

ASHG Membership Forum & Business Meeting
December 8, 2023
Virtual
Minutes

Welcome

ASHG President Brendan Lee welcomed attendees and thanked them for their interest in the society. The meeting gives members the opportunity to provide feedback to society leaders, improve member engagement, and ensure the Society is providing value to members. This year's meeting was presented in virtual format on Zoom. Eighty members attended.

Approval of Minutes from 2022 Meeting

The minutes from the 2022 Membership Forum & Business Meeting were approved with attendees voting 'yes' on Zoom.

Moment of Silence

Lee asked the group to observe a moment of silence in memory of ASHG members who had died since the 2022 meeting. They were as follows:

- Karl Muench
- Gloria Petersen
- Eldon Sutton
- Herbert Lubs
- Barbara Migeon
- Michael Speicher
- Joan Atkin
- Charles Scriver
- Christopher Brown

Society Updates and Achievements

Lee provided an update on ASHG activities in 2023. The Annual Meeting in Washington, DC exceeded expectations in revenue generation, and the 75th anniversary celebration activities and events that recognized ASHG's achievements and future opportunities were calendar-year highlights. The Society released a *Facing Our History Initiative* report and issued a statement acknowledging and apologizing for past harms, outlining steps it would take to address the report's findings. Lee also highlighted the Society's successes in advocacy and its continued service to the field through publishing. Finally, Lee recognized Mona Miller, former CEO, and thanked her for her service and contributions to ASHG. Lee shared excitement about the work set in motion for 2024. Lee also presented ASHG's recently released Strategic Plan '[refresh](#)' and outlined its goals.

Lee encouraged attendees to view the [annual report](#) to learn more about the Society's work.

Treasurer's Report

ASHG Treasurer Susan Slaugenhaupt provided an overview of Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023). The Society experienced a net loss of \$1.1 million. This performance met the budget approved by the Board of Directors.

For the current fiscal year (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024), the Society budgeted break-even, however a net positive outcome was expected based on strong registration numbers for the ASHG 2023 Annual Meeting. Over the five fiscal years impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Society forecasted breaking even. Slaughaupt reflected that this was a remarkable outcome. The Board of Directors was confident in the Society's strong financial position.

American Journal of Human Genetics (AJHG) Editorial Report

AJHG Editor-in-Chief Bruce Korf shared AJHG's performance metrics and impact factor. Although AJHG's impact factor decreased slightly in 2022, AJHG was ranked highly among other journals in the field, many of which also experienced decreases in impact factor. Korf highlighted AJHG's webinars, and its strong partnership with its publisher, Cell Press. Korf welcomed the new editorial Board members to AJHG and recognized the recipients for the 2023 AJHG Award for Outstanding Trainee Publication.

Lee thanked Korf and the editorial board for their hard work in 2023.

Human Genetics and Genomics Advances (HGGA) Editorial Report

HGGA Editor-in-Chief Michael Bamshad reviewed HGGA's performance metrics, specifically a new initiative focusing on submissions from presentations at ASHG's annual meeting. HGGA received its first impact factor (4.4) in June 2023. The journal received a higher impact factor than expected, and it was featured in marketing campaigns as HGGA continued to build identity and visibility. Bamshad also recognized the recipients of the 2023 HGG Advances Award for Outstanding Early Career Publication. Lee thanked Bamshad and the editorial board for their hard work in 2023.

Open Floor and Question and Answer

Lee opened the floor for questions and comments from attendees. An attendee asked about opportunities for undergraduate students at ASHG, and staff shared information on ASHG's educational programming. Another member asked about meeting cancellation insurance, and the pandemic's impact on its availability. Staff confirmed that ASHG carried cancellation insurance for each conference, and that the coverage within policies were impacted by the pandemic.

Brendan Lee thanked attendees for participating and adjourned the meeting.