



American Society of Human Genetics

ADVOCATE UPDATE

April 2024

With FY24 Completed, ASHG Turns to Advocacy for FY25 NIH Funding



On March 22, Congress completed the [appropriations process for Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2024](#), passing the second set of [six funding bills](#) including the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS) appropriations bill which funds the NIH. The NIH received funding totaling \$47.081 billion, yet its base budget falls \$378 million (0.8%) short of the comparable FY 2023 funding level. The discrepancy is attributed to expected reductions in supplemental funding for the NIH through the [21st Century Cures Act](#). Looking to the future, with budget caps from the [Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023](#) still in effect, the research community expects to face a challenging fiscal environment in FY25. ASHG will continue to communicate the importance of sustained, robust funding for the NIH, and is planning engagement with Congressional offices on Capitol Hill throughout the spring.

Past ASHG Presidents Submit Op-Eds in Support of NIH Funding



ASHG 2021 and 2020 Presidents Gail Jarvik, MD, PhD, and Tony Wynshaw-Boris, MD, PhD, respectively, submitted op-eds in their home districts in support of NIH funding and shared the promise and potential of human genetics and genomics research. Dr. Jarvik, from Seattle, WA, submitted an [op-ed in the Seattle Times](#) leading up to the completion of FY24 appropriations, focusing on the importance of securing robust full-year funding for both the local economy in the Puget Sound area, as well as the impact on the national economy. Dr. Wynshaw-Boris published an [op-ed in the Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) discussing the positive impacts of genetics and genomics in his hometown of Cleveland, OH, in addition to the effects of funding for the future of genetics and genomics research as Congress begins to undertake the FY25 appropriations process.

Explore ASHG Resources on the Use of Population Descriptors in Human Genetics and Genomics Research



Last month, ASHG wrapped up a [webinar series](#) on scientific and ethical, legal and social implications (ELSI) perspectives on why the appropriate and responsible use of population descriptors matters in genomics research. This series continues the conversation using the [National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine \(NASEM\) report](#) as a foundation. As discussions continue across the human genetics and genomics community, most recently, editors from seven leading biomedical journals, including ASHG's two journals, the *American Journal of Human Genetics* and *Human Genetics and Genomics Advances*, published a [guidance](#) for manuscript authors and reviewers to adopt broadly across biomedicine, including the use of legacy data. NHGRI will host a [two-day virtual workshop](#) on May 28 and 29 to dive deeper into the questions surrounding the use of legacy data in the context of the NASEM report.

In Other News

- On March 25, United for Medical Research (UMR) issued their 2024 annual report, [NIH's Role in Sustaining the U.S. Economy](#), quantifying the impact of NIH funded research in the U.S. in terms of the over 412,000 jobs supported and \$92.89 billion generated in economic activity nationwide.
- U.S. Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Ranking Member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS), published an op-ed on why the NIH is important to her home state of West Virginia. Read the article [here](#).
- U.S. Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) has been [selected](#) as the new chair of the House Appropriations Committee. Congressman Cole is the 2016 recipient of Research!America's Edwin C. Whitehead Award for Medical Research Advocacy for his [support for research](#).
- ASHG was one of the nearly 400 organizations that [signed](#) the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research's letter urging Congressional leaders secure robust funding for research and set NIH's base budget for FY25 at \$51.3 billion.
- Curious to know the impact of federal research funding? [Learn how much NIH funding](#) went to your state and district with the recently updated FASEB fact sheets!
- In case you missed it, [watch the recording](#) of the most recent ELSI Friday Forum, *Why Film and TV? ELSI Research and the Public Imagination*, hosted by ELSI Hub on April 12.
- The National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) submitted the institute's [Congressional Justification \(CJ\) for FY25](#) in support of the President's Budget Request. NHGRI's CJ mentions the continued partnership with ASHG in funding the [Human Genetics Scholars Initiative \(HGSi\)](#) in an effort to advance diversity and inclusion in the human genetics and genomics research workforce.

ASHG Calendar

- Abstract submissions for the [ASHG 2024 Annual Meeting](#) will open on April 30, 2024. Learn more [here](#)!
- [Submissions](#) for ASHG Professional Awards are open through May 2, 2024. Professional awards support members across the span of their careers, and range from prestigious awards for outstanding achievements in the field, to supporting the next generation of geneticists through merit-based travel grants to ASHG's annual meeting.
- The [ASHG 2024 Annual Meeting](#) will be in Denver, Colorado from November 5-9, 2024. Mark your calendars!

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