



March 1, 2016

The attention of the nation is increasingly turning to presidential politics and the upcoming election, and this election year is certainly proving to be a lively one. But long before we get to Election Day, there is another major ‘Day’ that we need to prepare for – April 25, National DNA Day! The main story in this month’s *The Genomics Landscape* describes NHGRI’s expanded programming for National DNA Day. Our collective efforts for the big ‘Day’ center on engaging students, educators, and the public across the country to raise awareness about genomics.

Additional pieces in this month’s issue highlight recent activities related to genomics education for healthcare practitioners, the impact of NIH research, and our ongoing seminar series commemorating the Human Genome Project’s launch 25 years ago.

Specifically, March’s *The Genomics Landscape* features stories about:

- [National DNA Day: Celebrating Genomics Through Awareness](#)
- [Inter-Society Coordinating Committee for Practitioner Education in Genomics Meeting](#)
- [Highlighting the Impact of NIH Research](#)
- [25th Anniversary of Human Genome Project’s Launch: Maynard Olson Seminar](#)

All the best,

Watch here for current and upcoming locations of the Smithsonian-NHGRI exhibition “Genome: Unlocking Life’s Code” as it tours North America!

Traveling Exhibition		
GENOME UNLOCKING LIFE'S CODE	Current	Next
	January 18 - April 25, 2016	May 21 - September 5, 2016
	Discovery World Milwaukee Milwaukee, Wisconsin	Natural History Museum of Utah Salt Lake City, Utah
	See unlockinglifescode.org for details	

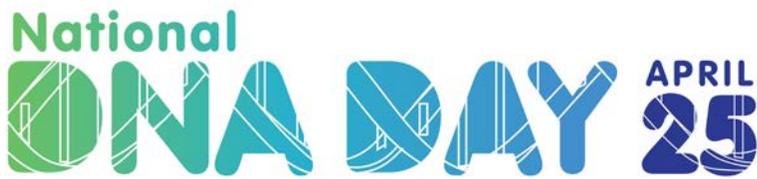
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~To access past editions, see: genome.gov/27541196~

National DNA Day: Celebrating Genomics Through Awareness

Since 2003, NHGRI has celebrated '[National DNA Day](#)' on April 25 to commemorate the successful completion of the Human Genome Project and the discovery of DNA's double-helical structure [published](#) on this date in 1953. This annual celebration offers students, teachers, and the public many exciting opportunities to learn about the latest advances in genomics and to explore how those advances might affect their lives. National DNA Day is a favorite of mine, in part because it gives NHGRI staff the chance to engage with the community through a range of activities – from classroom events to web-based forums.



This year, NHGRI is expanding its National DNA Day programming in an effort to increase the celebration's national footprint. To this end, our [Education and Community Involvement Branch](#) and [Communications and Public Liaison Branch](#), both within our [Division of Policy, Communications, and Education](#), have teamed up and organized a network of events throughout the country. Key elements of these efforts have included revising and updating our [National DNA Day webpages](#), developing a [National DNA Day Starter Kit](#) to assist organizations with their local event planning, expanding our inventory of resources available for teachers, and utilizing social media to engage the public.

Our National DNA Day webpages include many new features. For example, we have added a [map](#) feature that highlights National DNA Day activities across the country. This will allow the public to find local events focused on [STEM](#), genetics and genomics, and other relevant programs in these areas. Not only is this a tool for finding local events of interest, it also provides opportunities for organizations to partner and collaboratively host a National DNA Day event.



As noted, for organizations planning an event, we have developed a [National DNA Day Starter Kit](#), which includes materials and resources to help organize and execute a successful event. The kit includes background information about National DNA Day, a social media toolkit, example templates (such as PowerPoint slides,

Inter-Society Coordinating Committee for Practitioner Education in Genomics Meeting



Above: participants in the fifth meeting of the Inter-Society Coordinating Committee for Practitioner Education in Genomics (ISCC).

In January, the Inter-Society Coordinating Committee for Practitioner Education in Genomics (ISCC) held its fifth in-person meeting in Bethesda, Maryland. The ISCC comprises 155 [members](#) representing 81 societies, government organizations, universities, and private entities. The ISCC aims to improve genomic literacy of physicians and other healthcare providers and to enhance the effective practice of genomic medicine through the identification of educational needs and the sharing of best educational practices. The meeting included presentations from ISCC members on current activities, reports from the established working groups, and interactive discussions about the role of international organizations, genomic education funding ideas, and collaborating on genomics education projects. To read the meeting summary, see genome.gov/27563472.

Highlighting the Impact of NIH Research



Last month, NIH launched a new web resource that highlights the influence of NIH research on the biomedical world. The resource's main purpose is to illustrate how health, society, and knowledge are improved by NIH research and programs; it also serves as a hub for connecting to other NIH materials and summaries. This new centralized resource for learning about NIH's goals and outcomes should help to showcase

nametags, and posters), as well as sample press releases and media advisories that can be tailored to fit the needs of the host organization. If you are planning an event, we would love to hear from you! And, if you would like your event featured on our website or for advice about holding an event, please contact dnaday@nih.gov.

For teachers and students interested in National DNA Day activities and resources, an extensive page of genetics and genomics educational resources is available on our website. In particular, the [Get Activity Ideas](#) page provides short explanations about each resource and is supported by a filter button for finding specific resources of interest (ranging from classroom activities, to videos, to interactive web modules). As we did in [2015](#), we will again hold *The Genome: Unlocking Life's Code* [Pinterest Challenge](#), inviting teachers nationwide to work with their classrooms to arrange Pinterest boards that focus on the theme of emerging genomic technologies. Please pass this information on to your favorite teachers!



This year, we will be using numerous [social media](#) platforms to engage the public in the National DNA Day celebration. Our DNA Day [Facebook](#) page will feature upcoming events, articles, and relevant links throughout the year. In the week leading up to April 25, the science community forum on reddit, [/r/Science](#), will be moderating 'Ask Me Anything' sessions for the public that feature prominent genomics researchers. Additionally, a Twitter Chat is planned for April 25 led by @DNADAY; for this event, we will be posing questions about genetics/genomics research and education, focusing on topics such as career paths, technology development, and education. To join the conversation, go to [Twitter](#) and search the hashtag #DNADay16.

For our own local celebration on April 25, NHGRI will host our inaugural National DNA Day Lecture for NHGRI and NIH staff. Dr. Eric Spana from Duke University will speak about communicating science to students and the public in creative and relevant ways. This lecture will be videocast live on [GenomeTV](#) and will also be video-archived for later viewing.

I hope that you will join us in celebrating National DNA Day this year - either by participating in an event in your local area or even by hosting one of your own!

the impact of NIH's efforts to improve human health worldwide. To learn more about how NIH provides value for the public's investment, see nih.gov/impact.

25th Anniversary of Human Genome Project's Launch: Maynard Olson Seminar



Above: Maynard Olson, Ph.D.

The second installment of the NHGRI History of Genomics Program's seminar series commemorating the 25th anniversary of the launch of the Human Genome Project occurred in January. This talk featured my former postdoctoral research mentor, Dr. Maynard Olson of the University of Washington. Dr. Olson's presentation was entitled "Genomics Grows Up: What Have We Learned during the Past 25 Years?" and provided an insightful perspective about his ~40 years of experience in genetics and genomics research. The talk covered numerous topics, including his experience in model organism research, his participation in the National Research Council Committee on Mapping and Sequencing the Human Genome, and his perspective on the role of informatics in the Human Genome Project. One of my favorite quotes from his presentation was "computers then...had less processing power than a Christmas card today." The video of this event is now available on [GenomeTV](#). Subsequent talks in the series will follow through May 2016; these will also be video recorded and made available on GenomeTV. For the full series schedule, see genome.gov/27562713.



Spotlight on the Precision Medicine Initiative (PMI)



nih.gov/precisionmedicine

- On February 25, President Barack Obama hosted a [Precision Medicine Initiative Summit](#) at the White House to recognize the efforts of federal agencies, companies, and non-profit groups to advance precision medicine.
- To coincide with the White House summit, Dr. Collins issued a [statement](#) on new developments in preparation for launching the PMI cohort in 2016. To achieve the goal of enrolling 79,000 cohort participants by the end of 2016, several innovative actions have been taken this month, including announcing the initial funding awards.
- In a story about the White House summit on PMI, Dr. Collins [talks to CBS News](#) about how PMI will gather health information about participants.
- An [AP article](#) outlines the first steps taken by NIH to build a one million person cohort study.

NIH/NHGRI News of Interest

[Unlocking Life's Code: February 2016 Newsletter](#)

[Pi Day 2016 Schedule and Events](#)

[Andy Baxevanis Elected Senior Member of the International Society for Computational Biology](#)

[Senate Confirms Robert Califf as New FDA Commissioner](#)

Funding News

[NIH Policy on Informed Consent for Human Fetal Tissue Research](#)

[Registration Open for Spring & Fall 2016 NIH Regional Seminars on Program Funding & Grants Administration](#)

[Notice Clarifying Eligibility Criteria for Novel Genomic Technology Development - Direct to Phase II SBIR Grant](#)

[Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Bioengineering Research Grants](#)

Genomics Research

[NIH Scientists Discover Genetic Cause of Rare Allergy to Vibration](#)

[NIH Researchers Identify Striking Genomic Signature Shared by Five Types of Cancer](#)

[Tick Genome Reveals Secrets of a Successful Bloodsucker](#)

[Study Shows DNA Sequencing Brings Greater Precision to Childhood Cancer](#)

[A New Tool in the Toolbox: New Method Traces Free-Floating DNA Back to Its Source](#)

[Creative Minds: Bacteria, Gene Swaps, and Human Cancer](#)

[Fearfulness Changes Impact of Genomic Information in Overweight Women](#)

[Neanderthal DNA Has Subtle but Significant Impact on Human Traits](#)

[Individuals' Medical Histories Predicted by Their Noncoding Genomes](#)

[Lyme Disease: Gene Signatures May Catch the Infection Sooner](#)

[Investigating How the Genome Works, One Cell at a Time](#)

Training Opportunity

[NHGRI Short Course in Genomics](#) – Applications Due March 25, 2016

Videos & Podcasts

[Seventy-Sixth Meeting: National Advisory Council for Human Genome Research](#) – February 8, 2016

[Virtual Physician Counsels Participant on Genomic Information and Weight-Related Behavior Change](#)

[Unlocking the Genetic Mysteries of Rare Diseases](#)

Upcoming Webcasts

[Chronic Kidney Disease - A Window into Understanding Health Disparities Neil Powe](#) – March 7, 2016

[NIH Data Science Distinguished Seminar Series "Models and Data in Biomedicine: What's Real and What's Noise?" Carlos Bustamante](#) – March 14, 2016

