



ASHG 75

American Society of Human Genetics — YEARS

ADVOCATE UPDATE

February 2023

ASHG Welcomes the 2nd Cohort in the ACGT Program



On February 16, the second class of the [Advocacy Certificate for Human Genetics & Genomics Trainees](#) (ACGT) program kicked off with a virtual orientation and webinar introducing policy & advocacy at ASHG. Cynthia Casson Morton, PhD, chair of ASHG's Government & Public Advocacy Committee (GPAC), and CEO Mona Miller, MPP, welcomed the new cohort and spoke about how important this program is to the mission of ASHG. The ACGT advocates will attend monthly webinars and activities over the course of the year to learn more about science policy and how to be an advocate for human genetics research. [Learn more](#) about this year's cohort!

Research Community Recommends at least \$51 Billion for NIH in FY 2024



In February, the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research released the "ask" for FY 2024 in a letter to Congressional appropriation leaders. The biomedical research community has proposed at least \$51 billion for NIH's base budget with funding for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) to supplement, not supplant, the foundational investment in NIH. In the FY 2023 omnibus that was signed into law in December 2022, NIH funding was set at \$47.5 billion. This new number represents an increase of \$3.5 billion (+7.3%) over the FY 2023 budget.

Presenting a united front during the FY 2024 appropriations process strengthens the voices of the research community in our communications with Congress.

ASHG Continues Dialogue on Responsible Community Engagement



On February 16, ASHG held a webinar entitled, "[Successes in Community Engaged Research: Implementation of Recommendations in ASHG's Guidance, Addressing Underrepresentation in Genomics Research through Community Engagement](#)." Panelists Tabia Henry Akintobi, PhD, MPH, and Ambroise Wonkam, MD, PhD, presented examples and lessons learned from their own work and collaborations such as identifying local influencers from the community who can guide you; building authentic partnerships; centering research outcomes to benefit the community; and taking the time to listen. Full speaker biographies and the recording are available [here](#).

Save the Date for the 11th Annual Rally for Medical Research Hill Day - Thursday, September 14, 2023!



The 11th annual "Rally for Medical Research Hill Day" is planned for September 14, with the reception to take place during the evening of Wednesday, September 13, 2023. This event is an opportunity for supporters from the 400 participating organizations (including ASHG) to join together to speak with one voice about making NIH funding a national priority. Stay tuned for more information on how to register for this event!

In Other News

- The White House FY 2024 budget is projected to be released on Mar. 9, CQ News [reports](#). This release will launch the annual appropriations process once again as Congress begins to develop its own FY 2024 budget allocations.
- At the [State of the Union address](#) on Feb. 7, President Biden addressed critical public health and research priorities, including cancer, opioid addiction, mental health, and the development of new vaccines and treatments. Genetics and genomics underlie much of the research in these areas, and ASHG continues to be an advocate for its potential to benefit all people.
- Research!America published a new advocacy tool, "[Congressional Meetings 101](#)." As the research community plans Spring advocacy activities, this resource will help prepare members for successful congressional meetings. ASHG also has [advocacy fact sheets](#) on key human genetics & genomics topics.
- On Feb. 10, Alondra Nelson stepped down from her position as deputy director at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, [Axios reports](#).
- The Senate Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee [will be chaired](#) by Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) with Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) serving as the subcommittee's ranking member. Funding for NIH falls under the jurisdiction of this subcommittee.
- In a Feb. 2 [press release](#), Research!America [released data](#) from a Jan. 23 survey suggesting that Americans across the political spectrum agree research and development (R&D) investment drives job creation, innovation, and global leadership. President and CEO of Research!America, Mary Woolley, [discussed](#) the survey findings on C-SPAN's *Washington Journal*.

- The next [ELSI Friday Forum](#) seminar will be held on March 10 - The Genie Is Out of the Bottle for Polygenic Screening of Embryos: Where To From Here? - [Register here](#).

ASHG Calendar

- On March 8, ASHG will host a journal club webinar entitled, "[Prioritization of non-coding elements involved in non-syndromic cleft lip with/without cleft palate through genome-wide analysis of de novo mutations](#)." Kerstin Ludwig, PhD, will present on their paper in *HGG Advances* on identification of risk variants for non-syndromic cleft lip with/without cleft palate, using whole-genome sequence data.

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