



ADVOCATE UPDATE

August 2023

Senate Appropriations Committee Proposes Flat NIH Funding



Before Congress left for August recess, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed a bipartisan bill that would provide \$49.22 billion for the NIH. This number falls below the \$51 billion [ask](#) from the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research - of which ASHG is a member - which reflects the needs of the biomedical research community and keeps pace with inflation. Constrained by the [debt ceiling deal](#), the Senate's total includes \$47.7 billion for NIH's base budget - an increase of \$200 million above the FY 2023 enacted level - as well as \$1.5 billion for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H). The NIH bill also includes \$407 million in funding from the *21st Century Cures Act* and \$678 million in emergency funding to restore a scheduled cut to Cures funding in FY 2024; the net increase for the agency would total \$265 million (0.6%). This funding level contrasts with the House's version, which would cut NIH and ARPA-H by \$3.8 billion. Given this environment, it is critical that we continue the momentum reflected by eight consecutive years of funding increases for NIH to ensure that federal investment fulfills the needs of the biomedical research community and continues to fuel research advances. ASHG continues to actively engage with key offices on Capitol Hill, as well as with the broader NIH advocacy community, to urge robust, sustained NIH funding.

Join ASHG in Science Advocacy this Fall



As an ASHG advocate, watch for an action alert next month to participate virtually in the **Rally for Medical Research Hill Day** on **September 14** and share your voice as genetics & genomics researchers with Congress on this critical issue.

In addition to participation in the Rally for Medical Research, ASHG will be working with allies across the NIH advocacy community this fall to mobilize science and research voices to support NIH. Stay tuned and on the lookout for ASHG advocacy alerts in September and October as budget negotiations continue in Washington.

Last Chance to Register for the Rally for Medical Research!



The 11th annual "Rally for Medical Research Hill Day" will take place on Thursday, September 14, 2023, in Washington, DC. This event is an opportunity for supporters from the approximately 400 participating organizations, including ASHG, to join together and speak with one voice about making NIH funding a national priority. Several members of the [Advocacy Certificate for Human Genetics and Genomics Trainees](#) program will be participating this year! To learn more about the Rally for Medical Research, visit the [Rally website](#). Registration is open until **Friday, September 1**: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2023RallySignup>

In Other News

- Congress remains in recess through September 5. Before the recess, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) [met](#) to discuss their mutual interest in avoiding a government shutdown on October 1 by pursuing a short-term continuing resolution (CR). A CR would temporarily fund the government at FY 2023 funding levels.
- Before adjourning for the August congressional recess, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved all 12 FY 2024 appropriations bills. Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) and Vice Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) [issued a statement](#) after the committee concluded its work to successfully mark up all bills for the first time in five years.
- Former staff director of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, Erik Fatemi, joined Research!America on August 23 to discuss FY 2024 appropriations. [View his slides](#) and [watch the recording](#).
- Policy, advocacy, and science communication champion Bill Novelli joined Research!America on July 26 in a discussion exploring the art and science of R&D advocacy. [Watch the recording](#).
- Registration is open for Research!America's [National Health Research Forum](#). The event will include both virtual and in-person programming over the course of two days on September 19 and 20.
- ELSIHub [published](#) a collection of articles on the history and evolution of race and population descriptors in the field of genetics and genomics.
- The next ELSI Friday Forum will be held on September 8, 2023 - [Fair Access and Equity of Individualized Interventions for Ultrarare Genetic Conditions](#).
- Larry Tabak, DDS, PhD, acting director for the NIH, [has named](#) Jeanne M. Marrazzo, MD, as director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). Dr. Marrazzo is expected to begin her role as NIAID Director in the fall.
- Read more about science policy-related activities at the ASHG 2023 Annual Meeting in the most recent [Nascent Transcript](#) newsletter.

ASHG Calendar

- [Registration](#) for the ASHG 2023 Annual Meeting is open! The discounted advance rate is available until October 4. Don't forget to get a ticket for a special [closing gala reception](#) honoring the Society's 75th Anniversary on Saturday, November 4, 7:00-10:00 pm at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center.
- ASHG [announced](#) the 2023-2025 Human Genetics Scholars. [The Human Genetics Scholars Initiative](#) was developed to advance diversity and inclusion in the human genetics research workforce.
- ASHG was [awarded](#) a five-year, \$7.1 million contract for an expanded Genomics and Public Service Fellowship Program. All fellowships opportunities - including the graduate-level [Genetics & Public Policy Fellowship](#) - will open in fall 2023.
- Check out the [ASHG Learning Center](#) to learn more about three new interactive workshops on September 14, 18, and 21.

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