

# ASHG

American Society of Human Genetics

## ADVOCATE UPDATE

### President Biden's Science Team and Agenda



Image: Biden-Harris Transition

President Biden has nominated Eric Lander, PhD, to serve as the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and for the first time, the position is now Cabinet-level. Other science advisors include the appointments of Alondra Nelson, PhD, as the OSTP Deputy Director, and Francis Collins, MD, PhD, continuing in his role as the Director of the NIH. [ASHG](#)

[applauds](#) the Administration for appointing scientists in key leadership positions. Since taking office, President Biden has signed numerous executive orders related to COVID-19 response, climate change, racial justice, and policies related to immigration that affect international scientists and scholars. Check out the [ASHG website](#) for more details.

### ASHG Recommends \$46.1 Billion for NIH



ASHG has joined the broader biomedical research community in [recommending \\$46.1 billion](#) for the NIH in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022. Led by the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, the community letter outlines why an increase of \$3.1 billion over FY 2021 is necessary to allow meaningful growth and to support the research enterprise.

## NHGRI-ASHG Genetics and Public Policy Fellowship



Applications for ASHG's 2021-2022 [Genetics and Public Policy Fellowship](#) will be open from February 24 to April 20. The fellowship is designed for early-career professionals transitioning to policy and is co-sponsored by the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI). We encourage all interested and eligible members to apply!

## In Other News

- Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO) and a large group of co-sponsors reintroduced the [Research Investment to Spark the Economy \(RISE\) Act](#), which would provide research relief related to COVID-19 impacts.
- Due to the Memorandum on '[Regulatory Freeze Pending Review](#),' the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has [withdrawn the Notices of Proposed Rulemaking \(NPRM\)](#) on the Federal Register on wellness programs under the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has issued a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) on federally funded research involving fetal tissue.
- The International Commission on the Clinical Use of Human Germline Genome Editing will host a [discussion](#) on February 26, 2021, 9:00 a.m. EST regarding the implications of this technology for genetic disease and disability communities.
- The European Society of Human Genetics issued a [statement](#) on the misuses of genetic tests and biobanks.

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