



American Society of Human Genetics

ADVOCATE UPDATE

January 2024

Congress Extends Temporary Funding Until March



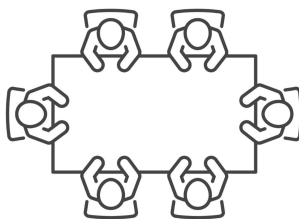
Source: Kiersten Seaburg
(Via Shutterstock)

Congress has been working on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 appropriations process for many months now. In a step towards progress, on January 7, Congressional leaders agreed to a bipartisan deal on topline numbers for defense and non-defense spending, securing [\\$772.7 billion for non-defense discretionary \(NDD\) spending](#) (which includes funding for the NIH), with biomedical research funding roughly equivalent to the current FY 2023 level. The continuing resolution (CR) that has funded the government since the fiscal year ended on September 30 was set to expire in two tiers - January 19 and February 2. A day before the first tier of funding was set to expire, [Congress passed a stopgap CR](#) that will extend the same funding levels for an additional six weeks. Unless Congress acts quickly to complete the NIH FY2024 spending bill before the new deadline, the NIH will be at risk of a shut down again - halting progress in research and slowing cures.

This is a key time to make your voice heard in support of robust and sustained NIH funding for FY24, and to ask Congress to pass the Senate's bipartisan \$49 billion NIH appropriations bill. Please take a few minutes to contact your Members of Congress [using this pre-filled email link](#) or by **clicking the "Take Action" button below.**

Take Action

Webinar Series: Navigating the Use of Population Descriptors in Human Genetics and Genomics Research



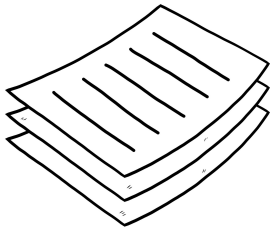
Source: Iluistrator

The ASHG Professional Practice and Social Implications (PPSI) Committee is excited to host an ELSI training virtual seminar series in late February through early March. The course, delivered through a 3-part webinar series entitled, "Navigating the Use of Population Descriptors in Human Genetics and Genomics Research" is designed to continue and build on the conversations from the [ASHG 2023 Annual Meeting](#). The webinars will take place during three

(Via Shutterstock)

consecutive Wednesdays from 12-1pm ET starting on February 21st. Stay tuned for further information!

Three New ASHG Advocacy Fact Sheets Available



Source: Owatta
(Via Shutterstock)

Three new advocacy [fact sheets](#) have been added to ASHG's repertoire of resources. These new fact sheets cover the topics of [data sharing to advance genetic and genomic knowledge](#), [how federal funding for the NIH has led to advances in gene therapy](#), and the [genetics of Parkinson's Disease](#). The fact sheets continue to serve as helpful tools in communicating how sustained, robust federal funding for genetics and genomics research leads to discoveries and cures. ASHG shares these fact sheets to help Congress better understand the impact that human genetics and genomics has on society, and, in turn, the importance of continued NIH funding.

U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, Congressional Champion for Biomedical Research, Has Passed Away

ASHG honors U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) who passed away on December 31, 2023, at the age of 89. In her nearly 30 years in Congress, she filled many leadership roles, including serving as Chair of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology. Rep. Johnson was a [champion for biomedical research and an advocate for greater diversity, equity, and inclusion in the STEM community](#). ASHG is appreciative of Rep. Johnson's longstanding commitment to science and the positive impact she has left on our community. Read more about Rep. Johnson and her legacy in this obituary published in the [Washington Post](#).

In Other News

- Joining voices with over 1,100 organizations, ASHG signed on to a [community letter](#) to Congressional leadership highlighting the perils of insufficient non-defense discretionary (NDD) funding. Within the category of NDD funding is the funding for the NIH, the National Science Foundation, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, among many other federal research agencies. [Read this letter](#) and check out ASHG's past [Public Policy Statements](#).
- ASHG recently interviewed Joni Rutter, PhD, director of the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences at the NIH about how human genetics and genomics is fueling the translational pipeline. Read more in the [Messenger article](#).
- To keep track of the House and Senate FY2024 appropriations bills, visit the [AAAS R&D Budget Program's dashboard](#).
- On January 26, the National Academies hosted a [virtual public information-gathering session](#) on the present and future practices of newborn screening (NBS) programs. Newborn screening is an application of genetic technology to improve human health. To learn more, [click here](#).
- The National Academies' Committee on the Use of Race and Ethnicity in Biomedical Research will host a virtual public workshop on January 31, 2024 to explore different research contexts in which race and ethnicity arise and new research approaches and alternatives to using race and ethnicity categories. [Click here to learn more and register for the workshop](#).
- In case you missed it, [watch the recording](#) of the newest ELSI Friday Forum, hosted on January 12 by ELSI Hub, on the topic of polygenic risk prediction.
- The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) will be hosting the 2024 [Catalyzing Advocacy in Science and Engineering \(CASE\) Workshop](#) in Washington, D.C., from April 14-17, 2024. The workshop is an opportunity for graduate

and upper-level undergraduate STEM students to expand their science advocacy toolkits, learning about science policy, advocacy and the federal policymaking process.

- Kimryn Rathmell, MD, PhD, has been appointed as the National Cancer Institute's 17th director by President Biden. [Learn more](#) about Dr. Rathmell and her new role.

ASHG Calendar

- Proposals for [Featured Symposia](#) (formerly Invited Sessions) for the ASHG 2024 Annual Meeting are now open through February 12!
- Happy New Year - remember to renew your ASHG membership for continued member benefits in 2024! [Click here](#) to manage your ASHG membership account.
- ASHG's Career Development Committee is hosting a webinar, "Industry Insights: Early-Stage Companies and Venture Capital in the Biotech Sector" on February 1. [Click here](#) to register or learn more about this free event.
- The [ASHG 2024 Annual Meeting](#) will be in Denver, Colorado from November 5-9, 2024.

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

[Privacy Policy](#)