

ASHG 75

American Society of Human Genetics — YEARS

ADVOCATE UPDATE

September 2023

Trainee Advocates Join the Rally for Medical Research



On September 14, six ASHG members participating in the [Advocacy Certificate for Human Genetics and Genomics Trainees](#) (ACGT) program joined the 11th Annual [Rally for Medical Research](#) in Washington, DC. This Capitol Hill Day convened hundreds of participants from all over the U.S. to urge Congress to support the highest possible appropriations increase for the NIH in FY 2024. ACGT advocate Christy LaFlamme, MS, a PhD candidate at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, reflected, "We can talk about ethics, economic impact, and innovation, but the bottom line is that we can't afford not to fund the NIH. Former Director of the NIH, Francis Collins, MD, PhD, once remarked that to many, the NIH is not just the National Institutes of Health, but the National Institutes of Hope."

Your Voice is Needed - Advocate for Robust NIH Funding!



ASHG members have a critical role as advocates for human genetics and genomics and communicating the importance of robust federal investment in the NIH. As the end of the fiscal year approaches, Congress still needs to hear from you about the needs of the biomedical research community and the detrimental impact a continuing resolution or a government shutdown would have on research. [Read more](#) about the current state of play of FY 2024

appropriations and contact your members of Congress and [take action to support NIH funding](#).

ASHG/NHGRI Genetics & Public Policy Fellowship Opens Next Month



ASHG and the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) co-sponsor the [Genetics & Public Policy Fellowship](#) to give genetics professionals an opportunity to contribute to the policy-making process. It is designed as a bridge for genetics professionals with an advanced degree wishing to transition to a policy career. Applications open next month. A complete application packet must be submitted by November 30th, 2023. Contact the program at fellowships@ashg.org or submit our [Fellowship Interest Form](#) to be notified about key Fellowship dates.

ASHG Discusses Public-Private Research Partnerships with FNIH CEO, Julie Gerberding



ASHG [recently spoke](#) with Julie Gerberding, MD, MPH, President and CEO of the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH), on how this organization convenes public and private partnerships to leverage expertise across a breadth of scientific industries, addresses complex health challenges, and accelerates research, particularly as it relates to human genetics and genomics. Read this and other articles in ASHG's quarterly newsletter, [The Messenger](#).

In Other News

- To avoid a shutdown at the end of the month, House Republicans are exploring a deal for a continuing resolution (CR) to fund the government through Oct. 31, 2023, [The Hill reports](#). The [CR summary](#) reports a 1% cut from FY 2023 enacted discretionary spending levels and a temporary 8% cut to non-defense, non-veterans, and non-disaster relief spending, which would impact the NIH.
- President Biden's nominee for NIH Director, Monica Bertagnolli, MD, is [expected](#) to have a Senate confirmation hearing in October.
- Applications for the National Academies' [Christine Mirzayan Science & Technology Policy Graduate Fellowship Program](#) are open until Oct. 16, 2023.
- The [2023-2024 Civic Engagement Microgrant Program](#) through Research!America provides up to \$4,000 in funding to support groups of early career researchers for projects that increase their engagement with their local community, community leaders, and elected and non-elected public officials. Build skills in policy, communications, program management, and more. Applications close on Monday, Oct. 16.
- Research!America hosted the [2023 National Health Research Forum](#) on Sept. 19-20. A recording is [now available](#).
- If you missed the Sept. 8 [ELSI Hub webinar](#) on Fair Access and Equity of Individualized Interventions for Ultrarare Genetic Conditions, you can watch the recording [here](#).
- On Sept. 19, the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology held a hearing entitled, [Chips on the Table: A one year review of the CHIPS and Science Act](#).
- Save the Date: The [6th ELSI Congress](#) (ELSIcon2024) welcomes all with an interest in the ethical, legal, and social implications (ELSI) of genomic research to Columbia University in New York City from June 10-12, 2024. A call for proposals [is now open](#).

ASHG Calendar

- [Registration](#) for the ASHG 2023 Annual Meeting taking place on November 1-5 is open! **The discounted advance rate is available until October 4.** Don't forget to get a ticket for a [special closing gala reception](#) honoring the Society's 75th Anniversary on Saturday, November 4, 7:00-10:00 pm at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. You can now purchase up to four tickets - bring a friend, colleague, loved one (16+), or someone from your lab!
- Read more about science policy-related activities at the ASHG 2023 Annual Meeting in the most recent [Nascent Transcript](#) newsletter.
- Check out the other [ASHG/NHGRI fellowship opportunities](#) opening next month!

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

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