



American Society of Human Genetics

ADVOCATE UPDATE

ACGT Program Applications are Open!



ASHG has opened applications for the 2023 [Advocacy Certificate for Human Genetics and Genomics Trainees](#) (ACGT) Program. ACGT is a competitive, year-long program that provides trainee ASHG members pursuing a research or clinical career with an introduction to human genetics and genomics policy and advocacy. As part of the program, trainees will have the opportunity to participate in key activities such as contributing to the development of ASHG's advocacy materials and [participating](#) in a virtual Capitol

Hill Day. This program is open to ASHG members who are currently completing an undergraduate or graduate degree, postdoctoral fellows, or early career researchers in a human genetics and genomics or related field. Interested in applying to the ACGT program? [Apply here!](#) **Applications are due no later than 11:59 p.m. on January 6, 2023.** If you have any questions regarding the program, please contact policy@ashg.org.

ASHG Publishes New Guidance Addressing Challenges of Polygenic Scores in Research



On December 1, ASHG published a [Guidance](#) in *AJHG* on addressing the challenges of polygenic scores (PGS) in human genetic research. PGSs have shown promise for studying the biology of complex traits and as a tool for evaluating individual disease risks in clinical settings. Although the quantity and quality of data to compute PGSs are increasing, challenges remain in the technical aspects of developing PGSs and in the ethical and social issues that might arise from their use. This ASHG *Guidance* makes recommendations to help address some of these challenges.

ASHG Follows Up on Community Engagement Guidance at 2022 Annual Meeting



At the [ASHG 2022 Annual Meeting](#), members of the ASHG Professional Practice and Social Implications Committee (PPSI) and others with subject matter expertise followed up on the “preparatory to research” recommendations from the published [Guidance](#) on addressing underrepresentation in genetics and genomics research through community engagement. [Albert Hinman, PhD](#), 2022-2023 ASHG Genetics & Public Policy Fellow, wrote a [blog post](#) summarizing this session. ASHG strives to increase adoption of these recommendations for researchers to better understanding the challenges and opportunities of community engaged research.

Trainee ASHG Members: We Want to Hear from You!



ASHG is exploring the potential to offer training programs that would help graduate-level researchers to better understand and integrate ethical, legal, and social implications (ELSI) issues into human genetics and genomics research. We want input from trainees on possible priority topics as we consider this future activity! Please participate in our [survey](#) to provide your valuable feedback! Topics reach beyond those traditionally included in Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training.

[Take the survey here](#)

Implications of Mid-Term Elections & 2023 Policy Forecast

In this issue of the “Washington Update” blog, [read about](#) the leadership changes on House and Senate committees with implications for biomedical research, healthcare, and the NIH in the 118th Congress. ASHG continues to monitor news and legislation related to our policy priorities, and is looking for more



opportunities to engage with members and policymakers in 2023.

In Other Policy & Advocacy News

- Larry Tabak, DDS, PhD, acting NIH director, [shared](#) gratitude for the NIH community “and everyone who believes in the mission of the NIH.” Dr. Tabak discussed widespread support for biomedical research across society as well as NIH’s continued diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts related to the biomedical research workforce.
- Watch a [recording](#) of Research!America’s Post-Election Briefing on the mid-term election outcomes and implications for the 118th Congress. Science and research [champions](#) discussed the impact of the newly elected Congress on R&D, and science and medical research.
- ASHG signed on to the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research’s community [letter](#) to Appropriations leaders urging swift passage of a FY 2023 spending package and at least \$47.5 billion for NIH’s base budget.
- The current continuing resolution (CR) funding the federal government at FY 2022 spending levels will expire on Dec. 16. Congressional leaders are currently [working to negotiate](#) topline funding for FY 2023 to avoid a possible year-long CR.
- [ELSI Conversations](#) is a series of networking events on ethical, legal, and social implications (ELSI) research. Join the conversation on Dec. 13 for a session entitled, “The All of Us Research Program: What Duties do Researchers Have When Conducting Precision Medicine Research?”
- The ELSI Research Program of the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) published a [perspective](#) entitled, “Three decades of ethical, legal, and social implications research: Looking back to chart a path forward.”
- Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), Dr. Arati Prabhakar, [spoke](#) with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) on how we can move science and technology forward.
- The Pew Research Center [published](#) the results of a survey that showed a widening partisan divide over scientists’ place in policy debates and a perceived decrease in the United States’ global standing in scientific achievements.

ASHG Calendar

- On Nov. 10, ASHG released the [Human Genetics & Genomics Workforce Survey Report](#), which takes an in-depth look at the field’s workforce demographics, including race, ethnicity, or ancestry; gender identity; sexual orientation; age; disability status; and disadvantaged background. On Dec. 7, NHGRI [hosted a webinar](#) to discuss the key findings of the report.
- With 2023 just around the corner, don’t wait to [renew your membership!](#) Your membership will expire on December 31, 2022. Make sure you retain access to the [valuable benefits](#) you

receive as an ASHG member including [webinars](#), discounts on meeting registration, access to ASHG journals [AJHG](#) and [HGG Advances](#), [ASHG Connect](#), and so much more.

The American Society of Human Genetics
6120 Executive Boulevard, Suite 500
Rockville, Maryland 20852

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