



Advocate Partnership Program

What is the American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG)?

The mission of ASHG is to serve research scientists, health professionals, and the public by providing forums to share research results, advance genetic research by advocating for research support, enhance genetics education by preparing future professionals and informing the public, and promote genetic services and support responsible social and scientific policies.

What is the Partnership Program?

The ASHG and Genetic Alliance have created a program that will support 10-15 advocates to attend the ASHG Annual Meetings. This year the meeting will be held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Society expects to have over 4,000 geneticists and researchers and other allied health professionals attend this meeting. This opportunity will educate advocacy leaders in the fields of genetics, genomics, and related areas, as well as empower them to be proactive supporters of research, funding, cohort development, and policies that support genetic research and services.

How do I decide what presentations to go to?

A few weeks prior to the meeting, a conference call will be held with all of the participants and will include Dr. Joann Boughman, ASHG Executive Vice President, and Genetic Alliance staff. On this call, you will learn the dimensions of the meeting, how it is set up, and how to navigate the web-based meeting program prior to actually going to the meeting. In addition, Genetic Alliance will establish an advocate listserv that will have helpful information to prepare for the meeting.

How can I get the most out of each day?

Advocates will gather for daily briefings to hear several scientists on the Program Committee give an informal, five-minute verbal impression of what they considered important or significant during that day. Advocates will be able to ask questions about any topic related to the meeting, and the scientists will answer them to the best of their ability. This is an excellent opportunity to have broader, visionary conversations with different people in the genetics field.

What is included in the Advocates Partnership Program?

Advocates will receive free full registration to the meeting. They will have access to the ASHG President, Vice President and research faculty, as well as the Genetic Alliance staff. They will also have the opportunity to interact with other advocates who have a special interest in research. Participants will also receive a \$250 reimbursement for hotel or travel cost if they submit receipts according to protocol. Some lunches and snacks will be provided during the briefings.

What benefits do ASHG leaders and members get by interacting with advocates?

ASHG and its members recognize that great ideas develop out of novel partnerships. By integrating advocates into this meeting, ASHG members expand their own perspectives about issues and gain valuable insights on what is currently important to advocates. Moreover, researchers and advocates can begin developing collaborative working relationships.

How do I apply? What are the requirements?

Those interested must fill out an application, which is due September 5 2008. Acceptance into the program is based the quality of the submitted documents. Travel, lodging and incidentals are paid up front. Attendance is required at all briefings. All evaluations and forms must be completed and submitted to receive reimbursement.