



American Society of Human Genetics

ADVOCATE UPDATE

Advocacy Program for ASHG Trainees Opens Next Month!



ASHG is opening applications for the 2023 [Advocacy Certificate for Human Genetics and Genomics Trainees](#) (ACGT) program in **early November**. ACGT is a competitive, year-long program aimed at providing trainee ASHG members pursuing a research or clinical career with an introduction to the world of science policy and human genetics and genomics advocacy. As part of the program, trainees will have the opportunity to participate in various key activities such as contributing to the development of ASHG's advocacy materials and [participating](#) in a Hill Day.

This program is open to ASHG members who are currently completing an undergraduate or graduate degree, postdoctoral fellows, or early career researchers in a human genetics and genomics or related field. If you are interested in applying to the ACGT program, please [apply here](#). **Applications are due no later than 11:59 p.m. on January 6, 2023.** If you have any questions regarding the program, please contact policy@ashg.org.

Take Action at ASHG 2022!

The [ASHG Annual Meeting](#) will take place in Los Angeles, CA from October 25 – 29. ASHG is your eyes and ears on Capitol Hill for policies and legislation that impact research, and facilitates opportunities for ASHG Advocates to communicate the excitement and promise of human genetics and



genomics research to policymakers. Visit the Public Outreach & Advocacy booth at ASHG Central to learn more about our ongoing activities, programs, and advocacy opportunities. Bring a friend or conference buddy so they can learn about becoming an [ASHG Advocate](#) too!

ASHG is exploring the potential to offer training programs that would help graduate-level researchers to better understand and integrate ethical, legal, and social implications (ELSI) issues into human genetics and genomics research. [We want input from trainees](#) on possible priority topics as we consider this future activity! Please participate in our survey to provide your valuable feedback at the link below! *Note: Topics reach beyond those traditionally included in Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training.*

[Take the survey](#)

President Biden Signs Bill to Fund Government until December 16



On Sept. 30, the final day of the fiscal year, President Biden [signed into law](#) the Continuing Appropriations and Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023, a continuing resolution (CR) to temporarily extend fiscal year (FY) 2022 spending levels until Dec. 16. The CR also includes a reauthorization of expiring Food and Drug Administration (FDA) user fee programs through 2027. None of the proposed FDA

policy reforms were included in the CR. Appropriators and congressional leaders are expected to reengage in negotiations to finalize federal spending for FY 2023 following the Nov. midterm elections. Congress will have to pass a full budget or another CR in the “lame duck” session after the Nov. 8 elections to avert a shutdown again.

Senate Confirms New Director of OSTP, Dr. Arati Prabhakar

On Sept. 22, the Senate [confirmed](#) Arati Prabhakar, PhD, to lead the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). Dr. Prabhakar previously led the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and served as director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). Dr. Prabhakar becomes the first woman, immigrant,



and person of color to lead OSTP and act as the president's chief science adviser. Dr. Alondra Nelson has been leading the office as the acting director and Dr. Francis Collins, former NIH director, was President Biden's science adviser in the interim. The OSTP director oversees science and technology policies, including economic competitiveness and the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) initiative.

In Other Policy & Advocacy News

- On Oct. 12, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) Roundtable on Genomics and Precision Health is hosting a [public workshop](#) that will examine how genomic data are used in health care settings and to examine strategies to ensure that genomic applications are responsibly and equitably adopted to benefit populations as well as individuals over time.
- On Oct. 13 from 1:30 to 2:15 pm ET, Research!America is holding an [alliance discussion](#) where early-career researchers will share their ideas and perspectives on research and science advocacy.
- On Oct. 14 at 12:00 pm ET, there will be an [ELSI Friday Forum](#) titled, "Advocacy and Allyship in ELSI: Opportunities and Challenges."
- ASHG 2022 President, Charles Rotimi, PhD, presented, "Why diversity in genome science and medicine is a scientific and social justice imperative." The [lecture](#) at Case Western Reserve University launched the Bioethics Center for Community Health and Genomic Equity (CHANGE), which addresses ethical issues related to health equity and genomics.
- The 47th annual AAAS Science & Technology Policy Forum will gather in person and virtually October 25-26, 2022 to discuss major current challenges affecting science, policy, and society. The deadline to [register](#) is October 21 and there is a discounted rate for students/early-career researchers.
- A [new report](#) from NASEM recommends a range of actions the federal government should take to maintain the United States' global leadership in science and technology. The report recommends the government shift from its historical emphasis on protecting specific technologies from access by competitor nations to developing and strengthening the nation's ability to innovate.
- ELSI Hub released a [new collection of articles](#) addressing the complex, historical reasons why global Indigenous peoples have largely not engaged in genetics and genomics research. This collection was collated by ASHG member Krystal Tsosie, PhD, MPH, MA.
- Monica Bertagnolli, MD, [began work](#) as the 16th director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Dr. Bertagnolli joins NCI from Harvard Medical School where she served as a surgical oncologist at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, and a member of the Gastrointestinal Cancer Treatment and Sarcoma Centers at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston.

- Registration is now open for the [Third International Summit on Human Genome Editing](#). The summit will take place on March 6-8, 2023 at the Francis Crick Institute, London, UK. Individuals may register for in person or virtual attendance.
- NIH recently released supplemental information for the implementation of the [NIH Policy for Data Management and Sharing \(DMS\)](#). This consists of information regarding protecting privacy when sharing human research participant data and the responsible management and sharing of American Indian/Alaska Native participant data. NIH [hosted a webinar](#) on the DMS Policy, including these topics.

ASHG Calendar

- ASHG's [annual meeting](#) is in less than two weeks! We are looking forward to seeing members in-person on October 25-29 in Los Angeles, CA. Don't forget to build your ASHG 2022 schedule with the [online planner](#)!
- All attendees at the ASHG 2022 Annual Meeting are required to have up-to-date COVID-19 vaccinations. ASHG is confirming ONLY the primary COVID-19 vaccination course and requires attendees to self-certify they are up-to-date with boosters. You can visit our [health and safety page](#) which outlines masking recommendations, and other protocols to support a safer and welcoming environment for attendees.

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