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Council Meeting – National Human Genome Research Institute
A Brief Update from the American Society of Human Genetics
February 2104

Educational Programs

Professional

- In conjunction with NHGRI we have initiated an education fellowship modeled along the lines of our highly successful ASHG/NHGRI policy fellowship. Our first education fellow will begin work in fall 2014.
- As part of our new strategic plan we will begin program development to support better understanding of genetics by health professionals.
- Our new strategic plan also elevates the role of trainees in governance and programming, e.g., a new position on the board for a trainee and designated appointments on each of our standing committees; a new standing committee comprising trainees to provide input into ASHG programming; and one session at our annual meeting designed, moderated, and presented exclusively by trainees.

Undergraduate

- ASHG continues its faculty-development program, Building Excellence in Genetics Instruction (BEGIn), which includes 1.5-day workshops held on university campuses, and its full-day workshop for undergraduate faculty at its annual meeting. The focus of these events is the improvement of genetics instruction to slow the loss of talent from undergraduate genetics courses.
- ASHG's Genetics Education Research Program provides \$10K grants (one per year) to support genetics/genomics-specific education research in grades K-20. The goal is to support the development of a better knowledge base about what works and what doesn't.

K-12

- ASHG-directed genetics research currently focuses on the evaluation of genetics content in the new Next Generation Science Standards (K-12).
- Our searchable database of genetics lesson plans provides a selection of field-tested, inquiry-based lessons for teachers. The lessons are keyed to ASHG's list of core concepts in genetics for grades 7-12.
- For more than 20 years our staff and volunteer members have provided a full-day workshop for ~150 local high school students and teachers in conjunction with our annual meeting.

Public

- In 2013 we established a new public outreach event in association with our annual meeting.
- ASHG is in the process of hiring a communications manager who will help us educate the public via the media.

ASHG's 64th Annual Meeting – San Diego, October 18-22

- ASHG's Annual Meeting is the largest professional genetics meeting in the world, attracting more than 6500 scientific attendees from more than 50 countries. In addition, 1500 exhibit personnel, representing ~250 companies, participate in showcasing their products and services.
- Highlights of the Annual Meeting include invited scientific sessions, 400+ abstract-driven oral presentations, 3,000+ poster presentations, education events, workshops, exhibitor seminars, award presentations, and career resources/coaching services.
- The deadlines for invited sessions and workshops have passed. The deadline for abstract submissions (platform sessions and posters) is June 4, 2014.
- New initiatives in 2014 include poster walks, mini-poster symposiums, a joint session with the European Society of Human Genetics, and an interactive art exhibit called The Genetic Portrait Project.
- Registration includes access to all of those sessions plus access to recorded webcasts and the ability to earn CME and CEU credits.
- ASHG and NHGRI are working with the Fleet Science Center in San Diego to schedule educational and social events in conjunction with NHGRI's exhibit, "Genome: Unlocking Life's Code," which will move from Smithsonian to the Fleet Center in early fall 2014.
- Future meeting locations include 2015 in Baltimore and 2016 in Vancouver.