



American Society of Human Genetics
ADVOCATE UPDATE

NIH Budget Increases by 3% for 2021



The [omnibus spending bill](#) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, signed into law at the end of the year, allocated \$42.9 billion for the NIH, an increase of \$1.25 billion over FY 2020. The omnibus bill included a \$900 billion COVID-19 relief package that provided \$1.25 billion for the NIH for COVID-19 related research. There was no additional emergency funding to help offset costs

related to the impact of COVID-19 on researchers.

However, in a call hosted by Research!America, Dr. Larry Tabak, Principal Deputy Director of the NIH, stated that the NIH is “committed to try and redress some of these challenges” for extramural researchers. Informed in part by the [survey assessing the impact of COVID-19](#) on the NIH-supported workforce’s ability to conduct research, Dr. Tabak laid out three priorities: early career scientists including trainees, established investigators, and high priority clinical trials. One such program is the [Stephen I. Katz Early Stage Investigator Research Project Grant](#). The deadline for the first cycle is January 26, 2021.

EEOC Proposes New Rules Related to Wellness Programs Under GINA

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s (EEOC) recently announced its intent to publish [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 proposed rules mandate that “employers may offer no more than a de minimis incentive to encourage participation in wellness programs.” The NRPMs are in response to a court decision

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

29 CFR Part 1635

RIN 3046-AB02

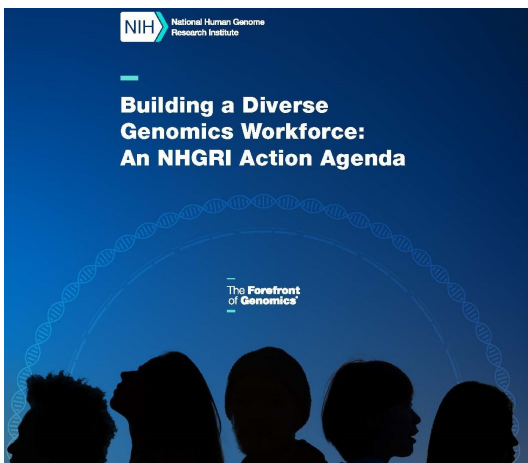
Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act

AGENCY: Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

ACTION: Final rule.

regarding the EEOC's revised regulations issued in 2016. At the time, ASHG [opposed](#) the revised regulations because they would weaken privacy protections in the GINA and ADA. Following publication on the Federal Register, the public will have 60 days to submit comments.

Building a More Diverse Genomics Workforce



As part of ASHG's commitment to building a more diverse workforce, the Society has launched the [Human Genetics and Genomics Workforce Diversity Initiative](#). The initiative is supported by the NHGRI as part of its newly released [action agenda](#) for a diverse genomics workforce. Check out the [commentary](#) by Drs. Vence Bonham and Eric Green in the latest issue of the *American Journal of Human Genetics*.

In Other News

- ASHG supported efforts led by the Association for Molecular Pathology to [express concerns to Sen. Thom Tillis's \(R-NC\) office](#) regarding the potential impact of patent reform legislation on the patenting of genes.
- ASHG also signed a [multi-society letter](#) led by the International Society for Stem Cell Research to President-elect Biden urging him to rescind the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) 2019 policy restrictions on federally funded human fetal tissue research.

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

[Privacy Policy](#)