

ELSI Research Priorities and Emerging Issues

The following ELSI Research Priorities and Emerging Issues represent current high priority areas for the NHGRI ELSI Research Program. The seven [Research Priorities](#) are a broad statement of the research areas addressed by the program. The [Emerging Issues](#) are new issues arising from recent advances in genomic science that are especially ripe for exploration. These research priorities and emerging issues should be seen as a guide to areas of particular interest, but should not be understood as an exhaustive listing of all possible research topics. As genomic research evolves and the interpretation and use of this information continues to emerge, applicants are encouraged to identify additional research topics and issues.

All research grant applications should be submitted either under the November 2007 [Regular Research grant \(R01\)](#) or [Small Research grant \(R03\)](#) ELSI Program Announcement. You are encouraged to discuss your proposal with [ELSI Research Staff](#) before preparing your application.

ELSI Research Priorities

The seven ELSI research priorities listed below have been identified as "grand challenges" ([Nature, 422:835-847. 2003](#)) and have been incorporated into the ELSI Program Announcements, along with examples of possible research questions. These sample research questions are updated regularly to reflect new issues associated with each priority area. To view a description of each research area along with the associated sample research questions, click on the links provided below. (New questions within each priority area are flagged as <<NEW>> so that they can be easily identified.)

- [**Ethical, Legal and Social Factors that Influence the Translation of Genetic Information to Improved Human Health.**](#)
- [**Issues Surrounding the Conduct of Genetic Research.**](#)
- [**Intellectual Property Issues Surrounding Access to and Use of Genetic Information.**](#)
- [**Issues Surrounding the Use of Genetic Information and Technologies in non-Health Care Settings.**](#)
- [**The Impact of Genomics on Concepts of Race, Ethnicity, Kinship and Individual and Group Identity.**](#)
- [**The Implications of Uncovering Genomic Contributions to 'Normal' Human Traits and Behaviors.**](#)
- [**Ethical Boundaries for the Uses of Genomics.**](#)

[For a printable copy of the complete list of ELSI priorities, click here.](#)

Emerging Research Issues <<NEW>>

In an effort to ensure that ELSI research keeps pace with the rapidly evolving field of genomics, the National Advisory Council for Human Genome Research (NACHGR), in consultation with NHGRI staff and other experts in the research and policy communities, regularly reviews the ELSI research priorities and identifies emerging genomic research issues that require attention from the ELSI research community. These “emerging issues” fall within the existing ELSI research priorities found in the [Program Announcements \(PAs\)](#), but relate to new developments in genomic research that were not specifically addressed when the PAs were released in November 2007. It is hoped that as a result of this effort to highlight emerging issues, the ELSI research community will be stimulated to learn more about the genomic science involved and will develop research proposals that address their ethical, legal and social implications. For more information on high priority emerging genomic research issues, click on the links provided below.

- [Natural Selection in the Human Genome](#)
- [Online Direct-to-Consumer Personal Genomics](#)

[For a printable copy of the complete list of emerging issues, click here.](#)