

ASHG

American Society of Human Genetics
ADVOCATE UPDATE

December 2025

ASHG Updates

- Curious about the changes going on at NHGRI? If so, join us on Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 12 pm EST for the webinar, "Update on Recent Changes at NIH and NHGRI: What Researchers Need to Know." NHGRI extramural leadership will present an update. Register [here](#).
- Join us for our webinar, "Expanding Genomics Training through Inclusive Partnerships", at 12 pm EST on January 27, 2026. Learn more and register for the session [here](#).
- ASHG, along with more than 450 other organizations, signed on to the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research's [letter](#) urging appropriators to finalize fiscal year (FY) 2026 funding for NIH.
- ASHG recently signed on to a community letter advocating for appropriations funding levels of at least \$1.5 billion for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H). Read the full letter [here](#).
- Submissions for ASHG 2026 Featured Symposia and Interactive Workshops proposals are open now through January 20, 2026 at 5 pm EST. Read more about the process [here](#) and submit your ideas today!

Take Action: Urge Congress to Finalize FY26 NIH Funding



Though the year is drawing to a close, the fight for NIH funding in FY26 isn't over. We are operating under a continuing resolution, and Congress must act by January 30, 2026 to avoid another shutdown. Now is the time to reach out to your members of Congress to:

- Ensure no less than the Senate Appropriations Committee-approved level of \$47.2 billion for NIH's base budget is approved for FY26.
- Provide at least \$1.5 billion in funding for ARPA-H.
- Include the Senate's language to hold NIH multi-year funding to FY24 levels.
- Finalize FY26 funding bills as soon as possible and avoid another government shutdown.

Use the action alert below to make your voice heard!

Take Action Now!

Washington Update



As 2025 comes to a close, fiscal negotiations in Congress are intensifying, with significant implications for federal research budgets. Decisions on topline spending and appropriations will directly shape funding for agencies like NIH, the National Science Foundation (NSF), and ARPA-H, influencing grant availability, program priorities, and long-term investments in biomedical and scientific innovation. These discussions will guide whether proposed increases materialize, making this a critical period for the research community.

To learn more about current funding, the implications of new NIH strategies, and more, read our full Washington Update [here](#).

Thank You, Advocates!

2025 has been an eventful year for ASHG, and for the entire field of human genetics and genomics. Throughout it all, you worked tirelessly to communicate the value of genetics and

genomics research to policymakers and to ensure that people everywhere benefit from advances in biomedical research. Here are just a few of our many wins from the past year:

- ASHG advocates have met with congressional staffers and representatives from 24 states.
- You sent over 1,200 total messages to Congress this year, including almost 100 handwritten postcards during our Annual Meeting!
- We welcomed our newest cohort of [Advocacy Certificate for Human Genetics and Genomics Trainees](#) (ACGT), and are thrilled to be educating, inspiring, and collaborating with the next generation of scientific advocates.
- ASHG has signed onto [community letters](#), submitted testimony to House and Senate Appropriates subcommittees, and has hosted [incredible programming](#) on everything from biosecurity to coalition advocacy.

Thank you all for your efforts throughout the year, and we look forward to continuing our momentum in 2026!

In Other Policy News

- On Thursday, December 18 from 2-3 pm, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) will be hosting a course, "Engaging with the media: Essential skills for successful interviews." To learn more and participate in this course, register [here](#).
- On January 29, 2026, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) will be holding a symposium, "Innovative Models for STEM Workforce Development in Critical Technologies: Cross-disciplinary, Cross-sectoral Solutions." You can register, either virtually or in person, [here](#).
- In case you missed it, you can find ELSIHub's most recent Friday Forum, "Existential Issues for Species: Deextinction and Deliberate Extinction," as well as the recordings of other past sessions, [here](#).
- As part of a series of policy changes designed to reduce administrative burden, NIH recently announced that it will no longer request or accept Letters of Intent (LOIs) as part of the grant application process. You can read the official announcement [here](#) to learn more.
- *Stat News* recently released an article on the impact of recent NIH changes on early-career scientists. Find the full story [here](#).

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

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