

ASHG Business Meeting Minutes
24 October 2017
Orlando, Florida

Item 1. Welcome

ASHG President Nancy Cox welcomed the attendees and thanked them for the interest in the Society.

Item 2. Approval of minutes from 2016 business meeting

The minutes from the 2016 business meeting in Vancouver were approved.

Item 3. Moment of silence for recently deceased members

Nancy asked the group to rise for a moment of silence in memory of ASHG members who had died since the 2016 meeting: Eliot Berson, Talaat Farag, John Littlefield, William Schull, and Kimberley Strong.

Item 4. ASHG Accomplishments, Strategic Discussions

Nancy thanked all the volunteers, as well as the staff, for all their work and involvement in the Society, and reinforced the importance of maintaining and increasing our value to members. She reviewed many of the year's biggest accomplishments of the Society in the following core areas:

- *Policy & Communication.* ASHG led efforts to protect the enforcement of GINA by blocking action on HR1313 and supporting the passage of the Canadian Genetic Nondiscrimination Act; ASHG's statement on germline editing was published in *AJHG*; increased efforts to forage partnerships with the scientific community, including advocating for a \$2 billion increase in NIH's budget through participation within FASEB, Research!America, the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, and the Rally for Medical Research; voiced ASHG's opposition to the new U.S. travel restrictions and their implications for science.
- *Education.* ASHG will be hosting a new a "Conferences to Careers" program in Orlando, in partnership with Jackson Laboratories, and its second annual diversity breakfast; completed initiatives to serve non-genetics health professionals, including a prenatal cell-free DNA screening for Ob/GynsS (in partnership with Mayo Clinic) and cancer genetics through a local ASCO chapter; modified an in-person program for undergraduate faculty development into a set of online modules.
- *American Journal of Human Genetics.* The ASHG board selected a new editor-in-chief, Dr. Bruce Korf and negotiated a new multi-year contact with Cell Press.
- *Annual Meeting.* Strong attendance and engagement in Orlando with two high-profile guests, Bill Gates and Francis Collins; the board authorized an "ad hoc" committee, chaired by board member Nancy Spinner, to review ASHG strong meeting strategy, ensuring we maintain its effectiveness and centrality to the field.
- *Staff Leadership Transition.* Nancy thanked the Executive Director Search Committee for their work in selecting the Society's new staff leader. She thanked Joe McNerney for his leadership and service and introduced new Executive Director Mona Miller.

Item 5. Treasurer's Report

ASHG Executive Director Mona Miller presented the treasurer's report on behalf of Treasurer Geoffrey Duyk. Mona reported an annual operating budget for 2017 of approximately \$6.9M. She reported the Society's financial trajectory projected a net loss for 2017 of \$733K owing to a decrease from budgeted exhibit revenue for the Orlando meeting and unbudgeted operational costs for new staff and volunteer leadership transitions and the start of a series of important technology upgrades. She noted that the Society remains financially strong, with a reserve balance of approximately \$17.6M, which constitutes 254% of the Society's annual operating budget, within the Society's board-approved target range for reserves, of between 200% and 300% of total annual expenses.

Item 6. AJHG Editorial Report & Transition

David Nelson, current *AJHG* editor-in-chief, provided an update on activities. He reported that the contract with Cell Press was renewed for 2018-2022, and provided an overview of the Journal's activities including the projected number of papers published in 2017 (159) and the journal's impact factor of 9.025. . He also provided an overview of current journal activities and marketing at the annual meeting, including the Cotterman Awards presentations, *Best of AJHG* issue, co-labs/meet the editors in the exhibit hall, and the editorial board meeting.

David introduced and welcomed incoming editor, Bruce Korf. Bruce provided remarks on his vision of the journal, including a commitment to maintain its scientific rigor, integrity and trust; increase opportunities to work collaboratively with ASHG; and continue to serve and evolve with the field.

Item 7. Adjournment

Following a call for any questions from the audience, Nancy thanked the group for attending the meeting and called the meeting adjourned.