



American Society of Human Genetics

ADVOCATE UPDATE

February 2024

Congress Races the Clock (Again) to Complete FY 2024 Appropriations



Source: Igor Guiro
(Via Shutterstock)

At the end of January, Congressional appropriators [agreed](#) to subcommittee allocations for FY (Fiscal Year) 2024 funding, including for the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education subcommittee which funds the NIH, making progress in an appropriations process more than four months overdue. These "302(b)" levels have not been made public but are expected to align with those set by [previous topline agreements](#) and are roughly equivalent to the FY 2023 funding level. Congress now has just a few weeks to finalize the twelve individual spending bills, come to a bipartisan and bicameral agreement, and pass funding for FY 2024. These tasks must be accomplished before the March deadlines set by legislators in the [most recent continuing resolution](#), at which point the clock runs out again, renewing the risk of a government shutdown.

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



Source: rizalahmad31
(Via Shutterstock)

The ASHG Professional Practice and Social Implications (PPSI) Committee is excited to host an Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications (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 at the [ASHG 2023 Annual Meeting](#) and those happening in the broader genetics and genomics community. The webinars will take place during three consecutive Wednesdays from 12-1 pm ET starting on **February 21, 2024**. This course is open to both ASHG members and non-members and is geared towards individuals new to the topic, including trainees and early career researchers. To sign up or learn more about this program [click here](#) or on the button below.

Sign Up!

Op-ed on the Critical Need for Robust NIH Funding Published in the *Birmingham News*



Bruce Korf, MD, PhD

On February 2, an op-ed by ASHG member and *American Journal of Human Genetics* Editor, Bruce Korf, MD, PhD, titled [Genetic research is critical; U.S. must keep momentum going](#) was published in the *Birmingham News*. Dr. Korf shares how genetics is at the heart of an economic engine for the Birmingham region and the state of Alabama. This article not only sheds light on the real implication of cuts to NIH research funding for the human genetics and genomics research community, but also how uncertainty surrounding NIH funding can curtail the pace of discoveries and thus cures, directly impacting healthcare. [Read the op-ed](#) and spread the word to others in the human genetics and genomics community!

In Other News

- Curious to know the impact of federal research funding? [Learn how much NIH funding goes to your state!](#)
- ASHG was one of over 1,000 organizations that [signed](#) a January 7 letter urging Congressional leaders to finish the FY24 appropriations process.
- On January 31, ASHG attended a welcome reception on Capitol Hill hosted by Research!America, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, and several other partners to welcome Dr. Monica Bertagnolli into her new position as NIH Director. With legislators from both parties among the 400 people in attendance, Dr. Bertagnolli conveyed her [priorities](#) which included the importance of fundamental research, community partnerships, diversity in clinical trials, and data sharing.
- The President's Budget Request for FY2025 funding is [expected on March 11](#), kicking off the FY25 budget process.
- Join the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG) in celebrating the sixth annual [Medical Genetics Awareness Week](#), on March 12-15, 2024, by sharing the invaluable contributions that medical genetics healthcare professionals make in the diagnosis, management, prevention and treatment of genetic diseases.
- On February 6, Research!America announced that Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) and Sen. Bill Cassidy, MD, (R-LA) have each been selected to receive the Edwin C. Whitehead Award for Medical Research Advocacy for their contributions to strengthening our nation's research capabilities and advancing medical progress. They will be honored at Research!America's [2024 Advocacy Awards](#) on March 13 in Washington, D.C.

ASHG Calendar

- ASHG Committee and Board Applications are now open! Nominate a colleague or apply for a [committee](#) or [ASHG Board](#) position by March 12, 2024.
 - The [American Journal of Human Genetics \(AJHG\)](#) is celebrating its 75th anniversary. Bruce Korf, MD, PhD, Editor in Chief of *AJHG*, reflects on the past 75 years of the journal [here](#).
 - Catch up on ASHG's "[Career Chats](#)" podcasts to hear about the challenges of running a lab, the path to a career involving bioethics, finding purpose as a scientist, and more!
 - The [ASHG 2024 Annual Meeting](#) will be in Denver, Colorado from November 5-9, 2024.
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The American Society of Human Genetics
6120 Executive Boulevard, Suite 500
Rockville, Maryland 20852

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