



THE
AMERICAN
SOCIETY
OF HUMAN
GENETICS

discover. educate. advocate.

Council Meeting – National Human Genome Research Institute
A Brief Update from the American Society of Human Genetics
September 2016

Society Update

- ASHG members elected three new directors (Bruce D. Gelb, Sharon E. Plon, and Nancy B. Spinner) and a president-elect (David L. Nelson) to its 2017 Board of Directors.
- ASHG announced its 2016 award recipients, who will be presented with their awards at ASHG 2016 in October:
 - Curt Stern Award: Brendan Lee
 - Mentorship Award (new for 2016): Elaine Zackai
 - Advocacy Award: Canadian Coalition for Genetic Fairness and Sen. James Cowan
 - Arno Motulsky-Barton Childs Award for Excellence in Human Genetics Education: David Valle
 - William Allan Award: James Gusella
 - Victor A. McKusick Leadership Award: Stanley Gartler

Policy Activities

- The 2015-2016 ASHG/NHGRI Genetics & Public Policy Fellow, Caroline Young, MA, is in her second rotation on Capitol Hill, in the office of Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI). Her last rotation, at ASHG headquarters, will begin on October 3.
- The 2016-2017 ASHG/NHGRI Genetics & Public Policy Fellow, Christa Wagner, PhD, began her first rotation at NHGRI on September 1.
- ASHG [issued a statement](#) opposing revised rules from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that weaken parts of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- ASHG submitted a [letter of support](#) for the Genetic Research Privacy Protection Act (S.2744), currently under consideration by the U.S. Congress.
- ASHG is working with the Canadian Coalition for Genetic Fairness to support Bill S-201, Canada's Genetic Non-Discrimination Act, which has passed the Senate and is now under consideration in the House of Commons.
- The ASHG Social Issues Committee, along with representatives from the National Society of Genetic Counselors, the International Genetic Epidemiology Society, the Association of Genetic Nurses and Counsellors (UK), and the Canadian Association of Genetic Counselors, is preparing a statement on germline genome editing.

Educational Programs

General

- ASHG is interviewing candidates for an Educational Program Assistant, who will provide administrative and logistical support for education programs.

Professional

- The 2015-2016 Genetics & Education Fellow, Julie A. Nadel, PhD, completed her second rotation at ASHG headquarters in August and is now in her final rotation at the New York City Department of Education.
- The 2016-2017 ASHG/NHGRI Genetics & Education Fellow, Teresa Ramirez, PhD, began her first rotation at NHGRI on September 1.
- ASHG launched the Genomic Medicine Education Consortium, a group of corporations, health systems, and other organizations committed to the financial support of education of non-genetics health professionals.
- ASHG is developing two new education programs for health professionals: a series of online modules for OB/GYNs dealing with prenatal cfDNA screening, in collaboration with the Mayo Clinic and Kaiser Permanente of California; and a webinar series for pediatricians on genetic testing in children and adolescents.

Undergraduate

- ASHG is adapting its faculty development program [Building Excellence in Genetics Instruction \(BEGIn\)](#) to include an online component that complements a one-day, in-person workshop, which will expand accessibility. The next in-person workshop is in mid-September at Broward College in Florida. ASHG also continues to provide a full-day workshop for undergraduate faculty at its Annual Meeting. These events focus on improving genetics instruction to increase student learning and slow the loss of talent from undergraduate genetics courses.

K-12

- The ASHG [Teen Genes Video Challenge](#) is currently accepting submissions, with a deadline of November 13. Entrants may work in groups and must submit a 3-5 minute video describing any current application of genetics and how it works.
- ASHG announced the question for its 12th annual [DNA Day essay contest](#) on September 6. The 2017 question addresses gene therapy and how its definition has evolved since the 1990s, and submissions will be due March 10, 2017.

ASHG's 66th Annual Meeting – Vancouver, BC, October 18-22, 2016

- The [schedule of events](#) features a presidential address, plenary and platform sessions, invited sessions and workshops, poster sessions, an exhibit hall, and a variety of social and special events. [New additions for 2016](#) include a session of poster talks, a genetic counselors luncheon, travel awards for attendees from developing countries, and a joint session on genomics and cardiology with the American Physiological Society.
- Next in the the series of “Building Bridges” sessions with the European Society of Human Genetics, ASHG 2016 will feature a session on career paths in human genetics.

- The 2016 meeting also will include a strategic planning session, ASHG Next, where attendees and Society leadership will review progress on the 2013 Strategic Plan and consider new priorities and activities.
- In addition to the standard abstract submission process, the Program Committee opened submissions for late-breaking abstracts, which were due September 1. Up to four abstracts will be selected for a closing plenary session on October 22.
- ASHG announced the [2016 semifinalists and finalists](#) for its Charles J. Epstein Trainee Awards for Excellence in Human Genetics Research. Final selections will be made and awarded on site at the Annual Meeting.
- ASG announced the [ten recipients](#) of its Developing Country Awards, travel scholarships for individuals living in low-income or lower-middle-income economies who submitted abstracts to the meeting.

The American Society of Human Genetics

9650 Rockville Pike | Bethesda, MD 20814 | 301.634.7300 | society@ashg.org | www.ashg.org
Connect with ASHG on [Twitter](#) (@GeneticsSociety) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#)