



ADVOCATE UPDATE

October 2023

U.S. House of Representatives Enters 3rd Week Without Speaker Leaving FY24 Appropriations on Pause



On September 30, Congress narrowly avoided a shutdown with a bipartisan [continuing resolution](#) (CR) that keeps the government funded through November 17. The CR continues FY23 funding temporarily for most federal agencies and programs, including the NIH. With the subsequent [ousting](#) of Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA-20) as Speaker on October 3, any progress in the House on the 12 annual spending bills has been placed on hold with a high level of uncertainty surrounding funding for various research agencies. In addition to the risk of a future government shutdown (see article in [Science](#)) there is a risk of [funding cuts to key research agencies](#) as negotiations surrounding the annual spending bills continue with no clear end in sight. The voice of the genetics and genomics community matters -- as the House and Senate are considering FY24 funding, make sure Congress knows Americans want #CuresNotCuts! [Contact your Members of Congress](#) using Research!America's advocacy tools!

The 2024-2026 Genetics & Public Policy Fellowship Application is Open!



ASHG and the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) are co-sponsoring the [Genetics and Public Policy Fellowship](#) -- now for a 2-year duration. The prestigious fellowship includes 6-month rotations in the NIH within the NHGRI Policy and Program Analysis Branch, with ASHG in the non-profit science policy and advocacy sector, and a year in a staff position on Capitol Hill. **The application is now open** and complete submissions are **due November 30th, 2023**. The position is open to those who hold an advanced degree and are interested in the development and implementation of genetics-related health and research policies at the national level. The fellowship is a gateway for genetics professionals to enter the

sphere of policy-making. To learn more about how to apply, visit <https://www.ashg.org/careers-learning/fellowships/policy/>, or contact the program organizers at fellowship@ashg.org.

Attending the ASHG Annual Meeting? Join the Conversation!



With [ASHG's 2023 Annual Meeting](#) and [75th Anniversary Gala Celebration](#) just around the corner on November 1-5 in Washington, DC, there are many exciting ways that you can participate in conversations around genetics policy and advocacy. Catch an NIH panel on the [Genomic Data Sharing Policy](#) or attend one of the many platform sessions covering topics such as equity in Australian Aboriginal genomics or ethical considerations of social and behavioral genetics. Check out the ASHG Policy Forum, "Advancing Global Data Sharing and Complex Considerations" or attend the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAEM) Invited Session entitled, "Use of race, ethnicity, and ancestry as population descriptors in genetics and genomics research." To find out more about these sessions or explore other events at the ASHG 2023 Annual Meeting, use the [online planner](#) or visit us during the meeting at the Advocacy & Public Affairs table at ASHG Central (booth #321) in the exhibit hall.

In Other News

- 2023 [Advocacy Certificate for Human Genetics and Genomics Trainees](#) (ACGT) advocate, Anna Capria, MS, shares how the ACGT program has positively benefitted her career and facilitated her advocacy as a scientist. [Read about](#) her experience participating in the ACGT program and attending the 11th Annual Rally for Medical Research.
- On October 18, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee held a [confirmation hearing](#) for Monica Bertagnolli, MD, to be Director of the NIH. ASHG joined advocacy partners at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Research!America, Friends of Cancer Research, and others in a [support letter](#) urging Dr. Bertagnolli's swift confirmation.
- Katalin Karikó, PhD, and Drew Weissman, MD, PhD, were [awarded](#) the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for developing effective mRNA vaccines against COVID-19 during the pandemic that began in early 2020. Drs. Karikó and Weissman were the winners of the 2021 Research!America [Building the Foundation Award](#) and the [Golden Goose Award](#).
- Research!America [announced](#) the recipients of their 2024 Advocacy Awards, which include outstanding advocates for medical and health research. Awardees will be honored at the Research!America Awards Ceremony in March 2024.
- Wendy Roth, PhD and Ariela Schachter, PhD, co-principal investigators of the NIH R21 grant, "[How Does Genetic Ancestry Testing Affect Perceptions of Race?](#)" recently [spoke](#) with the Center for ELSI Resources and Analysis (CERA) staff about their project.
- The next ELSI Friday Forum will be held on November 10, 2023, at 12:00 PM ET -- [Genomics of PTSD Risk: Scientific and Ethical Perspectives](#).
- The Office of Genomics and Precision Public Health (OGPPH) at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is currently accepting [applications](#) through Dec. 31st for their Public Health Genomics Fellowship. [Click here](#) to learn more about the fellowship and the OGPPH.

ASHG Calendar

- Remember to get your ticket for ASHG's 75th Anniversary Gala! The celebration will take place on Saturday, November 4, 7:00-10:00 pm ET, at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. [Click here](#) to find more information about the gala and information on obtaining your ticket!
- In case you missed it, the complete mini-series podcast, "Introduction to The Future of Genomics and Precision Health" has been [released](#)!

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