



ADVOCATE UPDATE

July 2023

House LHHS Subcommittee Advances Spending Bill with Cuts to NIH; Previews Contentious Fall Funding Debates



On July 13, the House Appropriations Committee [released](#) its Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 bill for the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, which includes a combined \$3.8 billion cut to NIH's base budget and Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) funding. This step is inconsistent with strong NIH support in the Senate and at the White House, teeing up what is likely to be a contentious fall budget negotiation environment. In response to the House bill, the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, of which ASHG is a member, issued a [statement](#) that concluded, "...Underfunding the world's premier medical research agency will bring detrimental consequences to the health of all Americans now and in the future." ASHG continues to actively engage with key offices on Capitol Hill, as well as with the broader NIH advocacy community, to urge robust, sustained NIH funding and to prepare for vocal NIH advocacy as budget negotiations continue into the fall. ASHG members should expect additional information and alerts this fall to engage in vital advocacy activities.

Take the Opportunity: Get Involved in Science Advocacy in August!



Many members of Congress spend the month of August in their home districts. While they are there, consider engaging with your [Senators](#) and [Representatives](#) using ASHG's resource, [10 Ways to be an ASHG Advocate](#). Whether through a phone call, letter, e-mail or in person, science advocacy doesn't just happen in Washington, DC. Attend a local event to speak with your representatives about the value of genetics research and the necessity of federal science funding; write an op-ed to spread the word about the importance of robust, sustained funding for NIH; give a lab tour to show how federal funding supports research in your state or district; or write a letter to your elected representatives thanking them when they do support research funding. For more ideas and inspiration, check out the Coalition for the Life Sciences' [tips on communicating to Congress](#). To help you convey the value of human genetics & genomics research, see United for Medical Research's [toolkit](#) on the economic impact of NIH funding and ASHG's [advocacy fact sheets](#)!

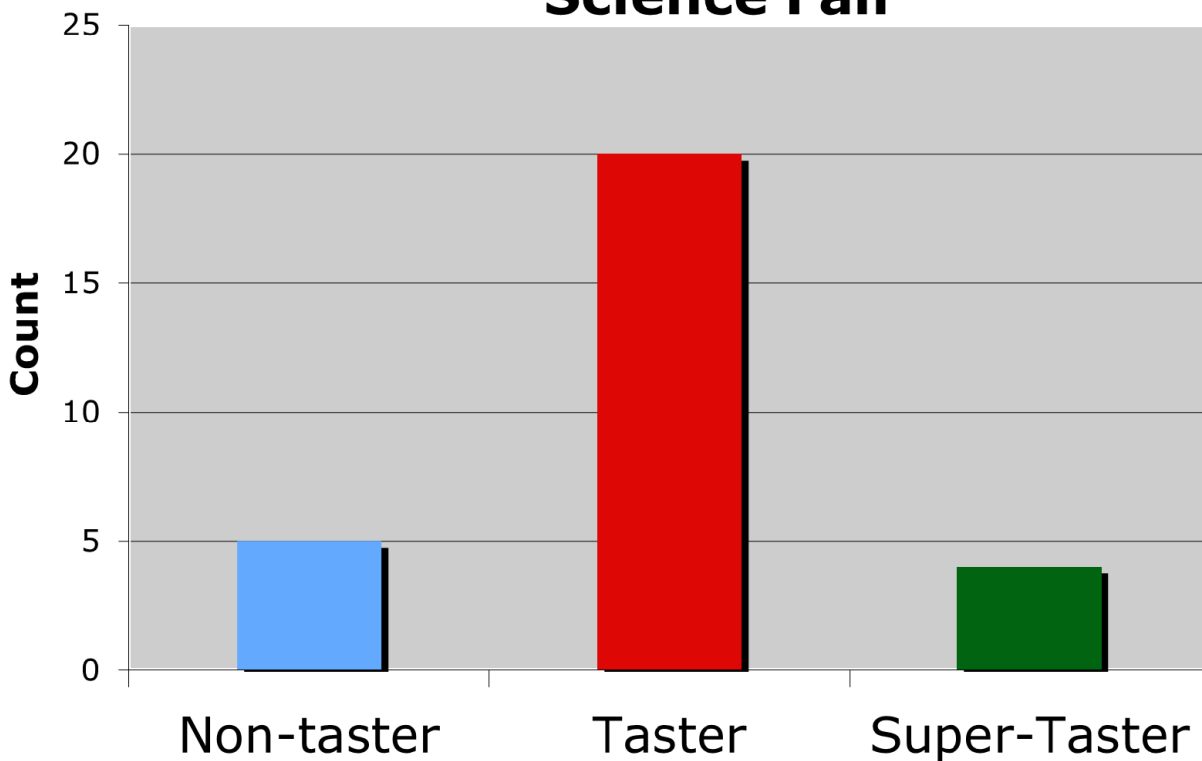
You can also get involved by contacting your Members of Congress at ASHG's Action Page: [Take Action to Support NIH Funding Increase for FY24](#).

ASHG Shares Genetics Through Activities at the Congressional Life Science Fair



Over a dozen scientific societies, including ASHG, staffed booths at the 3rd Congressional Life Science Fair on July 19 in the Rayburn House Office Building. Organized by the Coalition for the Life Sciences (CLS) and the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), this was an opportunity for organizations and scientists to showcase their work with members of Congress and their staff, network with peer societies, and provide attendees the opportunity to engage in hands-on experiments. ASHG/NHGRI [2022-2023 Genetics Education and Engagement Fellow](#), Nancy Sey, PhD, prepared an activity on the [genetics of bitter taste](#) based on the *TAS2R38* gene (see results in the graph below) and tested attendees' pipetting skills.

Results from the 3rd Congressional Life Science Fair



Registration for the Rally for Medical Research is Open!



The 11th annual "Rally for Medical Research Hill Day" will take place on Thursday, September 14, 2023. In addition, there will be a reception during the early evening on Wednesday, September 13 to celebrate how federally funded research has contributed to health advances and saved lives. This event is an opportunity for supporters from the approximately 400 participating organizations (including ASHG) to join together and speak with one voice about making NIH funding a national priority. To learn more about the Rally for Medical Research, visit the [Rally website](#).

Registration is open until September 1: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2023RallySignup>

In Other News

- The House and Senate Appropriations Committees have both set goals to finish marking up (consider amendments and vote on) all twelve funding bills before the August recess. However, it is likely that a [continuing resolution](#) (CR) will be needed to fund the government beyond September 30.
- On July 27, the Senate Appropriations Committee [released a summary](#) of the FY 2024 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education spending bill. The Senate's bill provides \$47.8 billion to NIH. In comparison, the House's draft version provides \$43 billion for NIH.
- The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) dashboard compares White House, House, and Senate spending proposals for science and technology programs in FY 2024. It has been [updated](#) to include the House draft NIH numbers.

- The Science & Technology Action Committee (STAC) has a new fact sheet: "[The Incredible, Incomparable ROI of R&D](#)."
- The next ELSI Friday Forum will be held on September 8, 2023 at 12 pm ET - [Fair Access and Equity of Individualized Interventions for Ultrarare Genetic Conditions](#).
- [AAAS](#), [former NIH Directors](#), and [members of STAC](#) have sent letters urging the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee and members of the Senate to swiftly confirm Dr. Monica Bertagnoli as director of the NIH.

ASHG Calendar

- [Registration](#) for the ASHG 2023 Annual Meeting is open! Register before August 24 to get the early bird rate!
- ASHG was [awarded](#) a five-year, \$7.1 million contract for an expanded Genomics and Public Service Fellowship Program. All fellowships opportunities - including the graduate-level [Genetics & Public Policy Fellowship](#) - will open in fall 2023.
- Regarding the U.S. Supreme Court's decisions in *SFFA v. University of North Carolina, et al* and *SFFA v. President & Fellows of Harvard College*, ASHG has [released a statement](#) on the importance of efforts to improve diversity in STEM and a more diverse genetics and genomics workforce, and has signed on to a [multi-society statement](#).
- [ASHG Journal Club](#): August 9, 12:00 pm-12:30 pm ET. Dr. Nidhi Shah and Ms. Casie Genetti will discuss their paper, [Actionability of unanticipated monogenic disease risks in newborn genomic screening: Findings from the BabySeq Project](#). Register [here](#).

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

[Privacy Policy](#)