



THE  
AMERICAN  
SOCIETY  
OF HUMAN  
GENETICS

*discover. educate. advocate.*

## **National Advisory Council for Human Genome Research**

A Brief Update from the American Society of Human Genetics

February 2017

### Society Update

- ASHG launched the [2017 membership application](#) in December, which includes two new member categories: joint membership for trainees with the European Society of Human Genetics (ESHG), and early-career membership for those who have completed training within the last three years.

### Policy Activities

- The 2015-2016 ASHG/NHGRI Genetics & Public Policy Fellow, Caroline Young, MA, completed her final rotation at ASHG headquarters and has started working as a Health Science Policy Analyst at NIH.
- The 2016-2017 ASHG/NHGRI Genetics & Public Policy Fellow, Christa Wagner, PhD, is in her second rotation at Senator Sherrod Brown's office on Capitol Hill. She will start her final rotation at ASHG headquarters in October.
- The 2017-2018 ASHG/NHGRI Genetics & Public Policy Fellowship application opened on January 25 and will close on April 21.
- ASHG submitted comments in response to FDA's draft guidances on using [standards](#) and [variant databases](#) in next-generation sequencing-based diagnostics.
- ASHG [issued a statement](#) commending Congress for strengthening privacy protections for genetics research participants as part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act (H.R.34) passed on December 7.
- 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.
- [ASHG is accepting applications for a Science Policy Analyst](#) to help fulfill the Society's advocacy role by conducting analyses on policy issues affecting genetics, developing policy statements consistent with ASHG's policy platform, and coordinating policy- and advocacy-related events.

### Educational Programs

#### General

- ASHG has hired 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 final rotation at the New York City Department of Education and has started working as Next Scholars Program Manager at the New York Academy of Sciences.
- The 2016-2017 ASHG/NHGRI Genetics & Education Fellow, Teresa Ramirez, PhD, is in her first rotation at NHGRI and will start her second rotation at ASHG headquarters in March.
- The 2017-2018 ASHG/NHGRI Genetics & Education Fellowship application opened on January 25 and will close on April 21.
- ASHG is developing a series of online CME modules and videos for OB/GYNs dealing with prenatal cfDNA screening, in collaboration with the Mayo Clinic and Kaiser Permanente of California.
- ASHG developed a series of three [webinars on pediatric genetic testing](#). The first two, held in November and January, addressed when and how to test, and testing methods and results. The third installment will take place in March. Webinars are eligible for CME and are available in archived form for later viewing.

## 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. 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

- ASHG announced the results of the [Teen Genes Video Challenge](#) in December. The first-place winners created a claymation-style stop-motion video which described how CRISPR genome editing works. The winners shared a \$1,500 monetary prize.
- ASHG opened submissions for its 12<sup>th</sup> annual [DNA Day essay contest](#) on January 4. The 2017 question addresses gene therapy and how its definition has evolved since the 1990s, and submissions are due March 10, 2017.

## [ASHG's 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting](#) – Vancouver, BC, October 18-22, 2016

- The Program Committee is planning the [2017 Annual Meeting](#), which will take place October 17-21 in Orlando, FL. They are currently reviewing proposals for invited sessions and workshops.
- Abstract submission will open in April and the deadline is June 7.
- [ASHG is accepting applications for a Program Manager](#): Scientific Meetings to work with the Program Committee and staff to build the scientific program for the Annual Meeting and develop innovative ways to enhance the meeting's offerings.

### The American Society of Human Genetics

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