics and genomics. Since 1948, AJHG has published thousands of research and review articles on human heredity and the application of genetic principles in medicine and public policy.

**HUMAN GENETICS AND GENOMICS ADVANCES**

ASHG’s new fully open access journal Human Genetics and Genomics (HGG) Advances allows for the rapid dissemination of cutting-edge, high-impact research across the breadth of human genetics that is immediately accessible to researchers and the science-interested public.

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**2020 IMPACT FACTOR = 11.025**

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**2020 C.W. COTTERMAN AWARDS**

In fall 2020, the AJHG editorial board recognized two trainees who authored articles published in the journal within the previous year that best represent outstanding scientific contributions to the field of human genetics.

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**Xiaowen Tian, PhD**

*Estimating the Genome-wide Mutation Rate with Three-Way Identity by Descent*
AWARDS

Since 1962, ASHG has honored outstanding member research and professional service through our annual awards.

### 2020 AWARDEES

#### William Allan Award
Recognizes substantial and far-reaching scientific contributions to human genetics.

**Mary-Claire King, PhD**
American Cancer Society Professor of Medicine and Genome Sciences, University of Washington

#### Victor A. McKusick Leadership Award
Recognizes individuals whose professional achievements have fostered and enriched the development of human genetics as well as its assimilation into the broader context of science, medicine, and health.

**Peter H. Byers, MD**
Professor of Medical Genetics, University of Washington School of Medicine

#### Curt Stern Award
Recognizes genetics and genomics researchers who have made significant scientific contributions during the past decade.

**Fowzan S. Alkuraya, MD**
Professor of Human Genetics, Alfaisal University
Sr. Consultant and Principal Clinical Scientist, King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center

#### Early Career Award
Recognizes the contributions of genetics and genomics scientists in the first ten years of their careers as independent investigators.

**Benjamin Neale, PhD**
Director, Genomics of Public Health Initiative, Massachusetts General Hospital
Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School
Institute Member & Director of Genetics, Broad Institute

#### Mentorship Award
Recognizes individuals with significant accomplishment as mentors for graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, residents, or clinical fellows.

**Josée Dupuis, PhD**
Professor and Chair of Biostatistics, Boston University School of Public Health

#### Advocacy Award
Recognizes individuals who have exhibited excellence and achievement in application of human genetics for the common good, in areas such as facilitating public awareness of genetics issues, promoting funding for biomedical research, and integrating genetics into health systems.

**Janina Jeff, PhD, MS**
Host & Executive Producer, In Those Genes Podcast
Senior Scientist, Illumina

### TRAINEE FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS
ASHG and the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) co-sponsor two fellowships annually to support early-career genetics and genomics professionals with advanced degrees seeking a career transition.

#### Genetics & Public Policy Fellowship
Designed for those interested in genetics-related health and research policies at a national level. Fellows participate in policy analysis at NHGRI, ASHG, and the U.S. Congress.

**Emma Alme, PhD**
2020-2021 Genetics & Public Policy Fellow

#### Genetics Education & Engagement Fellowship
Designed for those interested in genetics-related public engagement and/or professional development for students to professionals. Fellows participate in projects at NHGRI, ASHG, and a third organization.

**Tiffany Rolle, PhD**
2020-2021 Genetics Education & Engagement Fellow

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**Charles Epstein Trainee Awards for Excellence in Human Genetics Research**
The Charles Epstein Trainee Awards honor excellence in research conducted by predoctoral and postdoctoral trainees, recognizing highly competitive abstracts submitted and presented at the ASHG Annual Meeting.

**2020 Charles Epstein Trainee Award Recipients**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PREDOCTORAL</th>
<th>POSTDOCTORAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eddie Cano Gamez</td>
<td>David Blair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soumya Kundu</td>
<td>Meredith Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jose Uribe-Salazar</td>
<td>James Pieruccello</td>
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**LEARNING & CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

ASHG offers year-round online access to professional education and career development programs for genetics and genomics professionals across all career stages and interests.

**ASHG LEARNING**

This past year ASHG served over 5,000 genetics and genomics professionals from across the globe with online professional education through monthly webinars, online journal clubs, interactive workshops, and a new podcast series. This extensive growth of our online educational programming was made possible with generous funding received from a two-year grant from the Illumina Corporate Foundation.

**WEBINARS, JOURNAL CLUBS, & WORKSHOPS**

ASHG organized 27 webinars, online journal clubs, and workshops this past year with topic areas ranging from scientific research and career development to public engagement and advocacy. These events have provided our members and larger genetics community with the opportunity to connect and learn about the newest research in the field despite a pandemic that has hampered meeting in-person.

**GENETICALLY SPEAKING PODCAST SERIES**

During its first season, ASHG’s Genetically Speaking podcast showcased Society members of various career stages discussing their professional paths and providing insight and reflection on careers in genetics. In addition to being available through the ASHG LMS site, the series is now available on Spotify and iTunes.

**VIRTUAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT DAY**

The Society hosted a Virtual Career Development Day prior to the 2020 Virtual Meeting that included panel discussions, workshops, and networking opportunities meant to help trainees and early-career members navigate career paths and options.

**Sessions**

- Entrepreneurship in Human Genetics Panel Discussion
- How to Have Difficult Conversations
- Behind the Scenes Publications Workshop
- Diversity Luncheon: Experiences & Strategies for Belonging and Advocating for Diversity
- Career Paths in Genetics Networking Session

**VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR – A NEW ANNUAL EVENT**

ASHG held its first Virtual Career Fair wherein attendees were able to meet recruiters and representatives of numerous academic institutions, other nonprofit organizations, and private companies offering positions across a wide variety of career paths in genetics and genomics. Attendees also had the opportunity to network with mentors, peers, and potential employers based on career path and topic interests. Finally, career coaches were available for 1x1 meetings to review resumes/CVs and provide interview and career counseling tips.

**WEBINAR & WORKSHOP STATISTICS**

- 17 Webinars
- 3,970 Registrants
- 10 Workshops
- 2,636 Video Plays
- 13 Podcasts
- 2,180 Views
ASHG is committed to enhancing diversity, equity, and inclusion within the genetics and genomics research workforce and engagement of underrepresented groups as participants in genetics and genomics research studies.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION DIALOGUE SERIES

ASHG held a summer/fall 2020 dialogue series on diversity, equity, and inclusion topics to hear and learn about the ASHG community’s thoughts and experiences, including:

› How to improve the inclusion of diverse researchers within our programs and activities.
› Barriers to equity and inclusion for diverse individuals within the workforce.
› How past injustices have impacted and how we might address them to expand research participation.

These dialogues with the community have and continue to help ASHG leadership prioritize action on the topics and issues most important to the genetics and genomics community.

GENOMIC WORKFORCE DIVERSITY INITIATIVE

ASHG, with funding from NHGRI and collaborations with the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG) and the National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC), conducted surveys of the human genetics and genomics workforce to better understand the workforce’s demographics and the climate and culture in training programs and workplaces. We are pleased to also be working with groups such as the Association of Professors of Human and Medical Genetics (APHMG), the American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ABMGG), and the Minority Genetic Professionals Network (MGPN). The group is actively analyzing the results of these surveys and plans to disseminate comprehensive reports with strategies for action in late 2021 or early 2022.

HUMAN GENETICS SCHOLARS INITIATIVE

Made possible with continued foundational support from NHGRI and Biogen along with annual support from GSK, Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD), and Roche, the Human Genetics Scholars Initiative (HGSI) supports the professional success of diverse early-career genetics and genomics researchers by providing them with year-round education, networking, and mentoring while also working to develop a community of researchers and leaders committed to diversity and inclusion at their institutions and in their training programs.

2020-2022 Human Genetics Scholars

Jacqueline Harris, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Grambling State University

Jordan Hughey  
Graduate Research Fellow  
Pennsylvania State University, Bioinformatics and Genomics

Deyana Lewis, MPH, PhD  
Intramural Research Training Award  
Postdoctoral Fellow  
National Human Genome Research Institute

Trenell Mosley, PhD  
Postdoctoral Fellow  
Emory University, Department of Human Genetics

Tess Pottinger, PhD  
Postdoctoral Research Scientist  
Columbia University, Institute for Genomic Medicine

Oscar Rodriguez, PhD  
Postdoctoral Fellow  
University of Louisville School of Medicine, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics

Loren Saulsberry, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
The University of Chicago

Mario Trejo, MPH  
Graduate Research Associate  
The University of Arizona, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
This year marked the first-ever ASHG Capitol Hill Day, held virtually in April 2021. The ASHG Government and Public Advocacy Committee (GPAC), President Gail Jarvik, MD, PhD, Dana Crawford, PhD, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force (DEITF) Chair, and leaders of the Career Development Committee (CDC) met with key congressional offices. Our advocates urged these congressional leaders to support increasing NIH’s budget, provide research recovery funding for labs disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and support diversity, equity, and inclusion in the research workforce and research study participation.

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT AND FUNCTIONAL APPLICATIONS OF HUMAN GENETICS AND GENOMICS

Working with outside research firm, TEconomy Partners, ASHG commissioned a field report to quantify and highlight the enormous economic impact and emerging functional applications of human genetics and genomics research. The Society issued this report as a new member tool for advocating for human genetics and genomics research and the need for increased public funding. ASHG is grateful for generous financial contributions from Invitae and Regeneron, which made it possible to produce a comprehensive report covering both the economic and functional impacts of the field.

The findings indicate that this sector has seen its annual impact on the U.S. economy grow five-fold in the last decade and outlined several areas of expanding impact for human health and society. ASHG also held a congressional briefing to share the findings with congressional representatives and their staff and advocate for the importance of continued federal investment in genetics and genomics research.

“The field is perhaps one of the best examples of the value of scientific research to our entire economy and of the case for continuing to build on that investment.”

— Gail Jarvik, ASHG President

“We are increasingly familiar with emerging genomic health advances: improving effectiveness of medicines for heart disease and cancer, restoring sight, and building hope for patients and families facing conditions such as sickle cell disease or cystic fibrosis. Genomics is helping us test and understand how individuals respond to infectious diseases like COVID-19 and it is improving our ability to diagnose and treat rare diseases.”

— Lynn Jorde, Chair, GPAC

MAJOR IMPACTS

› Contributes $265 billion per year to the U.S. economy.
› Supported a total of 850,000 U.S. jobs in 2019.
› Numerous emerging functional applications

This field is perhaps one of the best examples of the value of scientific research to our entire economy and of the case for continuing to build on that investment.

— Gail Jarvik, ASHG President

We are increasingly familiar with emerging genomic health advances: improving effectiveness of medicines for heart disease and cancer, restoring sight, and building hope for patients and families facing conditions such as sickle cell disease or cystic fibrosis. Genomics is helping us test and understand how individuals respond to infectious diseases like COVID-19 and it is improving our ability to diagnose and treat rare diseases.

— Lynn Jorde, Chair, GPAC

PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE: RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH ON ANCIENT DNA

ASHG’s Professional Guidance series aims to help researchers navigate ethical, legal, and social issues inherent in human genetics and genomics research. In August 2020, ASHG published its first Professional Guidance on Ancient DNA Research that articulates five key points that all geneticists should follow when considering research involving ancient DNA:

1. Formally consulting with communities.
2. Addressing cultural and ethical considerations.
3. Engaging the community and supporting capacity building.
4. Developing plans to report results and manage data.
5. Developing plans for long-term responsibility and stewardship.

The Guidance also stresses the importance of understanding the politics and local laws, including indigenous community regulations, of the country in which they are working.
DNA DAY ESSAY CONTEST

Each year ASHG works to spark excitement and learning among the next generation of genetics professionals and foster greater awareness among the general public through its annual DNA Day Essay Contest. In April 2021, the Society received nearly 1,000 essays from high school students across 46 U.S. states and territories and 30 other countries. The 2021 question addressed population representation in genetic research, bringing attention to the importance of research participation and how inclusion of diverse populations can affect research results and usefulness.

2021 Winners

1st Place: Lea Andrew, Grade 12
Teacher: Mrs. Katherine Walker
School: Guildford High School
Location: Guildford, UK

2nd Place: Alyssa Wang, Grade 12
Teacher: Ms. Cindy Law
School: William Lyon Mackenzie CI
Location: Toronto, Canada

3rd Place: Kyla Cuesta, Grade 10
Teacher: Mrs. Lorraine MacDonald
School: St Robert CHS
Location: Thornhill, Canada

DISCOVER GENETICS

ASHG’s public facing website, Discover Genetics, soft launched April 2021 with a new look and resources, including:

› Fact sheets on a diverse set of genetics topics including rare diseases, population representation in genetic research, how to critique statistics and figures, an explanation of the scientific process, and traits vs. genes.
› New videos for those interested in information on autism and genetics produced in partnership with the Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative (SPARK).
› An animation detailing the six things that everyone should know about human genetics and genomics.

INCLUSIVE MESSAGING

Increasing participation in genetics and genomics research among diverse populations is a scientific imperative to ensure all people benefit from emerging knowledge and treatments. Yet one of the key takeaways from ASHG’s 2020 survey on public views of genetics research is that lower awareness and higher skepticism among underserved populations reflect legitimate historic experiences with research. ASHG has worked with partners who have expertise in health equity to develop public messaging that shares the benefit of genetic knowledge and new treatments, acknowledges legitimate historic wrongs, and encourages research participation.

A group of ASHG volunteers developed language and consulted organizations serving historically marginalized communities to ensure this language reflects lived experiences. Based on valuable feedback from these groups, the ASHG Public Engagement & Awareness Committee will work to map more informed and effective engagement strategies to educate and engage more people in genomics.
In FY21, ASHG navigated thoughtfully through the uncertainty and financial impacts of the pandemic. Given sound financial footing going into this period, the Society sustained its work toward its strategic goals and provided even more programming for members and the field. Reductions in revenue from the meeting and membership due to the pandemic and robust membership discounts were offset by one-time federal loans, prudent meeting cancellation insurance, and significant expense management. Overall, ASHG experienced a net positive FY21, which the Board anticipates using to weather a substantial budgeted FY22 loss. Given these externally driven forces, the Board expects the Society to emerge with largely break-even performance through the past two years. Preliminary financial results are presented here and audited financial statements will be available online.

**FY2021 PERFORMANCE**

Operations: ASHG finished the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, with operating revenue exceeding expenses thanks to funds received from the Payroll Protection Program, enthusiastic attendance at the 2020 Virtual Meeting, loyal membership support, and continued excellence in publications. Operating revenue totaled approximately $75 million, and operating expenses were $68 million, producing an operating net surplus of just over $700K.

Reserve Portfolio: The Society’s investment portfolio weathered the market gyrations and reported a twelve-month portfolio gain of just over $2.2 million for a reserve balance of $212 million at year end.

Strategic Investment Funds: ASHG’s reserve portfolio has begun to evaluate the likely impact of these trends through a business planning working group. As it assesses these impacts, the group will engage both the Board and the Society to emerge with largely break-even performance through the past two years. Preliminary financial results are presented here and audited financial statements will be available online.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Society recognizes that pandemic-related trends may create change or opportunities for its underlying drivers of its non-profit financial performance. While managing actively through this time, the Board also has begun to evaluate the likely impact of these trends through a business planning working group. As it assesses these impacts, the group will engage both the Board and members in the next 18 months to explore opportunities to maintain its financial health, enabling it to advance its mission and serve future generations of members.

**CONTRIBUTORS**

Thank you to those organizations who joined in support of programs and initiatives that benefit the human genetics and genomics research community through their generous financial and volunteer contributions.

**COLLABORATORS**

The Society collaborates with multiple other nonprofit and governmental organizations to pursue policies and programs that advance scientific research.

- Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research
- American Association for the Advancement of Science
- American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics
- American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics
- Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students
- Association of Professors of Human and Medical Genetics
- European Society of Human Genetics
- Federation of American Societies of Experimental Biology
- Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
- International Federation of Human Genetics Societies
- Minority Genetic Professionals Network
- National Human Genome Research Institute
- National Science Teachers Association
- Research!America
- Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science
- U.S. National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine
Our donors make a huge impact on the genetics and genomics community and society at large. Thank you for all you do for the Society and the community. The individuals listed below made charitable gifts between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021.

Ruth Abramson, PhD
Michael Abruzzo, PhD
Hannah Arrowsmith, MD
Ahmad Alsaeed, MD
Noura Al-Daher, MD
Hitha Amin, MD
Em Arpawong, PhD, MPH
Alexander Asamoah, MD, PhD
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Giles Vick, MD, PhD
Ann Walker, MA
Neal Werreb, MD
Anthony Wynshaw-Boris, MD, PhD
Masatoshi Yamaguchi, MD, PhD
Zilin Zhong, MD
ASHG especially thanks and recognizes the dedication and hard work of our volunteers and staff. The Society could not serve the field successfully without your engagement and expertise. Thank you!

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Digital Programs Specialist

Lydia Barr
Digital Programs Assistant

Career Development & Workforce Diversity
Kanika Pulliam, PhD
Director, Career Programs and Workforce Diversity

Zenobia Bryant, PhD
Program Analyst

Policy & Advocacy
Derek T. Scholes, PhD
Senior Director, Policy & Advocacy

Lyly G. Luhachack, PhD
Policy & Advocacy Specialist

Public Engagement, Communications, & Marketing
Kara Flynn
Senior Director, Public Engagement, Communications, & Marketing

Krystal Foster
Senior Manager, Marketing and Communications

William Anderson
Web Administrator & Designer

Evelyn Mantegani
Manager, Public Engagement, Marketing and Communications

Hannah Broder
Communications and Marketing Coordinator

Scientific Publications
Sara B. Cullinan, PhD
Director, Scientific Publications & Deputy Editor, AJHG

Sarah Ratzel, PhD
Science Editor, AJHG & HGG Advances

Meetings
Shelley Renn
Director, Meetings

Nicolette Gardes
Programs Specialist

Digital Programs
Alissa Orman
Associate Director, Digital Programs

Erin Konigsdorfer
Digital Programs Specialist

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