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## ASHG/NHGRI Genetics & Public Policy Fellow Shares Her Experience Working at ASHG and NHGRI



ASHG/NHGRI's 2021-2022 Genetics & Public Policy Fellow, Nichole Holm, PhD, [shares her story](#) and perspective halfway through her fellowship. *"My understanding of the ways in which my scientific training could be applied in policy has expanded dramatically, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to work within these incredible organizations. This experience has confirmed that scientific skills can still be used beyond the bench to help the public, and after the fellowship I would like to continue working at this intersection of research, health, and policy. I would recommend this fellowship to any early career genetics professionals intrigued by the intersection of policy and human genetics."*

[Applications](#) for the 2022-2023 Genetics & Public Policy Fellowship are open. Submissions are due by April 20, 2022 at 11:59 PM US Eastern Time.

## Washington Update: Fiscal Year 2022 Funding Passes



On March 11, Congress passed an end-of-year spending package that included \$1.5 trillion in fiscal year (FY) 2022 omnibus appropriations. The final spending package will provide modest increases in funding for almost all federal programs of interest to the research community, including an increase of \$2.03 billion over the FY 2021 enacted level for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The bill will also

establish the Biden Administration's signature biomedical research initiative, the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), and will provide \$1 billion in funding for the new agency through FY 2024. However, whether ARPA-H will be located within the NIH or exist independently is currently unresolved. [Read more on ASHG's website.](#)

## ASHG's Response to NIH's Genomic Data Sharing Policy RFI



ASHG recently [submitted a response](#) to a [Request for Information](#) (RFI) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) pertaining to its [Genomic Data Sharing Policy](#) (GDS policy). The GDS policy establishes the expectations and procedures for researchers who generate genomic data as part of their NIH-funded research, as well as for researchers who wish to gain access to individual-level genomic information housed

in NIH databases. The NIH has been exploring changes to this policy to account for technology and research advances, and released this RFI to receive public comments.

## In Other News

- In partnership with the UK Academy of Medical Sciences, the U.S. National Academies (NASEM), the World Academy of Sciences, and the Royal Society are hosting a three-part series on human genome editing ahead of the [2023 Third International Summit on Human Genome Editing](#). Registration for these events is not needed – all are available to [watch here](#).
- NASEM is holding a public workshop on [Use of Race, Ethnicity, and Ancestry as Population Descriptors in Genomics Research](#) on Monday, April 4, 2022 from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM EDT. Registration for this public workshop is [available here](#). Public comments on the current use of population descriptors and how they can be improved upon in the future can be [submitted here](#).

- The [5<sup>th</sup> ELSI Congress](#) on ethical, legal, and social implications of genetics research will be held from May 31 – June 3, 2022. Registration for this event is free and [available here](#).
- Research!America's [2022 Advocacy Awards](#) were presented on March 16. These awards honor individuals and organizations whose leadership efforts have advanced the nation's commitment to scientific, medical, and health research.
- The [All of Us NIH Research Program](#) put out a [program announcement](#) this week, highlighting the release of its initial genomic dataset. This data release not only positions *All of Us* to be one of the most diverse genomic datasets of its kind but adds to the richness of the data already available in the Researcher Workbench.

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