



THE  
AMERICAN  
SOCIETY  
OF HUMAN  
GENETICS

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## National Advisory Council for Human Genome Research

A Brief Update from the American Society of Human Genetics

September 2017

### Society Update

- ASHG [named a new Executive Director](#), Mona Miller, on May 30. She previously served as the Deputy Executive Director for Programs and Finance at the Society for Neuroscience, and is now serving in her current role as ASHG's Executive Director.
- ASHG members elected a new president-elect (Leslie Biesecker), three directors (Katrina Goddard, Donna Martin, and Susan Slaugenhaupt), one early-career director (Neil Hanchard), and one trainee director (Zachary Nevin) to its 2018 Board of Directors.
- ASHG announced its 2017 award recipients, who will be presented with their awards at ASHG 2017 in October:
  - William Allan Award: Kári Stefánsson
  - Curt Stern Award: Nicholas Katsanis
  - Education Award: Dian Donnai
  - McKusick Award: Arthur Beaudet
  - Advocacy Award: Edward McCabe
  - Mentorship Award: John Mulvihill
  - Early-Career Award: Daniel MacArthur

### Policy Activities

- The 2017-2018 [ASHG/NHGRI Genetics & Public Policy Fellow](#), Danielle "Nikki" Meadows, PhD, began her first rotation at NHGRI on August 28.
- 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.
- [ASHG's statement on germline genome editing](#) was published in the *American Journal of Human Genetics* on August 3. The statement jointly authored by the American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG), the Association of Genetic Nurses and Counsellors, the Canadian Association of Genetic Counsellors, the International Genetic Epidemiology Society, and the National Society of Genetic Counselors. It was also endorsed by the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, the Asia Pacific Society of Human Genetics, the British Society for Genetic Medicine, the Human Genetics Society of Australasia, the Professional Society of Genetic Counselors in Asia, and the Southern African Society for Human Genetics.
- ASHG has hired a new Science Policy Analyst, Jillian Galloway, MS.

## Educational Programs

### Professional

- The 2016-2017 [ASHG/NHGRI Genetics & Education Fellow](#), Teresa Ramirez, PhD, began her third rotation, in August, at the Association of American Medical Colleges.
- A fellow was not selected for the 2017-2018 ASHG/NHGRI Genetics & Education Fellowship.
- ASHG has completed a series of online CME modules and videos for OB/GYNs dealing with prenatal cfDNA screening, developed in collaboration with the Mayo Clinic and Kaiser Permanente of California. The course is available in ASHG's learning management system.

### Trainees

- ASHG and The Jackson Laboratory has developed the [Conference to Career Program](#), which aims to help trainees learn how to navigate, network, and effectively communicate with other members at a national meeting. The program comprises a series of webinars taking place in 2017-2018 and an in-person event at the ASHG 2017 Annual Meeting.
- ASHG has expanded its diversity initiatives. At the annual meeting in Orlando, ASHG will host a Diversity Breakfast, open to a range of trainees from groups underrepresented in science, and provide programming for 10 trainees as part of the ASHG/FASEB Mentored Travel Awards Program.

### Undergraduate

- ASHG has adapted its two-day in-person faculty development program [Building Excellence in Genetics Instruction \(BEGIn\)](#) to include a series of online modules that now complement 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 has released the [2018 DNA Day Essay Contest](#) question, which focuses on genetic testing.
- ASHG continues to add inquiry-based genomics lessons to its [Lesson Plan Database](#), which is widely used by high school teachers and college faculty. Two lesson plans, focused on bioinformatics and developed by former fellows, have been added to the database.

### ASHG's 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting – Orlando, Florida, October 17-21, 2017

- ASHG announced its [Presidential Symposium Speakers](#): Bill Gates, Co-chair and Trustee of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; and Francis Collins, MD, PhD, Director of the U.S. National Institutes of Health. The 90-minute symposium will address global health and genomics in an informal, conversational format.
- The [ASHG 2017 Schedule](#) is available on the meeting website. Abstracts and the itinerary building will be viewable starting September 8.
- [Advanced registration](#) is now available. Rate increase onsite
- ASHG is still accepting [housing requests](#) until September 18.

### **The American Society of Human Genetics**

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