



**2021
ANNUAL
APPEAL**

Your support is vital to our work

GSA is dedicated to strengthening our community, boosting our field, and safeguarding science. Even in the face of substantial COVID-related revenue losses and logistical hurdles, our team and volunteers have celebrated many successes in 2021. But we couldn't have done it without our dedicated network of supporters and donors.



"The GSA community is both highly collaborative and deeply innovative. It is critical that their unique contributions are able continue in the face of serious funding issues and the many impacts of the pandemic. Please give generously and help us to support and advocate for science and for scientists."

—Hugo Bellen, 2021 GSA President

DONATE NOW

Bringing together our global community

In 2021 we re-imagined our conferences in a virtual format to ensure scientists could continue to share their research, advance their careers, build collaborations, and make connections. As well as the scientific program GSA developed a range of virtual professional development programming, including career exploration and networking events.

With the support of the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, we were also able to offer free registration to attendees from low- and middle-income countries. Thanks to the accessibility of the virtual format, the conferences saw record breaking attendance from more countries than ever before!

Virtual GSA Conferences in 2021: **2**

Attendees: **4,054**

Abstracts presented: **2,032**

Attendees from Low and Middle-Income Countries: **262**

Recipients of GSA registration awards: **53**

Countries represented: **45**



Aracely Newton, PhD
@NewtFly

The #pui workshops at #dros21 were fantastic. Thanks to the more senior faculty for sharing their wisdom about teaching, CURES, research, and grants. 😊

10:35 PM · Mar 31, 2021 · Twitter Web App



Eric J. Perkins
@AllotEricSite

I just co-moderated a small breakout room for this @GeneticsGSA event, which included participants in India (my co-moderator @RohanKhadiolkarr), Spain, Chile, the UK, and Nigeria. There were even a few Americans! Despite the pandemic, #Dros21 is a truly international event!



Dr. Jessica Velez 🇪🇸 @MicrobioJess · Mar 16

Join us now for the #Dros21 Conference Success Tips and Welcome through the #Dros21 conference app! genetics-gsa.org/drosophila-2021 @GeneticsGSA

11:07 AM · Mar 16, 2021 · Twitter Web App



Dr. Julie Claycomb
@farmgirlphd

Yes! Thank you so much for bringing thousands of us around the world together for amazing science at #worm21. Although we had to "settle" for virtual instead of in Scotland, it united and energized our community in a way that I think we all needed! See you in Scotland in 2023!

2:09 PM · Jun 24, 2021 · Twitter Web App

In 2021, we also hosted a GSA Award Seminar series featuring our 2021 awardees for distinguished service in the field of genetics. Nearly 1,100 participants joined over the course of five seminars.



Genetics Society of America

2021 GSA Award Seminars

Lectures from this year's awardees

Douglas Koshland Ruth Lehmann Edward J. Smith Chao-ting Wu Feng Zhang

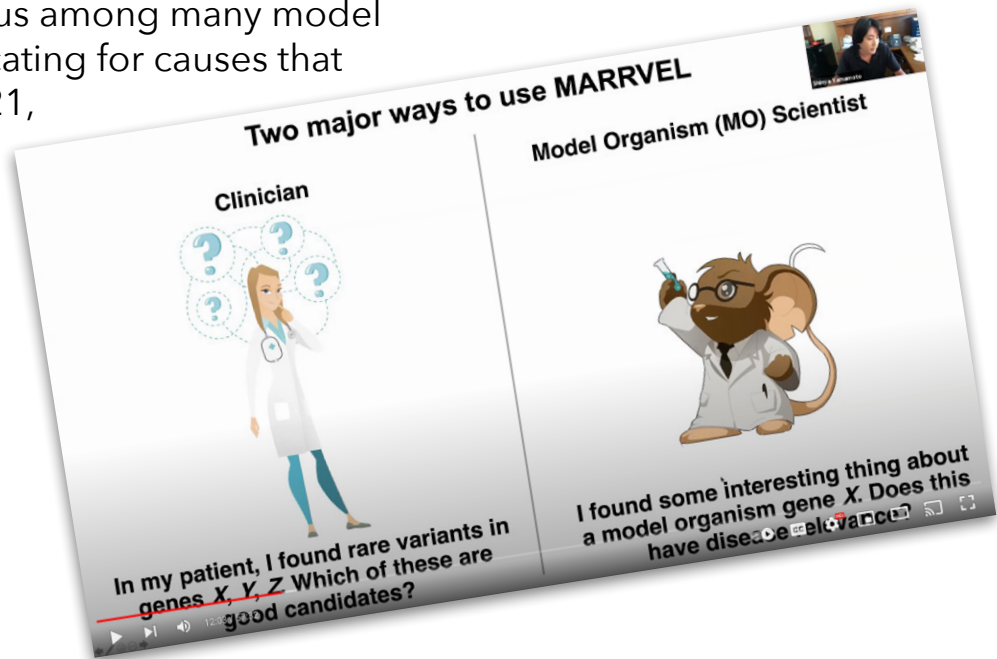
REGISTER NOW

In the works: For our 2022 conferences (#Fungal22, #Dros22, #PEQG22, and #Yeast22), GSA is experimenting with [a new conference model](#) to combine the benefits of in-person meetings and the increased accessibility of attending a conference online.

"Despite the anticipated losses, we consider the virtual attendance option in 2022 to be an important step in learning how to balance the needs of in-person and online participants."
—2021 GSA Executive Committee,
["Hybrid \(conference\) vigor"](#)

Advocating for shared resources

GSA has long served as a nexus among many model organism communities, advocating for causes that strengthen our science. In 2021, our efforts have focused on showing support for NIH-funded Model Organism Databases and other shared resources, whose funding is in jeopardy. GSA leadership is playing a key role in marshalling the efforts of members and other scientific societies in lobbying the NIH to [renew funding](#) for these [critical scientific tools](#).



GSA President Hugo Bellen spearheaded a successful webinar series, attended by over 600 people, introducing model organism scientists to websites and databases that can assist in the study of human disease genes across organisms and to encourage collaborative studies and efforts between physicians, research scientists, and genome database developers.

In the works: GSA's newly formed Public Engagement and Communication Committee is focused on developing materials, for members to use in their advocacy efforts, that show the positive impacts of research using a wide variety of organisms.

Fostering the next generation of scientists

GSA Early Career Leaders work in teams to develop initiatives that address unmet needs. Every cohort makes a big impact and builds a thriving network of peers and mentors. This year, their achievements included publishing science writing pieces to multiple platforms, developing and hosting professional development workshops, publishing career interviews, launching a podcast, and participating in a “Hill Day” to lobby for increased NIH funding. The leaders also participated in two training programs: the GSA’s new four-week Science Writing Workshop, sharpening their ability to write about research for different audiences, as well as learning about leading teams through the [Leadership and Management in Action Program](#).

“The Early Career Leadership Program provides essential opportunities for networking with senior researchers, helps early career researchers find their scientific identities, and strengthens bonds between the next generation of geneticists.”

—Nicole Green, Postdoctoral Fellow and GSA Early Career Leader, University of Iowa

In 2021 alone, program participants:

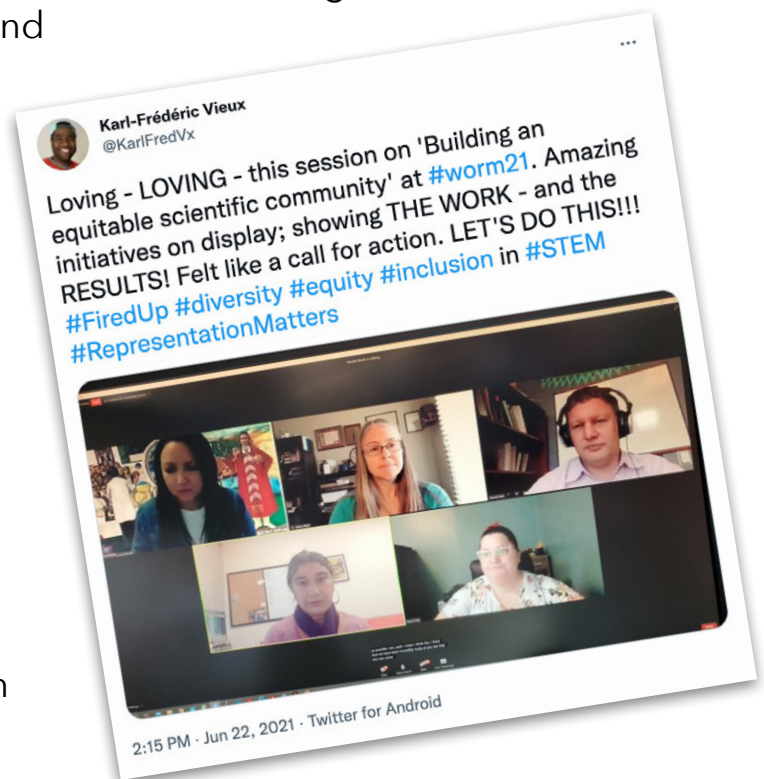
- Sent **48** issues of the Early Career Scientist Weekly email newsletters
- Published **16** [Early Career Scientist Spotlight](#) blog posts
- Interviewed **6** scientists with diverse careers for the [Decoding Life](#) blog series
- Launched a Policy and Advocacy Interview Series
- Published **4** [science writing](#) pieces for the public
- Organized and hosted **4** virtual [WorkshopWednesday](#) seminars, with 317 attendees
- Produced **3** episodes of the [Genetics in Your World](#) podcast
- Participated in a [virtual Hill Day](#) to advocate for increased NIH funding
- Met with GSA Board members in a series of **13** topic-based discussions
- Maintained the [Policy and Fellowship Database](#) and [Science Communication Resources](#) websites
- Hosted GSA conference seminars, including the GSA Virtual Welcome, How to Get Involved in GSA’s Early Career Professional Development, Multilingual Networking, and the Career Exploration Panels
- Launched the [Accessibility Subcommittee](#).

In the works: GSA Early Career Leaders are working on making their content and programs more accessible to scientists with disabilities and will be sharing their learnings with the rest of the GSA community.

Building a more inclusive field

GSA aims to foster a welcoming, global, and inclusive culture. This year the Equity and Inclusion Committee focused their efforts on organizing GSA conference events highlighting scholarship on diversity, equity, and inclusion in our communities as well as overseeing the new Presidential Membership Initiative, designed to increase GSA member diversity and provide a positive experience for awardees. The first cohort of Presidential Members received free GSA membership, a conference abstract fee waiver, recognition in *Genes to Genomes*, access to networking events and a dedicated Slack workspace, and the opportunity to participate in GSA's Early Career Leadership Program and the GENETICS Peer Review Training Program.

- **82** Presidential Membership packages were [awarded](#)
- **1108** participants attended Equity and Inclusion events at [#Dros21](#) and [#Worm21](#) conferences
- **6** early career scientists were sponsored to participate in the Black History Wiki Scholars course on Wikipedia editing
- **1** [statement](#) was published on anti-Asian American and Pacific Islander violence
- **1** Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion best practice document was developed to guide GSA conference organizers on the inclusion of DEI scholarship at meetings



In addition to the Committee's work, the GSA Engagement Department created a new Multilingual Seminar series, which provides an opportunity for scientists to discuss science communication and outreach in languages other than English. Early career GSA members volunteered their time to organize and host five seminars in Arabic, Farsi, Spanish, Hindi, and Portuguese, with nearly 500 attendees.

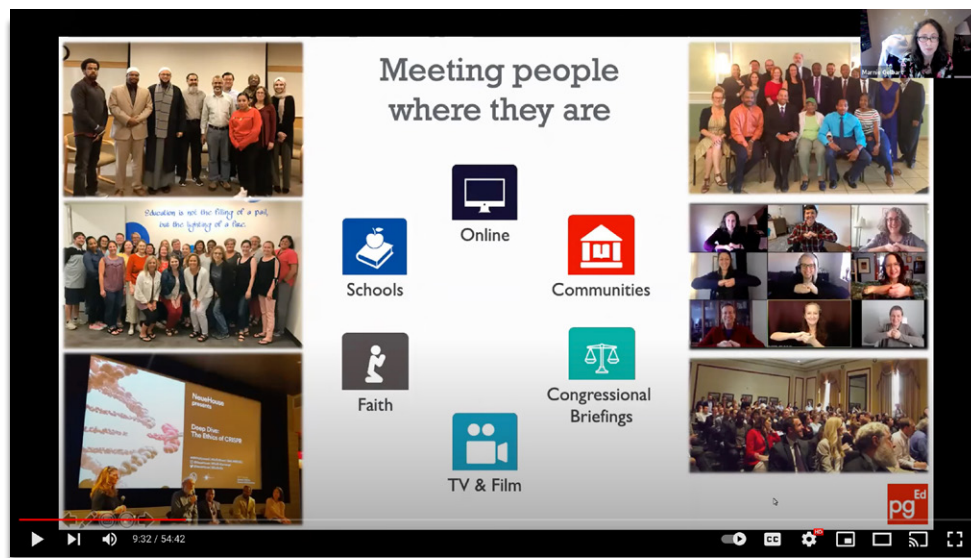
In the works: The Equity and Inclusion Committee is developing guidelines for GSA Conferences on selecting organizing committees, inviting speakers and session chairs, and incorporating equity and inclusion programming in the conference.

Engaging with the public

GSA and the Personal Genetics Education Project (pgEd) of Harvard Medical School have partnered to build public dialogue about genetic technologies.

Our joint programs aim to better equip scientists to engage in discussions about genetics

with all communities, with special emphasis on those who have been marginalized, economically disadvantaged, or otherwise excluded from conversations about science. In 2021, the program developed the “Meeting the Moment” webinar series, in which 550 people participated.



In the works: In 2022, we will be hosting more webinars and also launching in-depth online training workshops on methods for engaging with a range of communities. Ultimately, we hope to fund public engagement internship and fellowship programs focused on genetics.

Training peer reviewers of the future

The GENETICS Peer Review Training Program provides formal training in the key skill of manuscript reviewing and gives participants the opportunity to review for GENETICS while honing their skills and receiving feedback from editors.

In 2021:

- **103** Students, postdocs, and early career faculty were accepted to the latest program cohort
- **84** Trainee peer reviews were submitted
- **39** Requests were received for early career reviewers to re-review a manuscript, indicating that the editors value early career expertise



Sharing useful data and resources

This year marked ten years of G3: Genes|Genomes|Genetics, the GSA's home for high-quality, useful, and robust papers published without subjective decisions about impact. More than 3,000 publications, 3 million downloads, and 11 million views later, we are proud that our community believes in our mission and chooses to publish with us.



Give back to the community that sustains you

For the past two years, GSA has experienced substantial loss of exhibitor and sponsorship revenue and other financial consequences of the pandemic. Because of the cost of developing a new hybrid conference platform, more financial losses are expected in 2022. Despite these hurdles, the Society continues to invest and innovate. When you donate to the 2021 Annual Appeal, you are both ensuring the sustainability of GSA's existing programs and enabling the Society to expand its impacts and adapt to our ever-changing future.

Every donation counts. Please consider what GSA has meant to you and your career, and how the careers of countless others like you may be served by GSA programs.

If you have questions or ideas, please contact us: society@genetics-gsa.org.

Thank you, Donors!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to thank all of our donors for their commitment to GSA and our community. For an updated list of 2021 donors, please check the website:

genetics-gsa.org/donate/

