



American Society of Human Genetics

## ADVOCATE UPDATE

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**April 2025**

### ASHG Calendar: Events and Important Dates

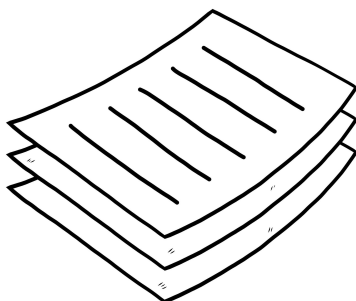
- Tomorrow, April 25, is DNA Day. Join the celebration by participating in a live Reddit "Ask Science" Q&A on the role of artificial intelligence in genetic testing. We'll also be announcing the 2025 winners of our [DNA Day Essay Contest](#). [Bookmark this link](#) and join us for this live celebration!
- Don't delay - next week (April 30) is the deadline to apply for the 2025-2026 [Advocacy Certificate for Human Genetics and Genomics Trainees \(ACGT\) program](#)! Help us spread the word to human genetics and genomics trainees interested in advocacy. It's a great way to build professional skillsets, network with other members, and participate in special ASHG events and opportunities!
- Looking for more data and research on cancer genetics? Good news - you can now access the session recording and talks from ASHG's Virtual Symposium on the topic on-demand through the [ASHG Learning Center](#). [Access the sessions today!](#)

### ASHG Expresses Concern for Recent Federal Layoffs at HHS



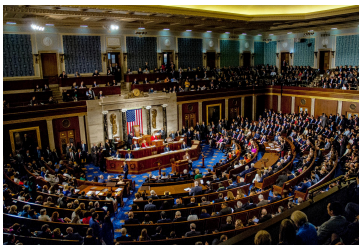
We are concerned about the recent layoffs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the National Institutes for Health (NIH) as part of federally mandated reductions in force (RIF). These layoffs significantly disrupt scientific advancement, the research workforce, and American competitiveness in biomedical research. We stand in strong support of the scientific community at this time and will continue to monitor this situation closely. Read our full statement [here](#).

### Written Testimony Shared with House Appropriations Committee



Earlier this month, ASHG President Sarah Tishkoff, PhD, submitted written testimony to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) on our behalf. This testimony called for \$51.3 billion in funding for NIH in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 and advocated against abrupt changes to NIH funding policies for Facilities and Administration (F&A) costs. It also emphasized the economic impact of genetics research across the United States and the importance of maintaining a robust research training pipeline to ensure continued American scientific competitiveness. Read the full testimony [here](#).

### ASHG Responds to RFI on Data Privacy and Security Framework



We responded to a [Request for Information](#) (RFI) from Reps. Brett Guthrie (R-KY) and John Joyce, M.D. (R-PA) on the potential to develop a comprehensive federal data privacy and security framework. We highlighted the importance of sharing human genetic data to advance biomedical research, and advocated for clear legislative frameworks that effectively balance security and the advancement of scientific knowledge. Read our response to the RFI [here](#).

## In Other Policy News

- The Senate Appropriations Committee will hold a bipartisan hearing on April 30 to discuss biomedical research funding for FY 2026. You can watch the hearing live at [this link](#).
- We recently signed on to the [Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research's recommendation](#) of at least \$51.303 billion for NIH for FY 2026 and continued support of the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H).
- On April 1, Jayanta "Jay" Bhattacharya, MD, PhD, took office as the [new director of NIH](#) after being confirmed by the United States Senate.
- This month, the National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology (NSCEB) released a major report to Congress, urging swift action to protect U.S. national security against growing biotechnological competition. Read the report [here](#).
- The Vision for American Science and Technology (VAST) was unveiled at the end of February. If you missed the event, you can watch the replay [here](#). The event features the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) CEO Sudip Parikh, U.S. Representatives Brian Babin (R-TX) and Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), and AI entrepreneur Yacine Jernite. The full Vision document can be downloaded from the newly launched [website](#).
- Are you a scientist interested in sharing why you love the work you do and the impact it has on our communities? Your Neighborhood Scientist is a new initiative to cultivate community-based conversations about science, science policy, and scientists. They are seeking scientists to write articles (500-1000 words) about who they are, why they love science, and the impact of their work. If interested, please email [your@neighborhoodscientist.org](mailto:your@neighborhoodscientist.org). You can also subscribe to their newsletter at [www.neighborhoodscientist.org](http://www.neighborhoodscientist.org).

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