



American Society of Human Genetics

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March 11, 2021

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chairwoman, Committee on Commerce, Science
& Transportation
United States Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Member, Committee on Commerce, Science,
& Transportation
United States Senate
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Cantwell and Ranking Member Wicker,

On behalf of the nearly 8000 members of the American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG), we are pleased to endorse the nomination of Dr. Eric Lander as the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).

ASHG is the primary professional membership organization for human genetics specialists worldwide. The Society's membership encompasses researchers, clinicians, genetic counselors, nurses, and others who have an interest in human genetics. ASHG is committed to advancing human genetics in science, health, and society in service to the public. We, therefore, recognize the critical role of the OSTP has in leading federal science and technology strategies to drive innovation to serve the nation, and improve public health.

Dr. Lander is a demonstrated leader who brings a wealth of scientific expertise and foresight. He was a major leader in the Human Genome Project and The Cancer Genome Atlas—projects that have been fundamental in the field and research. In 2004, Dr. Lander launched the Broad Institute, a research institution in which scientists collaboratively tackle challenges in genomic medicine. He served as co-chair of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology for President Barack Obama.

Dr. Lander is the 2018 recipient of ASHG's William Allan Award, the Society's top honor which recognizes a scientist for substantial and far-reaching scientific contributions to human genetics. Among his awards and honors are: the Rhodes Scholarship, the MacArthur Fellowship, the Gairdner Foundation International Award in Canada, the Albany Prize in Medicine and Biological Research, the Mendel Medal of the Genetics Society of the UK, and the Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences.

As we work to emerge from the unprecedented challenges of the past year, it is crucial that the Senate confirm a proven leader in Dr. Lander to help set science and technology policies that benefit all Americans. We urge the Committee to swiftly advance Dr. Lander's nomination. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Derek Scholes (dscholes@ashg.org), Senior Director of Policy and Advocacy, if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Gail P. Jarvik, M.D., Ph.D.
2021 President, ASHG

Mona V. Miller
Chief Executive Officer, ASHG