

ASHG

American Society of Human Genetics
ADVOCATE UPDATE

October 2025

ASHG Updates

- Join us for the live webinar, "Meeting the Moment: Impactful Science Communication and Education on Genetics" on November 12, 2025 at 12:00 PM EST. You can learn more and register [here!](#)
- If you attended ASHG 2025, you now have access to select [session recordings](#) from Featured Plenary presentations, the Presidential Symposium, and more. Missed the meeting? Don't worry, you can [purchase the session recordings today.](#)
- 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.
- In case you missed it: we would like to congratulate Eric Green, MD, PhD, Senior Consultant, Emory University School of Medicine, on receiving [ASHG's annual Leadership Award](#) for his exceptional leadership, vision, and commitment to the field of human genetics and genomics.

Tell Congress to End the Government Shutdown!



The U.S. government shutdown is in its [fifth week](#). This has caused significant disruptions for federal employees, researchers, and the broader public health system. These impacts will only worsen the longer the government is shut down.

Tell Congress it is important to end this shutdown so that scientific progress can continue. Reach out to Congress today through our Action Alert and make sure they understand the human costs of the shutdown!

Take Action Now!

ACGT Spotlight: Grassroots Advocacy in Action at ASHG 2025



During our annual meeting in Boston earlier this month, members of each past cohort of the [Advocacy Certificate for Human Genetics and Genomics Trainees \(ACGT\) program](#) highlighted the advocacy projects they completed as part of the program, as well as the skills they have carried into their communities and ongoing advocacy efforts. Christina Del Greco, PhD, Ricardo Harripaul, PhD, Anna Capria, MS, Guinevere Spurdens, and Mary Hackbarth each gave brief lightning talks before joining audience members in engaging table discussions and networking to further explore shared advocacy interests.

Back from Boston: Advocacy at the Annual Meeting



This year, advocacy was a key theme of our annual meeting. Throughout the meeting, ASHG members wrote postcards to their members of Congress to advocate for science, share why research matters to them, and explain the importance of federal funding to human genetics and genomics research. At our "ASHG Advocacy in Action: Driving Science Policy Forward" session, coalition leaders Mary Woolley, President and CEO of Research!America, and Adrienne Hallett, Director of the Coalition for Life Sciences, spoke with members about how ASHG and our partners are shaping the future of science policy and what is next for the advocacy community.

Members also learned about a range of policy and advocacy issues in depth from experts: whether learning about the role of genetics and biotechnology in national security at our policy forum, engaging in hands-on case studies about the ethical use of population descriptors, or learning about scientific communication and coalition work at our advocacy sessions, ASHG members were out in full force to demonstrate the importance of human genetics and genomics research across disciplines.

The Importance of Scientific Communication



Susan Slaughaupt, PhD

Colleen Campbell, PhD, MS, LGC

Another standout policy & advocacy session from our annual meeting was "Strategies for Communicating Your Science to a Variety of Audiences," led by Sue Slaughaupt, PhD, and Colleen Campbell, PhD, MS, LGC. In this session, participants practiced explaining the importance of their research to policymakers and learned valuable tips to control the message. By practicing with one another, our members learned how to tell a story, anticipate potential questions, and use relatable comparisons when talking about their science. No matter their experience with scientific communication, all participants left the session with an enhanced understanding of how to communicate their science to a variety of audiences and are now more prepared than ever to advocate for their research.

In Other Policy News

- Are you an early-career researcher interested in public or civic engagement? Applications are now open for Research!America's [2025-2026 Civic Engagement Microgrant Program](#) and [Public Engagement Content Awards](#). Applications for both programs are due by November 21, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. ET.
- Check out [this one-pager](#), by ACT for NIH, which explains the increased use of multi-year awards at NIH and the impact of this new policy on research funding.
- The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) recently released a statement calling for Congress to pass a short-term continuing resolution (CR) to end the government shutdown and its devastating effects on the United States' scientific enterprise. The full statement can be found [here](#).
- ELSIHub's next Friday Forum, "What do researchers owe the Autistic community?" will take place on November 14, 2025 at 12PM ET. You can register, as well as find the recordings of past sessions, [here](#).
- On October 28, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) held a workshop, "Exploring Applications of AI in Genomics and Precision Health: A Workshop." You can find the full webcast [here](#).

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

[Privacy Policy](#)