



American Society of Human Genetics

ADVOCATE UPDATE

The Rally for Medical Research Hill Day is Sept. 14!

10TH ANNIVERSARY • 2013-2022

RALLY FOR
**MEDICAL
RESEARCH**TM



ASHG is proud to again sponsor the [Rally for Medical Research](#) Hill Day that will take place **in-person** in Washington, D.C. on **Wednesday, September 14, 2022**. This event unites researchers, patients and industry representatives on Capitol Hill to advocate for robust, sustained, and predictable funding for NIH. [Registration is open](#); the registration

deadline is **September 2**. The deadline for [booking housing](#) at the discounted rate is **August 22**.

How to be an Advocate for Science at Home



Many members of Congress spend the month of August in their home districts. While they are home, check out "[10 Ways to be an ASHG Advocate](#)" and share your voice with your congressional representatives! Whether through a phone call, letter, e-mail or in person, science advocacy doesn't need to happen just in Washington. Attend a local event to speak with your representative about the value of genetics research and the necessity of federal science funding; write an op-ed to spread the word about the importance of robust, sustained funding for NIH; give a lab tour to show how federal funding supports research in their state or district; or write a letter to your elected representatives thanking

them when they do support research funding. For more ideas and inspiration, check out the Coalition for the Life Sciences' tips on [communicating to Congress](#). ASHG also has [advocacy fact sheets](#) to help you communicate the value of human genetics & genomics research!

President Biden Signs CHIPS and Science Act into Law



On August 9, President Biden [signed](#) the [CHIPS and Science Act of 2022](#) into law, which Congress [passed](#) at the end of July. After gridlock during bicameral conference negotiations to resolve differences between the House- ([H.R.4521](#)) and Senate-passed ([S.1260](#)) versions of the United States Innovation and Competition Act (USICA)/America COMPETES bill, the Senate agreed to focus on the more widely popular provisions related to microchips and scientific research. The negotiated bill provides \$54 billion for U.S.-based semiconductor manufacturing and authorizes significant increases for the National Science Foundation (NSF), including funding for the new NSF Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships. Funding will need to be [appropriated](#) in the future to support the expanded research programs that the Act authorizes, but the science advocacy community will use this strong foundation to advocate in future years for sustained, robust investment in all research agencies. The new act is an important affirmation that investment in science and technology must be at the forefront of American innovation and competitiveness.

In addition to ASHG's support for this overall investment in science, ASHG had been closely engaged in the progress of this bill because of a provision (Section 6102) in USICA that would have labelled genomics research an inherent "national security risk" and required NIH to adopt a "national security framework" that could impose undue restrictions on research. While ASHG continues its strong commitment to appropriate privacy and security measures for genomics data, ASHG [urged](#) the bicameral conference committee to exclude such overbroad language from the final bill and is pleased the language was not included in the final package. ASHG continues to monitor progress on the new law, and remains committed to educating Congress and other policymakers about the genomics community's active work to balance privacy and security with vital data-sharing that drives genomic discovery.

Senate Democrats Unveil FY 2023 Spending Bills, \$47 Billion Proposed for NIH Base Budget

On July 28, Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Patrick Leahy (D-VT) released drafts of the



committee's [12 fiscal year \(FY\) 2023 spending bills](#). The draft Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) spending bill would provide \$47 billion for the NIH base budget in FY 2023 (+\$2 billion over FY 2022, 4.5% increase). The Senate bill also provides \$1 billion (same funding level as FY 2022) for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health

(ARPA-H) "as a standalone agency within NIH." The House Appropriations Committee's FY 2023 Labor-HHS funding bill (+\$2.5 billion over FY 2022) was [approved](#) in late June but did not advance to the floor before the August recess. Funding for the current fiscal year is set to expire on September 30; lawmakers likely will need to pass a continuing resolution when they return. ASHG joins the nearly 400 members of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research to [recommend \\$49 billion](#) for the NIH in FY 2023.

In Other Policy & Advocacy News

- Arati Prabhakar, PhD, President Biden's nominee for Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), was [approved](#) by the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee on July 27. The full Senate confirmation vote date has not yet been shared.
- President Biden [intends to appoint](#) surgical oncologist Monica Bertagnolli, MD, as the new chief of the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Dr. Bertagnolli will replace Ned Sharpless, who stepped down in April.
- As the latest in the ongoing "[Why Invest in NIH?](#)" series, United for Medical Research recently released a [fact sheet](#) on how research funded by the NIH has a direct impact on patient lives.
- The [ELSI Friday Forum Seminar Series](#), hosted by the Center for ELSI Resources and Analysis ([CERA](#)), resumes on September 9, 2022 at noon (ET) with a seminar on Decoloniality and Genetic Ancestry: Situating the "African Genome."
- To help stay up to date on health policy topics and other issues of interest to the research community, recordings of past Research!America Alliance Discussions are [available](#) to watch.
- [Registration](#) is open for Research!America's 2022 National Health Research Forum, taking place virtually September 19-20. The theme is "Then, Now, Imagine," a [tribute](#) to the late Rep. John Edward Porter, who pushed to double funding for the NIH over five years; his support for research paved the way for the mapping of the human genome.
- In a July 28 report, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) [shared recommendations suggesting that NIH](#) and other research agencies implement practices to increase research transparency and rigor.

- On Sept. 22, NIH is [hosting](#) the second of a two-part webinar on implementing the [NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy](#), which goes into effect January 2023. Registration is required for each webinar. The webinars will also be archived for future viewing.

ASHG Calendar

- ASHG's [annual meeting](#) is **October 25-29 in Los Angeles, CA**. Early [registration](#) & pricing is still open through **August 30**.
- Check out, "How to Get Started Engaging Underrepresented Communities in Genetics & Genomics Research," when you register for the Annual Meeting. This ticketed session will give researchers actionable information and guidance on how to get started establishing collaborative research partnerships with underrepresented communities. Early-stage researchers and trainees are encouraged to participate.
- [ASHG Webinar](#) – **August 25 at 1 PM ET**. Perspectives from ASHG Members Working in Industry.

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

[Privacy Policy](#)