



Scientists are still working. And so are we.

In the midst of the multiple crises of 2020, including the pandemic, reckoning with systemic racism, immigration restrictions, and science denial, our members face unprecedented career uncertainty and research obstacles. We, the GSA, offer professional connections and trusted support to help weather the storm.



"GSA is a community of scientists for scientists. Never in our lifetimes have scientific societies been more important or their impact more obvious. We need to help each other now more than ever to meet the challenges of this historic moment. We thank you for your past contributions, which have enabled GSA to respond quickly, creatively, and substantively to every crisis. We ask for your support, so that we can continue to provide exceptional programs and the comfort of community to all of our members."

—Denise Montell, President of the GSA Board of Directors and Chair of the Fundraising Committee

We're bringing our community together.

In record time, GSA flipped The Allied Genetics Conference (TAGC) to an online event attended by thousands around the world—with no registration fees. This gesture in support of our community came at a substantial financial cost to the Society, but had an immeasurable impact on our researchers.



14,518 attendees
634 posters
371 talks
79 countries
14 workshops
7 communities
\$0 registration fees



We're empowering a new generation of leaders.



"Being part of the **GSA's Early Career Leadership program** has given me the opportunity to network with the top scientists in the field of genetics, learn from them, and have a sense of community that is beyond my institution."

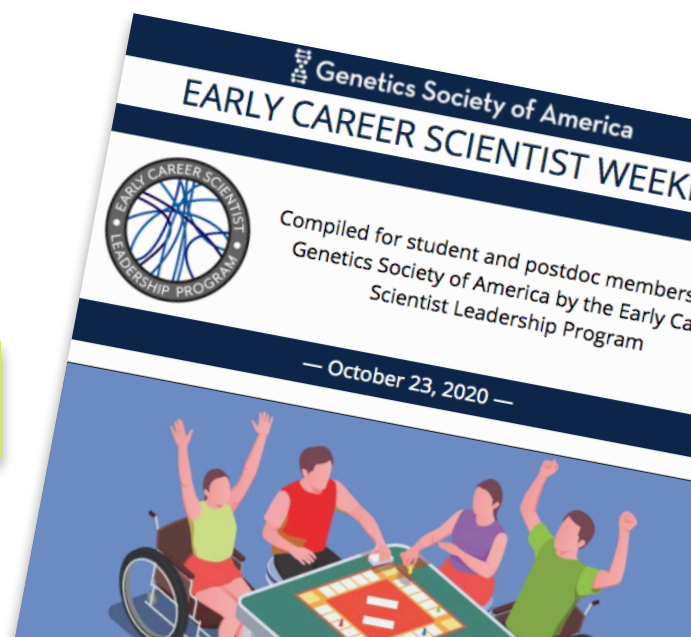
—Ana Mesquita, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Projects and resources developed by **students and postdocs** as part of the Early Career Leadership Program:

- 50 issues *per year* of the Early Career Scientist Weekly sent
- 35 *Decoding Life* career path interviews published
- 18 *Science in a Snapshot* early career online seminars hosted
- 12 public science communication articles published
- 11 policy fellow interviews published
- 7 online professional development workshops organized
- 1 searchable policy fellowship database created and curated
- 1 "Virtual Café" discussion series launched



Students and postdocs: apply to be a GSA Early Career Leader
Join our thriving network and get involved!



We're training the peer reviewers of the future.

Our unique GENETICS Peer Review Training Program takes place wholly online, so it hasn't paused for COVID. Participants receive training in the important skill of manuscript reviewing and a chance to review for GENETICS.



201 Students, postdocs, and early career faculty have received formal peer review training

468 Trainee peer reviews of GENETICS initial manuscript submissions

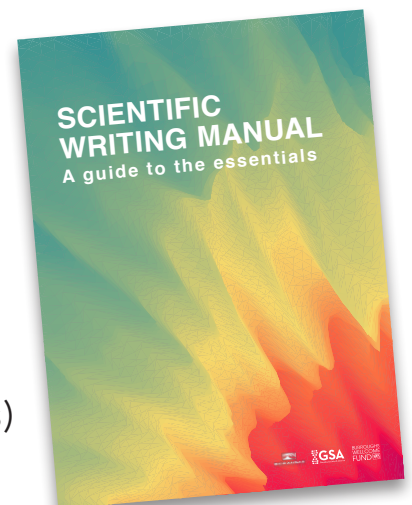
277 Early career reviewer feedback forms completed by editors

193 Requests from editors for early career reviewers to re-review resubmissions/revisions, indicating that the editors highly value the expertise of early career reviewers

We're moving our field forward.

GSA staff and volunteers work every day to keep the wheels of science turning, including publishing foundational research in the Society's peer-reviewed journals, GENETICS and G3: Genes|Genomes|Genetics. In addition to our established programs, GSA has:

- Launched an [organization-wide initiative](#) to combat racism in our field.
- Raised our voice in support of [Black scientists](#), [international students](#), [J1 scholars](#), [immigrant scientists](#), [health policy experts](#), the [Office of Research Infrastructure Programs](#), supplemental [funding for NIH during the pandemic](#), and against [political interference in NIH grants](#).
- Kept our community connected by sharing stories of [COVID-life](#), [teaching resources](#), and [career paths](#).
- Adjusted our travel awards and symposia funding to support the financial costs of attending or creating online courses and conferences.
- Developed and piloted the Scientific Writing Program in partnership with BioKansas.
- Waived conference registration fees for residents of countries with lower- and middle-income economies (LMICs)
- Implemented [open peer review](#) at GENETICS.



But we need your help.

Our years of planning for 2020 and 2021 have been completely transformed by the pandemic. We canceled not only TAGC and the 2021 Fungal Genetics Conference, but more than 30 legislator meetings scheduled for TAGC Capitol Hill Day. We are likely to face reduced membership and conference attendance in 2021, due to the cancellation of in-person conferences and the changing landscape of online scientific meetings. GSA's operational and IT processes have had to be reimaged to manage a new way of serving our community.

Equity and Inclusion

This time of change coincides with the initiation of a major equity and inclusion initiative that the leadership and staff are developing in conjunction with the Equity and Inclusion committee. We hope to dedicate significant resources to this critically important project.

Current Equity and Inclusion projects include:

- The [Presidential Membership Initiative](#), which supports the career development of early career scientists from historically excluded populations, including Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). Awardees will receive a year of free GSA membership—and the associated career development program benefits—to help reverse a history of exclusion by cultivating the next generation of scientist-leaders. Presidential Members will not only benefit from GSA's career programs in the short-term; we aim to foster enduring connections with participants through the community of scholars and support structures we are building in parallel.
- Creating a mentoring and networking program to foster connections between junior and senior GSA members from historically excluded backgrounds.
- Developing an early outreach program for undergraduate and early graduate students to facilitate belonging and networking among students from historically excluded groups.
- Creating guidelines for the planning and implementation of equity and inclusion sessions at GSA conferences, and strongly encouraging our conference partners to adopt these guidelines.
- Coordinating equity and inclusion initiatives with other societies in allied fields in order to share information, facilitate use of best practices, increase solidarity and spheres of influence, and work toward common purpose.



Public Engagement

Our members often express a desire to engage with the public and students on the ethical and social dimensions of their work, but are unsure where to start and how best to do so. GSA is launching a new partnership with the [Personal Genetics Education Project](#) (pgEd) to better equip scientists to engage in discussions about genetics with all communities, with special emphasis on those who are economically disadvantaged, historically marginalized, or otherwise excluded from conversations about science.

The program will begin with a series of online workshops for scientists to build skills for public engagement and explore topics such as the history of eugenics, CRISPR, and genome editing and the environment. Interactive discussions will address pgEd's experiences engaging with a range of communities and will include guests from community partners.

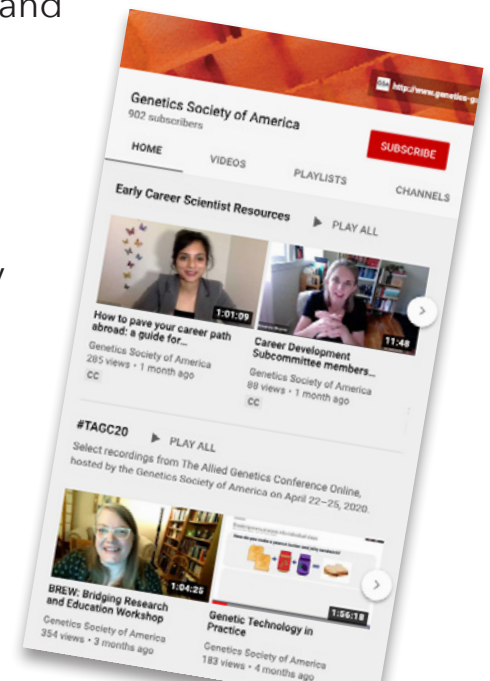


GSA and pgEd will be fundraising to expand the program and support future public engagement internship and fellowship programs for scientists.

Your financial support is an investment in our shared future.

In addition to sustaining our established programs, your donation enables our new initiatives:

- Development and support of impactful and lasting equity and inclusion initiatives
- Development and support of a training program to equip GSA members for public engagement (in partnership with pgED)
- Launch of a new series of online workshops on scientific and professional development topics
- Experimenting with new publishing models for the GSA journals
- Improving and launching the Scientific Writing Program
- Development of toolkits, narratives, and case studies for members to use in discussions with the public and policy makers
- Reimagining online conferences for a successful Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference and International *C. elegans* Conference in 2021

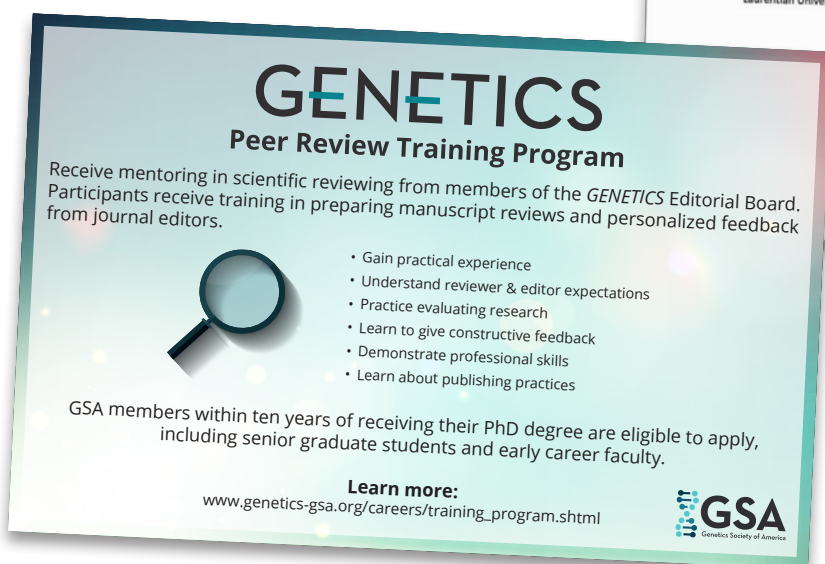


Join GSA's 2020 Appeal

Every donation gets us closer to our goals. As you contemplate your personal commitment, reflect on what our field means to you, as well as the impact that GSA might have had on your own career and that of countless others.

If you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact us at development@genetics-gsa.org.

Learn more about how to donate at: genetics-gsa.org/donate



Thank you to our 2019 & 2020 Donors!

Our resilience in 2020 has been due in no small part to the generosity of our many 2019 Appeal Donors. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to thank the following individuals for their commitment to our community.

For an updated list of 2020 donors, please check the website:
genetics-gsa.org/donate/

2019 Donors

Diamond Level (\$5,000+)

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