



American Society of Human Genetics

ADVOCATE UPDATE

ASHG Welcomes Trainees to First ACGT Program Meeting



ASHG welcomed the first cohort of the Advocacy Certificate for Human Genetics and Genomics Trainees (ACGT) [Program](#) on February 18th. The ACGT program is a year-long program for ASHG trainee members interested in exploring what it means to be an advocate for human genetics and genomics research. This program

provides an introduction to the world of science policy and advocacy, and helps trainees build their professional skills. Applications for the 2023 ACGT cohort will open in late 2022.

Genomic Data Sharing & Security Workshop



In late January, Gail Jarvik, MD, PhD, 2021 ASHG President, spoke at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (NCCoE) Virtual Workshop on the Cybersecurity of Genomic Data. Dr. Jarvik emphasized that responsible, broad data-sharing is a hallmark of the human genetics community and necessary for research advancements. Read our [blog](#) written by ASHG's 2021-2022 Genetics & Public Policy Fellow, Nichole

Holm, PhD.

New Fact Sheets: Human Genetics Delivers Health Advances



ASHG has three new advocacy fact sheets which outline how federally funded human genetics & genomics research leads to preventing, diagnosing, & treating [chronic](#), [infectious](#), & [rare](#) diseases.

Stop Gap Funding Measure Through March 11



On February 18, President Biden enacted into law a continuing resolution (CR), or stop gap funding measure, that maintains funding for all federal agencies, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), at fiscal year (FY) 2021 levels through March 11. The federal government has been operating under a series of short-term CRs since October 1, since Congress was not able to reach an agreement on funding levels for the

current fiscal year (FY 2022) by the time that FY 2021 officially ended on September 30. Between now and March 11, Congress will work to finalize funding levels for FY 2022, including agreeing on the NIH budget. Both the House and the Senate have proposed increases for NIH for FY 2022, which was funded at \$42.9 billion in FY 2021, but the exact final funding level is still under negotiation.

In Other News

- President Biden [announced](#) that the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) science & society deputy director, Alondra Nelson, will become the temporary director, serving alongside retired NIH director Francis Collins as the interim chief science advisor. Nelson and Collins will replace Eric Lander, who served in both roles before his resignation earlier this month.
- Applications for the 2022-2023 ASHG/NHGRI Genetics & Public Policy Fellowship have opened; they are due by April 20, 2022. More information can be found [here](#).
- The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) released a new report on [Improving Diversity of the Genomics Workforce](#). Chazeman Jackson, PhD, MA, Senior Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at ASHG, co-led the workshop preceding this report.
- In early February, President Biden announced the [relaunch](#) of the Cancer Moonshot, with the mission to halve cancer deaths through increased screening & prevention measures.

- The OSTP released a [Guidance](#) in January 2022 for implementing NSPM-33, a national security policy designed to “strengthen protections of United States Government-supported R&D against foreign government interference and exploitation.”
- The OSTP released the [report](#) of its Scientific Integrity Task Force last month, responding to the President’s call to ensure accurate, evidence-based policymaking. In the report, the agency made five recommendations to guide policymaking and foster a culture of scientific integrity in federal agencies.

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