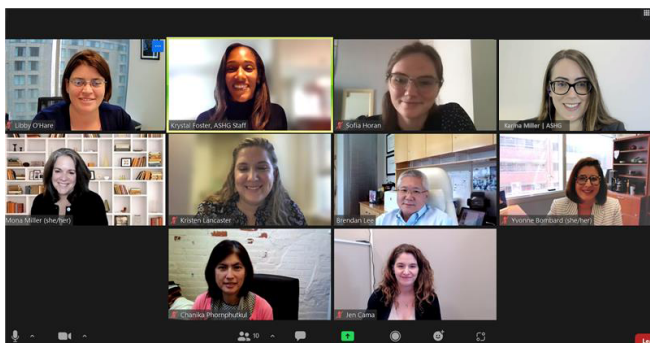


ASHG

American Society of Human Genetics
ADVOCATE UPDATE

ASHG Members Advocate for Human Genetics & Genomics Research



ASHG [held](#) its second virtual Capitol Hill Day on May 11. This event brought together 21 member advocates from across the country to meet with key Congressional offices to discuss the importance of federal investment in scientific research. A summary of this event will be featured in ASHG's member-

only newsletter, *The Messenger*. [Add your voice](#) to urge Congress to support funding increases for NIH in Fiscal Year 2023!

ASHG Submits Testimony to Appropriations Committees



Brendan Lee, MD, PhD, ASHG President-Elect, submitted [written testimony](#) to Congress on behalf of ASHG this month. In his testimony, Dr. Lee describes the extraordinary progress in human genetics and genomics research, urging Congress to appropriate \$49 billion for NIH's base budget in Fiscal Year 2023, with funding for the newly established Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) to supplement that investment in NIH's base budget.

The Importance of Advocacy as a Scientist



Cynthia Morton, PhD, will take over from Lynn Jorde, PhD, as the Chair of the ASHG Government & Public Advocacy Committee ([GPAC](#)) in July. [Read the thoughts](#) of Drs. Morton and Jorde on why researchers should care about science policy and get involved in advocacy.

"Scientists as advocates bring expertise in evidence-based decision making and, by reaching out to policymakers, we can help influence them to pursue policies that advance biomedical science and the appropriate application of genetics in health and society." - Lynn Jorde, PhD, GPAC Chair

"Scientists have a responsibility to communicate the value of human genetics & genomics research and articulate how robust federal research funding is essential for all people to benefit from scientific discoveries." - Cynthia Morton, PhD, Incoming GPAC Chair

Meet the Inaugural Class of ACGT Advocates!



The Advocacy Certificate for Human Genetics and Genomics Trainees ([ACGT](#)) program introduces trainee ASHG members to the world of science policy and advocacy. ASHG is proud to feature the [2022 ACGT advocates](#). Stay tuned – trainee member advocates will share their perspectives on ASHG's Capitol Hill Day in next month's *Advocate Update*.

Interview with NSGC on the Access to Genetic Counselor Services Act

We [recently spoke](#) with Colleen A. Campbell, PhD, MS, LGC, in her role as the Chair of the National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC) Advocacy Coordinating Committee, to learn more about the Access to Genetic Counselor Services Act and what it means for the profession of genetic counseling. ASHG, in close alliance with NSGC, supports the Access to Genetic Counselor Services Act (H.R. 2144/S. 1450). [Take action](#) to ask



your members of Congress to cosponsor this legislation!

In Other Policy & Advocacy News

- ASHG signed on to the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research's [NIH funding recommendation](#) for Fiscal Year 2023 and Research!America's [letter](#) urging congressional leaders to provide a robust funding allocation this year for medical and public health research.
- The [5th ELSI Congress](#) on ethical, legal, and social implications of genetics research will be held from **May 31 - June 3, 2022**. Registration for this event is free and [available here](#).
- The [third meeting](#) of NASEM's Committee on Use of Race, Ethnicity, and Ancestry as Population Descriptors in Genomics Research will be held on **June 14 - 15, 2022**. Our summary of the previous meeting is [available here](#).
- Sudip Parikh, PhD, CEO of American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), recently [contributed to an article](#) posted in *The Hill* on the importance of federal investment in science; the article cites the 2021 ASHG/TEconomy [report](#).
- NASEM's Committee on [Improving the Representation of Women and Underrepresented Minorities in Clinical Trials and Research](#) released its [report](#) this month.
- NIH [has announced](#) that institutions will be required to report when a PI or other key personnel on a NIH-funded award has been removed from their position or otherwise disciplined for harassment or bullying. The policy becomes effective on 7/8/22; [Science](#) reports that some hope the new policy would have gone further.
- Rep. Kweisi Mfume (Maryland's 7th District) recently introduced [H.R. 7091](#) to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Henrietta Lacks, in recognition of the invaluable contribution of her immortal cells to scientific research and patients' rights.
- The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) released [recommendations](#) in late April for federal scientific agencies to define political interference in scientific decision-making and describe how it should be reported and addressed.
- A [Committee](#) of members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate has been established to reconcile the differences between the America COMPETES Act and the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act.

ASHG Calendar

- [ASHG's Annual Meeting](#) is coming up in October! The abstract submission deadline is **Thursday, June 9**.
- Upcoming ASHG [webinar](#) on **June 1**: Alexandre Bolze, PhD, will discuss their recent *HGGA* paper on Genetic Susceptibility to COVID-19 Vaccine Side Effects.

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