ASHG 2026 Professional Awards

Advocacy Award

The ASHG Advocacy Award honors individuals or groups of individuals who have exhibited excellence and achievement in promoting the science of human genetics and its application for the common good.

Areas of advocacy may include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Promoting the importance of genetics and its role in health care in society at large
- Increasing public awareness of ethical, legal, and policy-related issues in genetics
- Promoting the importance of funding for biomedical research
- Spearheading, shepherding, or implementing genetics policy or legislation
- Improving familiarity with genetics research and genetic testing among a broad range of audiences

Judging Criteria: Has exhibited excellence and achievement in promoting the science of human genetics for the common good.

Required Nomination Materials
- Nomination form including the nominee's basic information (name, email, institution, degree) and questions addressing eligibility and judging criteria
- Two references familiar with the nominee's contributions to advocacy in human genetics
    - References must answer questions addressing eligibility and judging criteria
- The nominee's CV (provided by the nominee)

Questions for the nominator and references (300 words max for each)
1. Provide a narrative for why the nominee is qualified for the Advocacy Award.
2. Provide specific examples of how the nominee has demonstrated excellence and achievement in promoting the science of human genetics.
3. How has the nominee improved familiarity with genetics research and genetic testing among a wide range of audiences?

Early Career Award

The ASHG Early Career Award recognizes scientists who are in the early stages of their careers as independent investigators. The candidate must not have been an independent investigator for more than 10 years and the work submitted for consideration must have been primarily the product of the candidate's independent lab.

Judging Criteria
1. The candidate fulfills the basic requirements for candidacy:
    1. The candidate must not have been an independent investigator for more than 10 years. Consideration should be given for hiatuses in research career (e.g. due to medical concerns, family care, disability, etc.).
    2. The work submitted for consideration must have been primarily the product of the candidate's independent lab.
2. The candidate's work has a significant impact on the field of human genetics.
    1. Significance can be assessed based on factors such as: innovation, impact of work on the scientific field, collaborations, etc.
3. The candidate has demonstrated a commitment to mentoring and training the next generation of scientists.
    1. Candidate's trainees, teaching and other mentoring related activities within the lab.
    2. Involvement in various mentoring opportunities outside the lab.

Required Nomination Materials
- Nomination form including the nominee's basic information (name, email, institution, degree) and questions addressing eligibility and judging criteria
- Two references familiar with the nominee's contributions to human genetics
    - References must answer questions addressing eligibility and judging criteria
- The nominee's CV (provided by the nominee)

Questions for the nominator and references (300 words max for each)
1. Provide a narrative for why the nominee is qualified for the Early Career Award.
2. Can you confirm that the nominee has been an independent investigator for no more than 10 years, and that the work submitted for consideration is primarily the product of their independent lab?
    a. If applicable, can you provide context regarding any career hiatuses (e.g., medical, family care, disability) and how these have been considered in evaluating the nominee's achievements?
3. How has the nominee's research significantly impacted the field of human genetics? Please describe specific examples of innovation, influence on scientific direction, or notable collaborations.
4. In what ways has the nominee demonstrated a commitment to mentoring and training the next generation of scientists, both within their lab and through external opportunities?

Education Award

The Education Award recognizes outstanding contributions to human genetics education. Nominees must have made contributions that are recognized nationally or internationally as being of exceptional quality and great importance to human genetics education and should have long-standing involvement in genetics education, contributions in more than one area, and contributions of substantive influence on individuals and/or organizations.

Examples of the types of contributions that might qualify a nominee include: producing a set of writings that has had a major influence on human genetics education, developing a curriculum or innovative teaching program that is widely emulated, writing a book that has been adopted by many universities, or developing an educational website.

Judging Criteria:
A lifelong commitment to teaching:
- Prior awards specifically for excellence in teaching
- Development of disruptive approaches to teaching
- Demonstrable impact of their teaching

Required Nomination Materials
- Nomination form including the nominee's basic information (name, email, institution, degree) and questions addressing eligibility and judging criteria
- Two references familiar with the nominee's contributions to human genetics
    - References must answer questions addressing eligibility and judging criteria
- The nominee's CV (provided by the nominee)

Questions for Nominator and references (300 words max for each)
1. Provide a narrative for why the nominee is qualified for the Education Award.
2. How has the nominee's work in human genetics education been recognized nationally or internationally as exceptional in quality and importance?
3. Can you describe examples of the nominee's lifelong commitment to teaching, including any development of innovative or disruptive approaches to genetics education?
4. What evidence can you provide of the demonstrable impact of the nominee's educational contributions on individuals, organizations, or the broader field of human genetics?

Lifetime Achievement Award

The Lifetime Achievement Award is the top prize given by the American Society of Human Genetics. The award is presented annually to recognize substantial and far-reaching scientific contributions to human genetics, carried out over a sustained period of scientific inquiry and productivity.

Judging Criteria:
- Ground-breaking/foundational discoveries that changed the path of genetics
- Novel ideas/approaches that had a continuous and far-reaching impact on the field
- Sustained scientific productivity over decades
- Cultivation and mentorship of the next generation of scientists

Required Nomination Materials
- Nomination form including the nominee's basic information (name, email, institution, degree) and questions addressing eligibility and judging criteria
- Two references familiar with the nominee's long-term contributions to human genetics
    - References must answer questions addressing eligibility and judging criteria
- The nominee's CV (provided by the nominee)

Questions for Nominator and references (500 words max for each):
1. Provide a narrative for why the nominee is qualified for the Lifetime Achievement Award.
2. Describe any ground-breaking or foundational discoveries by the nominee that significantly changed the trajectory of genetics research or practice.
3. How has the nominee demonstrated sustained scientific productivity over multiple decades, and what evidence best illustrates this long-term contribution?
4. How has the nominee's work demonstrably influenced the scientific direction of human genetics or impacted other scientists in the field?
5. Can you provide examples of how the nominee has cultivated and mentored the next generation of scientists, and the impact of these efforts on the field?

Mentorship Award

The ASHG Mentorship Award honors ASHG members who have significant records of accomplishment as mentors. The award is open to individuals at all academic ranks, but eligible candidates must have demonstrated a sustained pattern of exemplary mentorship at the student, postdoctoral, residency, fellowship level or beyond.

Judging Criteria:
- Documented, strong track record in educating mentees
- Coaching efforts well beyond the call of duty
- Strong commitment to assistance with further career path

Required Nomination Materials
- Nomination form including the nominee's basic information (name, email, institution, degree) and questions describing the mentorship accomplishments of the nominee
- Two references (1 mentee, 1 ASHG member) familiar with the nominee's mentorship accomplishments
  - References must answer questions describing the mentorship accomplishments of the nominee
- The nominee's CV (provided by the nominee)
- Comprehensive list of mentees & email contact information – to confirm support of mentorship award recipient (provided by the nominee)

Questions for the nominator and references: (300 words max for each)
1. Provide a narrative for why the nominee is qualified for the Mentorship Award.
2. How has the nominee contributed to the professional development of mentees? Please include specific examples of mentees who have gone on to achieve notable success.
3. How has the nominee demonstrated coaching or mentoring efforts that go beyond typical expectations? Please include specific examples of where their support made a significant difference.
4. How has the nominee shown a sustained commitment to guiding others in their long-term career paths? Please include examples of how they've helped mentees navigate promotions, transitions, or leadership opportunities.
5. What lasting impact has the nominee made on the culture of mentorship within their institution or field? Please include examples of how their approach has influenced others to become mentors themselves.

Scientific Achievement Award

The Scientific Achievement Award is presented yearly for remarkable scientific achievements in human genetics that have occurred during the last 10 years. The work could be a single major discovery or a series of contributions on a similar or related topic. The awardee's work should have had a demonstrable impact on the scientific direction of the field and/or other scientists.

Judging Criteria:
- The primary criterion is outstanding scientific achievements in human genetics that have occurred during the last 10 years.
- The work could be a single major discovery or a series of contributions on a similar or related topic.
- The awardee's work should have had a demonstrable impact on the scientific direction of the field and/or other scientists.
- Although not a strict rule, awardees will generally have been an independent investigator for 10-20 years, and consideration will focus on scientific achievements as an independent investigator.
- Consideration should be given for hiatuses in research career (e.g. due to medical concerns, family care, disability, etc.).

Required Nomination Materials
- Nomination form including the nominee's basic information (name, email, institution, degree) and questions addressing eligibility and judging criteria
- Two references familiar with the nominee's long-term contributions to human genetics
    - References must answer questions addressing eligibility and judging criteria
- The nominee's CV (provided by the nominee)

Questions for Nominator and references (300 words max for each)
1. Provide a narrative for why the nominee is qualified for the Scientific Achievement Award.
2. Can you describe the nominee's most outstanding scientific achievements in human genetics during the last 10 years, and why you consider them significant? Were these achievements the result of a single major discovery or a series of related contributions? Please provide examples and context.
3. How has the nominee's work demonstrably influenced the scientific direction of human genetics or impacted other scientists in the field?