



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
May 2014

Society Update

New Partnerships

- ASHG has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with [The Jackson Laboratory](#) to collaborate on the integration of genetics/genomics into healthcare by educating health professionals, such as students and trainees, primary care and other physicians, nurses, pharmacists, physician assistants, and social workers.
- ASHG has announced a formal partnership with the [European Society of Human Genetics](#) intended to drive interaction between our members, strengthen collaborations, and explore partnerships with other societies. New initiatives stemming from this partnership include the option for joint memberships at discount rates, with access to both societies' journals, and a series of new "Building Bridges" sessions at both societies' Annual Meetings.

Other Society News

- We have hired a new communications manager, Nalini Padmanabhan, who will develop and implement communication strategies that promote the Society and inform its members and stakeholders about Society activities and other items of interest.
- Together with the Genetics Society of America, we have launched the genetics jobs website [GeneticsCareers.org](#), which allows employers and job seekers to post and search through job listings and subscribe to emails about new opportunities and candidates.
- The Society's journal, *The American Journal of Human Genetics*, will commemorate its 65th year of publication this fall through a special "Best Of" issue highlighting notable genetic advances during the last 65 years.

Policy Activities

- We have closed applications for our [ASHG/NHGRI Genetics & Public Policy Fellowship](#) and have started to interview applicants. Our new fellow will begin work this fall.
- Our social issues committee is preparing to collaborate with its counterpart at the [American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics](#) to update and broaden the scope of the joint ASHG-AMCG [1995 policy statement on the storage and use of genetic materials](#) to address both clinically-oriented and research-oriented genetics practice.
- In light of rapid progress in clinical genomic testing, our social issues committee is updating our [1995 policy statement on genetic testing in children and adolescents](#).

Educational Programs

Professional

- We have closed applications for our [ASHG/NHGRI Genetics & Education Fellowship](#), new this year, and will soon start interviewing applicants. Our new fellow will begin work this fall.

Undergraduate

- ASHG continues its faculty development program [Building Excellence in Genetics Instruction \(BEGIn\)](#), which includes 1.5-day workshops held on university campuses and a full-day workshop for undergraduate faculty at its Annual Meeting. These events focus on improving genetics instructions to slow the loss of talent from undergraduate genetics courses.
- ASHG's [Genetics Education Research Program](#) provides one \$10K grant per year to support genetics/genomics-specific education research in grades K-20.

K-12

- ASHG has announced the winners of its 9th annual [DNA Day essay contest](#), which in 2014 asked high school students to explain complex traits. Winners, selected from more than 700 entries, received monetary prizes and their teachers received grants to purchase genetics laboratory materials for their schools.

Public

- In April, science education specialists at ASHG [published a review article](#) assessing the public's genetic literacy and suggesting methods for its improvement in K-12 science classes, health care settings, the media, and the Internet.

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, 3000+ poster presentations, education events, workshops, exhibitor seminars, award presentations, and career resources and coaching.
- The abstract submission site is now open and the deadline for abstract submission (platform sessions and posters) is June 4, 2014.
- Registration is open. The fee includes access to all scientific sessions, exhibits and poster sessions, plus access to recorded webcasts and the ability to earn CME and CEU credits.
- New initiatives in 2014 include poster walks, a joint session with the European Society of Human Genetics, a joint satellite symposium with the [American Society for Bioethics and Humanities](#), and an interactive art exhibit called The Genetic Portrait Project.
- 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 Baltimore in 2015 (October 6-10) and Vancouver in 2016 (October 18-22).