



American Society of Human Genetics

ADVOCATE UPDATE

Dr. Francis Collins to Step Down as NIH Director



*Francis Collins, MD, PhD, with Bill Gates
2017 ASHG Presidential Symposium*

Early this month, Francis Collins, MD, PhD, [announced his decision](#) to step down as the director of the NIH by year's end. Dr. Collins has served as director for more than 12 years since his appointment by President Barack Obama in 2009. ASHG President Gail Jarvik, MD, PhD, issued a [statement](#) in acknowledgment of Dr. Collin's contributions to human genetics and genomics research, and biomedical research. In 2012, the Society recognized his achievements

by presenting him with the ASHG McKusick Leadership Award.

ASHG is Launching New Advocacy Training Program

**JOIN THE ADVOCACY CERTIFICATE FOR
HUMAN GENETICS AND GENOMICS
TRAINEES (ACGT) PROGRAM!**

The Society is excited to announce the Advocacy Certificate for Human Genetics and Genomics Trainees (ACGT) program. The new year-long program will give ASHG trainees the opportunity to learn about science policy and what it means to be an advocate for human genetics and genomics research. Applications will open on November 3, 2021. Stay tuned for more information on [ASHG's website!](#)

Eligibility: Must be an ASHG trainee member (Resident/Clinical Fellow, Postdoc, Graduate or Undergraduate Student)

What to expect:

- Gain experience in science policy and advocacy
- Learn how to communicate effectively about your research and science to elected officials

NIH Budget to Stay Flat Through December 3



On September 30, 2021, President Biden signed a Continuing Resolution (CR), a temporary funding measure for the federal government, through December 3. Under the CR, NIH's budget will remain at Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 funding levels. A provision in the CR allows the NIH to provide no-cost extensions to specific multiyear grants impacted by the pandemic.

In Other News

- The 2021 ASHG Annual Meeting will take place virtually on October 18-22, 2021. If you haven't already done so, please [register at ASHG's website](#).
- NIH has announced that it will provide \$2500 in [childcare cost support](#) to predoctoral and postdoctoral trainees appointed on the National Research Service Awards (NRSA) institutional training awards in FY 2022.
- A [readout](#) of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) meeting held on September 28-29, 2021, is now available. The PCAST focused on U.S. research competitiveness and security, and pandemic preparedness in its first meeting.
- The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and NIH has released a [summary report](#) of the listening sessions for the proposed Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H). Read Dr. Jarvik's remarks, on behalf of ASHG, during the August 11, 2021 session [here](#).