

# ANNUAL REPORT

2019

2020

ENVISIONING A FUTURE IN WHICH  
PEOPLE EVERYWHERE REALIZE THE  
BENEFITS OF HUMAN GENETICS AND  
GENOMICS RESEARCH

 **ASHG**  
American Society of Human Genetics

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## ABOUT ASHG

The American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) is the leading professional scientific membership organization for human genetics and genomics researchers in the world. The Society's members include researchers, clinicians, genetic counselors, and others who have a special interest in the field of human genetics and genomics research. In addition to serving and representing its members, ASHG also works to increase the availability of reliable information about genetics and genomics to the public.

### Mission

Advance the field of human genetics and genomics through excellence in research, education, and advocacy.

### Vision

People everywhere realize the benefits of human genetics and genomics research.

### Core Values

- Integrity
- Rigor
- Inclusion
- Innovation
- Collaboration
- Social responsibility

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



This year has provided us all with an extraordinary example of the strength of our human genetics and genomics community. Despite unprecedented challenges, our community continues to advance genetics and genomics and its application to improve health and serve society. Together, we pursue a collective vision that *people everywhere realize the benefits of human genetics and genomics research*.

For ASHG, this starts with our leadership role fostering dialogue about emerging discoveries and their translation. In fall 2019, ASHG held a very exciting Annual Meeting in Houston, with 8,500 attendees and a record-setting exhibit hall. While the pandemic has made an in-person 2020 meeting impossible, the Society is reimagining and planning a vibrant and engaging Virtual Meeting. ASHG's leadership in scientific publishing also flourished this year: the *American Journal of Human Genetics* expanded its reach and influence and the Society introduced a new fully open access journal, *Human Genetics and Genomics Advances*.

The pandemic's necessary shift to virtual events also enabled ASHG to speed planned new programs. Our Strategic Plan called for more year-round content and networking for members and—aware that our members faced daunting challenges at work and at home—ASHG rapidly launched more webinars, online journal clubs, podcasts, and other digital resources to serve science and our community. Plus, we expanded public engagement and advocacy resources and mobilization points, and raised our voices to strongly support increased research funding, oppose discrimination, and articulate values on important ethical and societal considerations.

One of the Society's highest priorities is also one of mine – expanding diversity, equity and inclusion in human genetics and genomics research. While we still have a long way to go, we are starting to make progress. We now welcome the second class of the Human Genetics Scholars Initiative, which supports and engages early-career scientists from underrepresented backgrounds. I'm extremely pleased that the Board unanimously approved ASHG's first [Diversity and Inclusion Policy Statement](#) to guide our work. We expanded Annual Meeting events and forums, added new, lower developing country registration and dues levels, and increased diversity among the Board of Directors, committees, and award recipients. To sustain ASHG's long-term commitment, a member-led task force and many committees helped shape an approved [Action Plan](#). Moving forward we will be partnering with the broader scientific community and peer genetics and genomics organizations for more collective action.

ASHG can provide this support, advance our shared vision and endure through challenging times thanks to your support and the Society's strong long-term financial health. Serving as President and working with a terrific Board of Directors has been the honor of a lifetime. The Board is united in helping the Society endure and thrive for you and our community for decades to come. Thank you for your continued support and engagement!

Sincerely,

Anthony Wynshaw-Boris, MD, PhD  
2020 ASHG President

## MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

ASHG works to build a vibrant and collaborative community of human genetics and genomics professionals from across the world and promote excellence in research, education, and medicine through our membership, highly respected awards, and field-leading research journals.



**Nancy B. Spinner, PhD, FACMG**

Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania  
Chair, ASHG Membership Engagement Committee



“ASHG is a fantastic community...Staying on top of everything that’s happening and having the opportunity to be educated and up to date on the political issues that confront geneticists, support and encourage young students through initiatives like the DNA Day Essay Contest, and participate on committees to shape the society have certainly contributed to my much richer appreciation for the field of genetics and my work.”



**Augusto Rojas-Martinez, MD, PhD**

Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León (Mexico)

Member, ASHG Membership Engagement Committee

“ASHG membership opens a space of contemplation, analysis, and reflection about the progress and trends in human genetics. As a Latin American geneticist, this is valuable to decide how we can contribute to the advancement of the discipline in our region.”



**Dwi U. Kemaladewi, PhD**

UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh

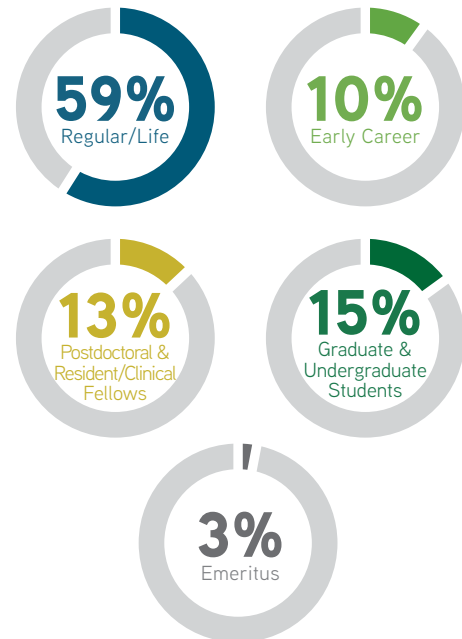
Member, ASHG Membership Engagement Committee

“One thing that separates ASHG from other societies is how approachable the senior leaders are towards junior members. My favorite platform is the casual round table session during the Annual Meeting Networking Reception, where you get to introduce yourself and share your ideas with ASHG thought leaders. Carrying out these conversations post-annual meeting has allowed me to expand my professional network and build scientific collaborations. It also inspired me to serve on the Membership Engagement Committee, in which we envision creative ways to facilitate these fruitful interactions throughout the year.”

## MEMBERSHIP AT A GLANCE



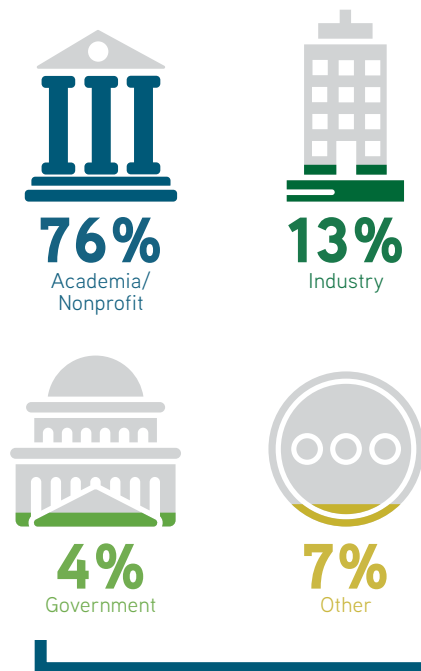
## MEMBER TYPES



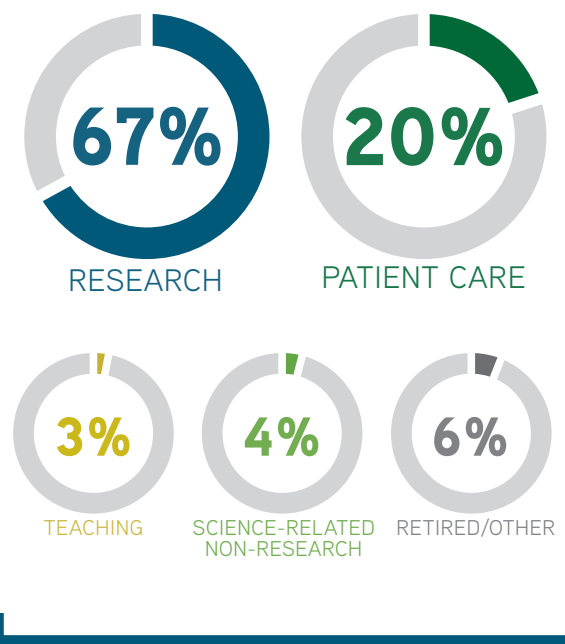
## MEMBER BENEFITS

- Reduced rates for the ASHG Annual Meeting
- Online subscription to *The American Journal of Human Genetics (AJHG)*
- No fees for articles published in *AJHG*
- 20% off publishing charge for *Human Genetics and Genomics Advances*
- Leadership opportunities – service on committees and Board and voting rights
- Policy resources and representation in advocacy efforts
- Access to digital and in-person career resources and educational programs
- Access to the member-only directory and member-only content
- Public engagement through the Genetics Engagement & Education Network

PRIMARY WORK SETTING



PRIMARY TYPE OF WORK



*Developing Country Award recipient presenting his research poster at the ASHG 2019 Annual Meeting*

**REDUCED DUES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRY MEMBERS**

Starting in 2020, ASHG significantly reduced fees for members living in developing countries based on both career level and the economy of the member’s country of residence to make membership more affordable and accessible to researchers worldwide.



## ANNUAL MEETING

The ASHG Annual Meeting is the world's largest meeting of human genetics and genomics professionals.

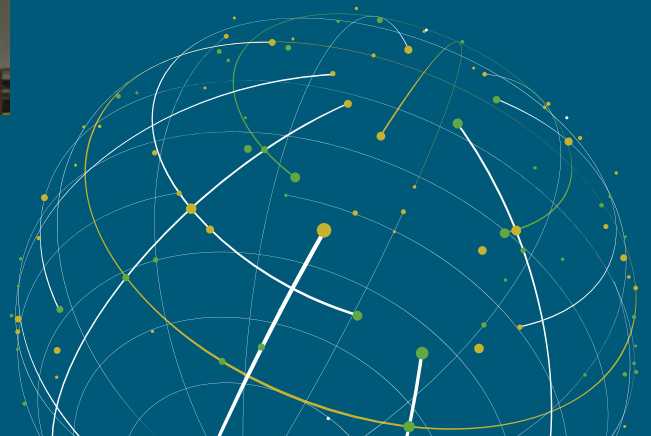


*George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston  
– site of 2019 ASHG Annual Meeting*

# 8,409 ATTENDEES FROM 80 COUNTRIES

### 2019 ASHG ANNUAL MEETING

The 2019 Annual Meeting in Houston, Texas – a burgeoning biotech hub with more than 1,700 life science organizations – attracted thousands of researchers, clinicians, genetic counselors, and exhibitors to discuss the latest research and exciting new technologies and tools, and spark collaborations that advance the field.



### FOCUS ON NETWORKING & CONNECTION

The in-person environment of the 2019 Annual Meeting presented the ideal opportunity for networking and building connections and collaboration amongst attendees. To foster such connections, ASHG offered multiple new and enhanced networking events, including the:

#### Networking Reception

With added themed zones ranging from Careers to Genetics, to Policy and Ethics

#### Inspiration Lounges

Opportunities to connect with thought leaders in small groups about specific topics and sessions



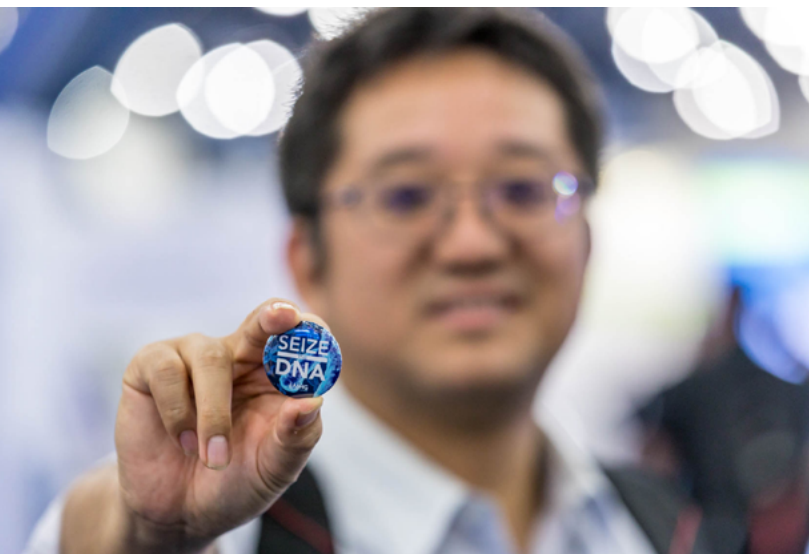


**Scientific Sessions**

- 82 Invited and 385 Abstract-Driven Presentations
- Top 3 Most Popular Sessions
  - Presidential Symposium: Genetic Exceptionalism - From Its Beginning to Its End?
  - Deep Learning for Interpretation of Human Genetic Variation
  - Beyond the Genome Sequence: Integrating Genes, Enhancers, and Pathways in Development and Disease

**Solutions Hub in Exhibit & Poster Hall**

- 298 Exhibiting Companies
- 3,111 Posters
- 121 CoLabs, Exhibitor, & Ancillary Events
- Trade Show Executive's Fastest 50 *(see image)*



**Excellence in Genetics Awards Reception (NEW)**

Recognition of the accomplishments of all ASHG awardees, scholars, and fellows

**Diversity Reception (NEW)**

Celebration of and networking about the importance of diversity in genetics and genomics research and the workforce

**Career Fair (NEW)**

Opportunity for genetics and genomics professionals to connect face-to-face with organizations seeking their talents

## PUBLICATIONS

Through the Society’s journals and other publications, ASHG members share the latest scientific breakthroughs and perspectives on important issues with the research community.



### THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HUMAN GENETICS

Known for its scientific excellence and rigor, *The American Journal of Human Genetics (AJHG)* is one of the leading journals in the field of genetics and genomics. Since 1948, *AJHG* has published thousands of research and review articles on human heredity and the application of genetic principles in medicine and public policy.

**2019 Impact Factor = 10.5**

### AJHG Editorial Board

#### Editor-in-Chief

Bruce R. Korf, MD, PhD

#### Deputy Editor

Sara B. Cullinan, PhD

#### Science Editor

Sarah Ratzel, PhD

#### Associate Editors

Wendy Chung, MD, PhD

Stacey Edwards, PhD

Eimear Kenny, PhD

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Heather Mefford, MD, PhD

Stephen Montgomery, PhD

Kathryn North, PhD

Lucy Osborne, PhD

Timothy Thornton, PhD

Michael Talkowski, PhD

Ambrose Wonkam, MD, PhD

### 2019 C.W. Cotterman Awards

In September 2019, the *AJHG* editorial board recognized two trainees who authored articles published in the journal within the previous year that best represent outstanding scientific contributions to the field of human genetics.



#### Sarah A. McClymont

*Doctoral Candidate, Johns Hopkins University*

***“Parkinson-Associated SNCA Enhancer Variants Revealed by Open Chromatin in Mouse Dopamine Neurons”***



#### Minal Çalışkan, PhD

*Former Postdoc, University of Pennsylvania  
Research Investigator, Bristol-Myers Squibb*

***“Genetic and Epigenetic Fine Mapping of Complex Trait Associated Loci in the Human Liver”***



### ***HUMAN GENETICS AND GENOMICS ADVANCES***

Opening for submissions in May 2020, ASHG's new fully open access journal *Human Genetics and Genomics Advances (HGG Advances)* allows for the rapid dissemination of cutting-edge, high-impact research across the breadth of human genetics that is immediately accessible to researchers and the science-interested public.

#### ***HGG Advances* Editorial Board**

##### **Editor-in-Chief**

Michael J. Bamshad, MD

##### **Science Editor**

Sarah Ratzel, PhD

##### **Associate Editors**

Casey Greene, PhD

Avni Santani, PhD

Audrey Hendricks, PhD

Simon Gravel, PhD

Jen Wagner, JD, PhD

Phillip J. Lupo, PhD, MPH

Rossa W.K. Chiu, MBBS, PhD

Elizabeth Bhoj, MD, PhD

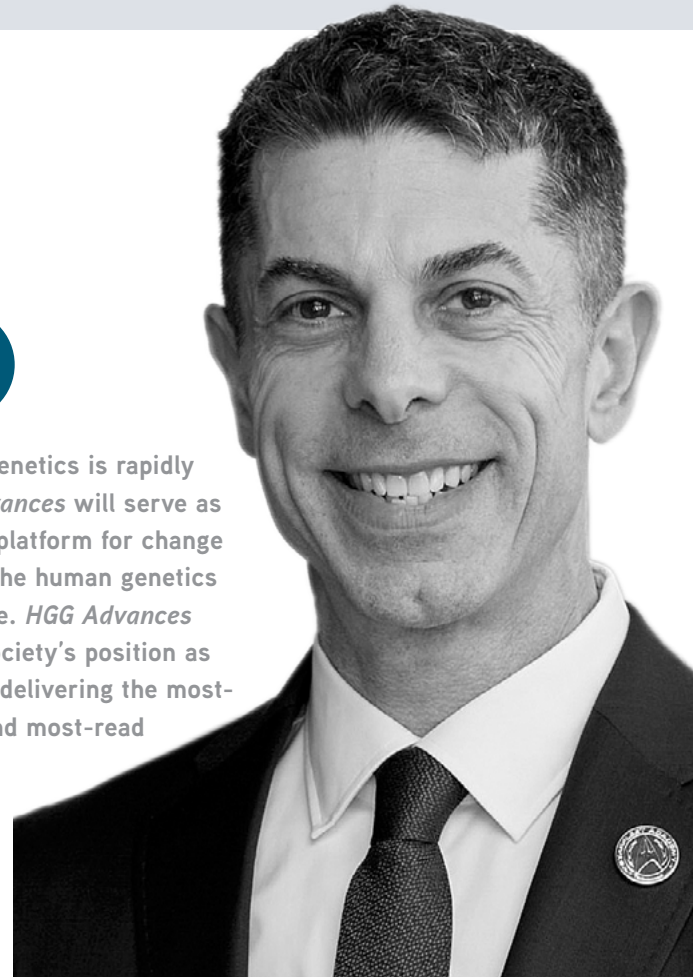
Alexis Battle, PhD

Michael P. Epstein, PhD, MS



**“The field of human genetics is rapidly evolving and *HGG Advances* will serve as both a catalyst and a platform for change that feels natural for the human genetics community to embrace. *HGG Advances* will strengthen the Society’s position as the science publisher delivering the most-trusted, most-cited and most-read journals in the field”**

Editor-in-Chief,  
Michael J. Bamshad, MD



## AWARDS

Since 1962, ASHG has honored outstanding member research and professional service through annual society awards.

### 2019 ASHG AWARDEES



#### **William Allan Award**

Recognizes substantial and far-reaching scientific contributions to human genetics.

#### **Stylianos E. Antonarakis, MD, DSc**

*Emeritus Professor and Chairman of Genetic Medicine, University of Geneva Medical School*



#### **Victor A. McKusick Leadership Award**

Recognizes individuals whose professional achievements have fostered and enriched the development of human genetics as well as its assimilation into the broader context of science, medicine, and health

#### **Huda Zoghbi, MD**

*Director of Duncan Neurological Research Institute, Texas Children's Hospital  
Professor of Molecular and Human Genetics, Baylor College of Medicine  
Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute*



#### **Advocacy Award**

Recognizes individuals who have exhibited excellence and achievement in application of human genetics for the common good, in areas such as facilitating public awareness of genetics issues, promoting funding for biomedical research, and integrating genetics into health systems

#### **Rick Guidotti**

*Founder and Director, POSITIVE EXPOSURE*



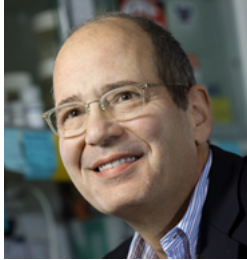
#### **Early Career Award**

Recognizes the contributions of genetics and genomics scientists in the first ten years of their careers as independent investigators

#### **Stephen Montgomery, PhD**

*Associate Professor of Genetics, Pathology, and Computer Science  
Stanford University School of Medicine*





### Mentorship Award

Recognizes individuals with significant accomplishments as mentors for graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, residents, or clinical fellows

#### Hal C. Dietz, MD

*Director of William S. Smilow Center for Marfan Syndrome Research Institute of Genetic Medicine and Professor of Genetic Medicine, Johns Hopkins University*

### Arno Motulsky-Barton Childs Award for Excellence in Human Genetics Education

Recognizes individuals for exceptional contributions to human genetics education



#### Jeffrey N. Weitzel, MD

*Chief of the Division of Clinical Cancer Genomics and the Cancer Screening and Prevention Program  
City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center*



#### Kathleen Blazer, EDD, MS, LCGC

*Director of Cancer Genomics Education Program (CGEP)  
City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center*

### Curt Stern Award

Recognizes genetics and genomics researchers who have made significant scientific contributions during the past decade



#### Charles Rotimi, PhD

*Director of Center for Research on Genomics and Global Health, National Institutes of Health (NIH)*



#### Sarah Tishkoff, PhD

*David and Lyn Silfen University Professor, Genetics and Biology, University of Pennsylvania*

### Excellence in Genetics Awards Reception

To recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of all ASHG awardees, and the generous support of ASHG Partners and Sponsors, ASHG held the inaugural Excellence in Genetics Awards Reception at the ASHG 2019 Annual Meeting. Most importantly, the event provided time for some of the early-career awardees, including Developing Country and Charles Epstein Award recipients, to present and discuss their research posters with leaders in the field.



## DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

ASHG is committed to enhancing diversity and inclusion of the genetics and genomics research workforce and engagement of underrepresented groups as participants in genetics and genomics research studies.

### DIVERSITY RECEPTION

The 2019 Diversity Reception brought together over 200 people to recognize and celebrate the importance of diversity, including recognizing the 2019 Human Genetics Scholars, and provided networking opportunities for the research community working on or interested in diversity topics.



*Human Genetics Scholars, advisory group members, and program partner representatives at the Diversity Reception during the ASHG 2019 Annual Meeting*

### DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION POLICY STATEMENT

In January 2020, the ASHG Board of Directors approved and released a **Diversity and Inclusion Policy Statement** outlining specific and actionable objectives for the next five years, including to:

1. Celebrate genetic diversity, one of humanity's greatest strengths, as a foundation for scientific discovery that benefits health and society.
2. Ensure our leadership and broader membership reflect and appreciate the diverse scientific and public communities we seek to serve and promote diversity and inclusion in our events and forums.
3. Create a more diverse and inclusive genetics and genomics research workforce through strong collaborations across academia, industry, and government.
4. Advocate for greater population diversity and inclusion in research to enable scientific discoveries that benefit all communities.
5. Improve the community's ability to engage diverse audiences more consistently and competently, increasing support for the benefit of research among diverse populations.

## HUMAN GENETICS SCHOLARS INITIATIVE

Made possible with support from NHGRI, Biogen, and Color, the **Human Genetics Scholars Initiative** (HGSi) supports the professional success of diverse early-career genetics and genomics researchers by providing them with year-round education, networking, and mentoring and works to develop a community of researchers and leaders committed to diversity and inclusion at their institutions and in training programs. The first cohort of Human Genetics Scholars were selected in August 2019.

### 2019-2020 Human Genetics Scholars



**Paola Giusti-Rodriguez, PhD**  
Research Assistant Professor  
UNC Chapel Hill



**Latrice Landry, PhD**  
Genomic Medicine Fellow  
Harvard Medical School



**Candace Middlebrooks, PhD**  
IRTA Postdoctoral Fellow  
NHGRI



**Derrick Morton, PhD**  
FIRST Postdoctoral Fellow  
Emory University



**Christopher Robles**  
Graduate Research Fellow  
UCLA



**Athena Starlard-Davenport, PhD**  
Assistant Professor  
Univ Tennessee HSC



**Jason Torres, PhD**  
Senior Genetic Epidemiologist  
University of Oxford



**Krystal Tsosie, MPH, M.A.**  
Doctoral Researcher  
Vanderbilt University

## EXPANSION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRY AWARDS

In partnership with NHGRI, H3Africa, and PerkinElmer Genomics, ASHG considerably expanded our existing **Developing Country Awards** program to support the attendance of 37 early career researchers from developing countries with low- and lower-middle income economies at the ASHG 2019 Annual Meeting.



*Developing Country Award recipients and ASHG leaders at the 2019 Diversity Reception*

## DIGITAL PROGRAMS

Through year-round digital access to webinars and Annual Meeting content, ASHG connects the human genetics and genomics community with the latest scientific advances and career development resources.

### WEBINARS

- Genomic Medicine at the Population Level - *September 2019*
- Cell-Free DNA: Biology and Applications - *November 2019*
- Therapeutic Genome Editing - *December 2019*
- Using Social Media as a Scientist - *February 2020*
- Engaging Your Community Around Genetics - *April 2020*
- The Need for Science Advocacy and How to Get Started - *May 2020*
- Flexing Your Technical Expertise While Adapting to Change - *June 2020*



### AJHG ONLINE JOURNAL CLUBS

In spring 2020, ASHG launched *AJHG* Online Journal Clubs to foster learning and inspire discussion and questions about recent articles published in *AJHG*.

- Developing Allele-Specific Huntington Disease Therapeutics - *April 2020*
- Allele-Specific QTL Fine Mapping with PLASMA - *May 2020*
- Improved Detection of Chromosomal Rearrangements in Developmental Diseases - *June 2020*



## CAREER DEVELOPMENT

ASHG provides in-person and digital events and resources to advance the careers of our members as genetics and genomics professionals including ASHG Careers, professional development education sessions, and the brand-new Career Fair at the ASHG Annual Meeting.

### CAREER FAIR @ ASHG ANNUAL MEETING

For the first time, ASHG held a Career Fair at the ASHG 2019 Annual Meeting with 21 organizations recruiting talented genetics and genomics professionals to join their teams.



## EARLY-CAREER FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

ASHG and the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) co-sponsor **two fellowships** annually to support early-career genetics and genomics professionals with advanced degrees seeking a career transition.

### Genetics & Public Policy Fellowship

Designed for those interested in genetics-related health and research policies at a national level. Fellows participate in policy analysis at NHGRI, ASHG, and the U.S. Congress.



**Sammy Katta, PhD**  
2019-2020 Genetics  
& Public Policy Fellow

### Genetics Education & Engagement Fellowship

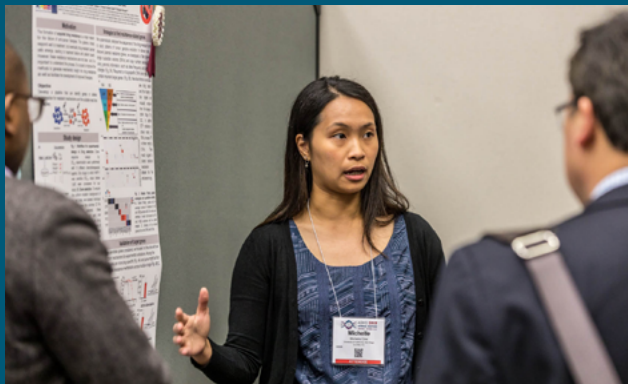
Designed for those interested in genetics literacy, public engagement, diversity, and/or professional development for K-12 to professional levels. Fellows participate in projects at NHGRI, ASHG, and a third organization.



**Sarah Robbins, PhD**  
2019-2020 Genetics Education  
& Engagement Fellow

### Charles Epstein Trainee Awards for Excellence in Human Genetics Research

The **Charles Epstein Trainee Awards** honor excellence in research conducted by predoctoral and postdoctoral trainees, recognizing highly competitive abstracts submitted and presented at the ASHG Annual Meeting.



*Epstein Trainee Award finalist presenting a research poster at the first-ever Excellence in Genetics Awards Reception*

### 2019 Charles Epstein Trainee Award Recipients

PREDOCTORAL

- Joseph Park**, *University of Pennsylvania*
- Katherine Rhodes**, *University of Chicago*
- Manar Zaghlula**, *Baylor College of Medicine*

POSTDOCTORAL

- Diana Cousminer, PhD**  
*Children's Hospital of Philadelphia*
- Linda Kachuri, PhD**  
*University of California, San Francisco*
- Chelsea Lowther, PhD**  
*Massachusetts General Hospital*

## ADVOCACY & POLICY

ASHG speaks out on behalf of the human genetics and genomics community – writing perspectives on the implications of genetics and genomics discoveries; calling for Congress to invest in research; and promoting evidence-based policies that benefit science, personal and public health, and society at large.

### PERSPECTIVES

As part of our ongoing commitment to address and foster discussion about the ethical, legal, and social implications of genetics and genomics research, ASHG publishes a “Perspectives” series of short statements in *AJHG*. This past year’s pieces included:

#### Reproductive Choice and Research

Laws should recognize the reproductive rights of women—including the option to terminate a pregnancy—and their ability to advance medical research through the donation of fetal tissue for research.

#### Advocating for Genetics and Genomics Research

ASHG supports members and the greater community in advocating for research to policymakers as continued funding and public support are essential for driving progress in genetics and genomics research.

#### Advancing Research and Privacy

Core privacy principles should be applied to all research, regardless of the funding source, as the responsible use of all large-scale genetics and genomics data must preserve the confidentiality of personal genetic information.

### CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS

ASHG and the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG) partnered together this past year to launch a series of briefings to educate members of Congress and their staff about topics and issues within the field of human genetics and genomics.

#### The Undiagnosed Diseases Network (UDN): The Interface of Research and Clinical Care to Solve Medical Mysteries

Sponsored by Representative Dave Loebsack (D-IA), the first briefing of the series in September 2019 included presentations from researchers and clinicians on the importance of NIH funding to the development and success of the Undiagnosed Diseases Network (UDN). Danny Miller also gave a passionate testament to how the UDN has benefited the lives of his two children and why he believes federal funding is so vital to helping others who have undiagnosed diseases.



L-R: Katie Murray, a staffer in briefing sponsor Rep. Loebsack’s office; and speakers John Phillips III, MD; Bill Gahl, MD, PhD; Gail Jarvik, MD, PhD; and Danny Miller.



## CONGRESSIONAL LETTERS AND TESTIMONY

The Society regularly sends letters and submits written testimony to U.S. policymakers advocating for additional scientific research funding and to advance policies that aid innovation and the research workforce.

### Public Investment in Genetics & Genomics Research

ASHG submitted written testimony to the House Appropriations Committee seeking \$44.7 billion for NIH in Fiscal Year 2021 and an additional \$26 billion to federal research agencies to help the research enterprise recover from COVID-19.

### Anti-Asian Discrimination

ASHG united with other professional scientific organizations to applaud and support Congressional resolutions to denounce Asian discrimination as related to COVID-19 and affirm the vital role of researchers of Asian ancestry.

### Strengthening Diversity in STEM

ASHG expressed support for the STEM Opportunities Act of 2019 to foster inclusivity and diversity in the research workforce through a letter to U.S. House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

### Opposing Gene Patenting

ASHG joined with other professional scientific organizations to oppose a draft bill that sought to reform the U.S. Patent Act to allow for the patenting of genes.

## ASHG ADVOCATES

Since 2018, over 500 members have pledged to take action as advocates for human genetics and genomics research. Multiple **ASHG Advocates** participated in the 2019 Rally for Medical Research during which representatives of 300 national organizations came together to build awareness about the importance of medical research and call on Congress to make NIH funding a priority.



Attendee (left) at 2019 ASHG Annual Meeting signing up to be an ASHG Advocate



ASHG Advocates, Grace Kwon (left) and Emily Davenport (right) participating in the 2019 Rally for Medical Research

# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

ASHG actively engages the public in learning more about their genomes and exploring the benefits and implications of genetics and genomics for society-at-large.

## SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

### Reddit Discussion

ASHG hosted its first discussion panel on the Reddit Science (or r/science) page in May 2020. Four panelists answered questions from science-interested Reddit users about solving biological problems related to human diseases by studying animal models.

### #ChromosomeClash

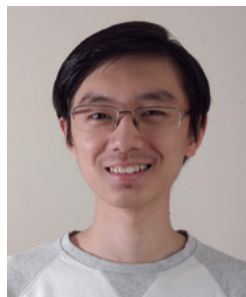
Throughout April 2020, ASHG shared facts with members and the public about each human chromosome (#GENEFacts) via Twitter. ASHG then organized the Chromosome Clash, a March Madness-style bracket for followers to vote on their favorite chromosome. Chromosome 18 beat out all others to emerge as champion.

## DNA DAY ESSAY CONTEST

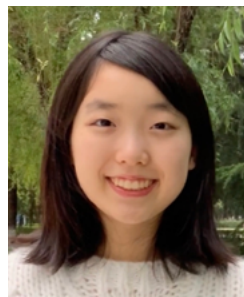
Since 2006, the Society has led the **DNA Day Essay Contest** annually, seeking to spark excitement and learning among the next generation of genetics professionals and foster greater genetic literacy among the general public. For 2020, ASHG received 855 essays exploring ancestry genetic testing and cultural heritage from high school students across 39 U.S. states and 28 non-U.S. countries.



**Anisha Parsan**  
Teacher:  
**Ricardo Garcia**  
School:  
**Clements High School**  
Location:  
**Sugar Land, TX**



**Darren Lee**  
Teacher:  
**Virginia Toepfer**  
School:  
**Farmington High School**  
Location:  
**Farmington, CT**



**Jasmine Li**  
Teacher:  
**Clyde Cao**  
School:  
**Xi'an Liangjiatan School**  
Location:  
**Xi'an, Shaanxi, China**



**Ananya Raghavan**  
Teacher:  
**Amanda Orenstein**  
School:  
**Morris Hills High School**  
Location:  
**Rockway, NJ**



Read the winning essays at [ashg.org/dnaday](https://ashg.org/dnaday)

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS ON GENETICS AND GENOMICS RESEARCH

Americans are curious and hopeful about genetics and genomics research and its emerging health applications according to a 2020 survey that ASHG conducted in partnership Research!America. These **survey results** are fueling ASHG’s public communication strategies and efforts promoting the benefits and promise of genetics and genomics.

### AMERICANS ARE CURIOUS AND HOPEFUL ABOUT HUMAN GENETICS RESEARCH

Please select the top five words that best reflect your attitudes towards human genetics research:



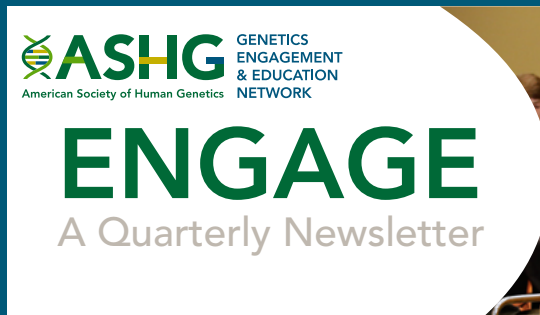
**RESEARCH!AMERICA** DISCOVERY INNOVATION HEALTH  
**ASHG** American Society of Human Genetics  
 Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics with support from American Society of Human Genetics in December 2019.

### Key Findings

- Americans are curious and hopeful about human genetics research.
- Americans support federal funding for genetic research.
- Americans think genetic research is important to improving family health.
- Consent and privacy are important for participation in genetic research.
- Most Americans have misconceptions about some concepts of human genetics.
- Most Americans are not familiar with key promising areas of research like precision medicine.

## ENGAGE

ASHG launched a new newsletter – ENGAGE – for members interested in public engagement and education. The newsletter highlights members of the community, public engagement resources, and upcoming events and is available to those who have joined the Genetics Engagement & Education (GENE) Network. The GENE Network is a place where the public can connect with ASHG members about human genetics-related questions and can be used to organize public engagement activities.

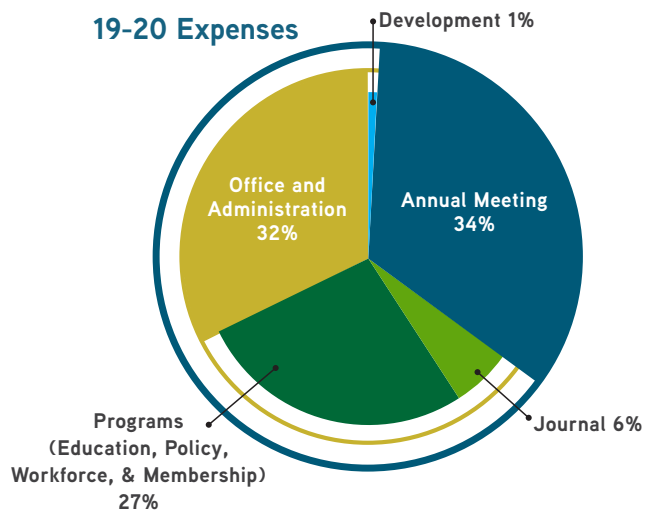
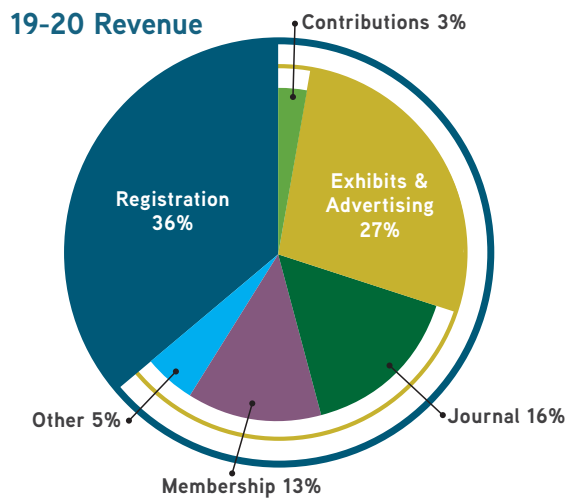


## FINANCES

In Fiscal year 2020, ASHG finances remained sound despite volatile financial markets and the first months of the Covid-19 pandemic. This result was thanks to continued support from dedicated members, forward-thinking volunteer leadership, strong staff program execution, and the engagement of seasoned investment advisors. Preliminary financial results are presented here and audited financial statements will be available online.

### FY 2020 PERFORMANCE

Thanks to enthusiastic attendance at the Houston Annual Meeting, excellence in scientific publishing, and loyal membership support, ASHG finished the June 30, 2020 fiscal year with operating revenue exceeding expenses, and the investment portfolio produced a positive return. Including all sources, revenue totaled approximately \$8.0 million and expenses were \$7.5 million, producing an increase in net assets of just over \$500,000.



**Operations:** Operational revenue benefited from excellent attendance results and record-breaking exhibits to produce a net surplus for the 2019 Annual Meeting. The continued excellence of The American Journal of Human Genetics, a newly launched open access journal, membership, consistent investment returns, and continued prudent expense management all contributed to the overall positive results.

**Reserve Portfolio:** FY2020 was the first year the Society’s investment portfolio was under the stewardship of the ASHG Investment Committee, with consultation from new investment advisors, and the committee quickly confronted volatile financial markets. The Society’s investment portfolio weathered the market gyrations and reported a twelve-month portfolio gain of just over \$425,000 for a reserve total of \$19.4 million at year end.

**Strategic Investments:** Reserve gains provided the opportunity to reinvest further in the Society’s member programs and services. The Board continued its authorization for use of up to 2.5% of the reserves value annually to support strategic initiatives. In 2020, these strategic investments included advocacy outreach, enriched public engagement and expanded workforce diversity and inclusion. The Society also gratefully accepted valued individual donations and secured several large grants and contributions to support expansion of our developing country awards and diversity and inclusion initiatives.

## PARTNERS

ASHG partners with numerous organizations and government agencies to collaborate on initiatives or fund the creation or expansion of programs that help ensure people everywhere realize the benefits of human genetics and genomics research.

### COLLABORATING PARTNERS

The Society collaborates with multiple other nonprofit and governmental organizations to advance policies and programs that advance scientific research.

- Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research
- American Association for the Advancement of Science
- American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics
- American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics
- Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students
- Consortium on Sexual Harassment in STEMM
- European Society of Human Genetics
- Federation of American Societies of Experimental Biology
- International Federation of Human Genetics Societies
- National Human Genetics Research Institute
- National Science Teachers Association
- National Society of Genetic Counselors
- Research!America
- Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science
- U.S. National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine

### CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS & SPONSORS

Thank you to those organizations who joined in support of programs and initiatives that benefit the human genetics and genomics research community through their generous financial and volunteer contributions.



ASHG/NHGRI Fellowships  
Human Genetics Scholars Initiative  
2019 Developing Country Awards



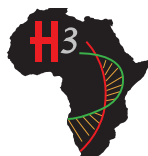
Human Genetics Scholars Initiative



Human Genetics Scholars Initiative



2019 Developing Country Awards



2019 Developing Country Awards



2019 Charles Epstein Trainee Awards



2019 ASHG Webinar: Population Genomics



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Our donors make a huge impact on the genetics and genomics community and society at large. Thank you for all you do for the Society and the community. The individuals listed below made charitable gifts between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

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ASHG especially thanks and recognizes the dedication and hard work of our leaders and staff. We also thank the hundreds of member volunteers who engage with ASHG and serve the human genetics community through participation in Committees, Task Forces, Working Groups, Advisory Groups, and other volunteer activities. The Society could not serve the field successfully without your engagement and expertise. Thank you!

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