

ASHG

American Society of Human Genetics

ADVOCATE UPDATE

June 2025

ASHG Calendar: Events and Important Dates

- Apply to be the next Editor-in-Chief at *Human Genetics and Genomics Advances*! Access the full description and application details [here](#).
- [Register](#) for ASHG 2025 by August 5th to take advantage of early-bird registration rates!
- We have some exciting virtual events coming up! Check out our [July Journal Club](#) on low-cost generation of clinical-grade, layperson-friendly pharmacogenetic passports on July 9 at 12 pm ET, and our [Emerging Laboratory Technologies SIG Seminar](#), which will be held on July 16 at 12 pm ET.
- You can also [register now](#) for the upcoming ELSI Friday Forum, "Biosecurity in the Age of AI and Genomics," which will be hosted by ELSI Hub on July 11 at 12 pm ET.

ASHG Responds to Proposed Civil Service Rule



We submitted comments to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) on a recently released proposed rule that could revive policies like Schedule F, which threatens civil service protections for federal scientists. The comments emphasized the importance of scientific expertise in leadership at agencies like NIH, warning that the rule could disrupt research, politicize science, and weaken U.S. biomedical competitiveness. In both our [community response](#) and individual organizational comments, we urged OPM to protect nonpartisan scientific leadership and workforce stability. Read our full comment [here](#).

Community Addresses Elimination of Newborn Screening Panel



We recently joined hundreds of other organizations in expressing our deep concern over the recent elimination of the Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children (ACHDNC), as well as the proposed elimination of other federal newborn screening infrastructure. Read the community letter [here](#).

FY 2026 NIH Budget Proposal Raises Concerns



NIH Director Jay Bhattacharya recently [testified](#) before the Senate on the [President's FY2026 budget request](#). This budget request proposes a 43% cut to NIH funding, reducing its budget to about \$27 billion and essentially reversing the investment in the NIH gained over the past decade. Alongside Research!America and others, we strongly oppose this rollback and urge at least \$51.3 billion for NIH to sustain research progress and improve public health. You can read the full community letter [here](#).

ASHG Champions Research Funding on Capitol Hill

Members of ASHG leadership recently [went to Capitol Hill](#) to meet with Congressional staff, where they advocated for strong, stable investment in human genetics and genomics research. In bipartisan meetings, our advocates emphasized the real-world impact of funding cuts and the economic value of genetics research. Building on ASHG's recent [Senate Outside Witness Testimony](#), they shared that these changes are already affecting labs, clinical trials, training programs, and local economies, and shared stories from researchers and institutions across the country. ASHG is continuing to advocate for you, including at our next Hill Day in July, and



we encourage you to stay engaged and urge your members of Congress to support human genetics and genomics research in FY26 and beyond. You can learn more about our recent Hill Day in [this piece](#) by ASHG President Sarah Tishkoff, PhD. If you are interested in taking action, use the button below to explore our Action Alert Center!

Take Action!

In Other Policy News

- Graduate students around the nation have been sharing their stories and advocating for their research in local newspapers. Read more about their advocacy efforts [here](#).
- Last week, in response to a recent [Executive Order](#), NIH issued a notice that the Institutes will be immediately terminating or suspending funding and other support for gain-of-function research. You can read the full notice [here](#).
- Respond to a Request for Information (RFI) on Key Technology Focus Areas for the National Science Foundation's Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships! Submit your comments on or before 11:59 p.m. (ET) on July 21, 2025, either at this link or by emailing KTA_RFI@nsf.gov. You can read more about the RFI [here](#)!

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