



American Society of Human Genetics

ADVOCATE UPDATE

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**December 2024**

### **ASHG Calendar: Events and Important Dates**

- Applications for the ASHG-NHGRI Genomics and Public Service Fellowship Program are due on **January 5, 2025!** The program provides training and career development in public policy, education and engagement, science communications and scientific administration. Opportunities are available for individuals at the post-baccalaureate and graduate levels. You can learn more and apply [here!](#)
- The Annual DNA Day Essay Contest opens on January 6, 2025! ASHG is proud to support this contest, which is open to students in grades 9-12 worldwide and asks students to examine, question, and reflect on important concepts in genetics. To learn more or pass this opportunity on to any interested students, check out [this link!](#)
- Stay tuned for applications to open for the 2025 [Advocacy Certificate for Human Genetics and Genomics Trainees](#) (ACGT) program in March 2025!

### **Urge Congress to Finalize FY 2025 NIH Appropriations Before Funding Expires!**



Congressional leaders have [worked together](#) to pass a last-minute continuing resolution (CR) that will fund the government through March 14, 2025. To learn more, both about the CR and where we go from here, check out our article in the winter edition of *The Messenger* [here!](#)

ASHG also encourages you to take action now to encourage your members of Congress to finalize FY 2025 as soon as possible and provide no less than the Senate Appropriations Committee-approved level of \$48.9 billion for NIH, in addition to funding for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H). [Click here](#) to make your voice heard!

Take Action Now!

### **ASHG Responds to Department of Justice Proposed Rule**



ASHG recently responded to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)'s Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), which would implement [Executive Order 14117](#) to prevent countries of concern from accessing Americans' personal data, including restricting transfers of human genetic data. ASHG noted that this NPRM could place significant and unnecessary restrictions on U.S. researchers, limiting already heavily secured and regulated global data sharing. You can read our full response [here](#).

## Access the On-Demand Recording of This Year's Policy Forum



Our policy and advocacy events at our 2024 Annual Meeting were a success, and it was great to have so many engaged advocates attend our policy and advocacy forum, visit our booth, and connect with fellow advocates! In case you missed it, you can find a recording of our policy forum, *The Next Frontier of AI/ML in Human Genetics/Genomics*, [here](#).

## Updated Advocacy Webpages



We have restructured the online [ASHG Advocacy Center](#)! It is now easier than ever for you to explore ASHG's [policy positions](#) and [past statements](#). You can take action to become an ASHG advocate [here](#), whether you want to explore past webinars, check out our advocacy fact sheets, or even learn how to contact Congress!

## In Other Policy News

- In case you missed it, [watch the recording](#) of the most recent ELSI Friday Forum, "Material (Mis)Identities: Art, Genes and Ethics," hosted by ELSI Hub on November 8.
- The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) recently released a new report, "Rethinking Race and Ethnicity in Biomedical Research," outlining recommendations and resources for advancing the responsible use of race and ethnicity. You can read the full report [here](#).
- Jay Bhattacharya, MD, PhD, a Stanford University physician and economist, has been nominated to be the next director of the NIH, while Robert F. Kennedy Jr., an American politician and environmental lawyer, has been tapped to potentially lead the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Both will require confirmation by the Senate before officially assuming office. You can read more about the nominees and confirmation process [here](#).