





As the professional home for over 4,500 members throughout more than 60 countries worldwide, the Genetics Society of America (GSA) is committed to supporting genetics researchers and championing the importance of basic science. In 2025, members of GSA's community at every career level were affected by the rapidly changing science policy landscape in the United States, with drastic cuts to federal research funding, a volatile job market, and threats to inclusivity initiatives.

Facing these challenges together with our community, GSA invested additional efforts into resources to help scientists navigate impacts to their careers posed by policy changes and advocate for the value of basic scientific research. Much of our work is made possible by the generous support of our volunteers and donors, who are vital to helping us achieve our goals in science advocacy and beyond.

"Amid these times of unprecedented instability, GSA remains steadfastly committed to supporting our genetics and genomics community. Now more than ever, we must advocate for supporting biomedical research at our universities and research institutes and protecting evidence-based science and data-driven discovery."

–Brenda Andrews, 2025 GSA President

Empowering advocacy within our scientific community

In response to the challenges facing our community, GSA redoubled its commitment in 2025 to supporting scientists and protecting biomedical research by providing relevant and timely news, resources, and training to empower researchers to advocate for themselves and their science:

- A series of **blog posts** on *Genes to Genomes*—letters from leadership and a dedicated series outlining impacts to our community—highlighted the direct challenges on our community posed by U.S. policy:
 - [“Letter from the GSA President on recent developments arising from the U.S. Presidential administration”](#)
 - [“A Call to Action: Learn what you can do now to protect science”](#)
 - [“How policy changes are driving top researchers abroad and what that means for the U.S.”](#)
 - [“When U.S. scientific research isn’t funded, the economy takes a hit”](#)
 - [“Policy changes are closing the door on the ‘American Dream’”](#)
- The seminar **“From the lab to the legislature: How researchers can impact science in Congress”** connected participants with Adriana Bankston, AAAS/ASGCT Congressional Policy Fellow in the U.S. House of Representatives, who shared practical ways for researchers to get involved in science policy and advocacy.



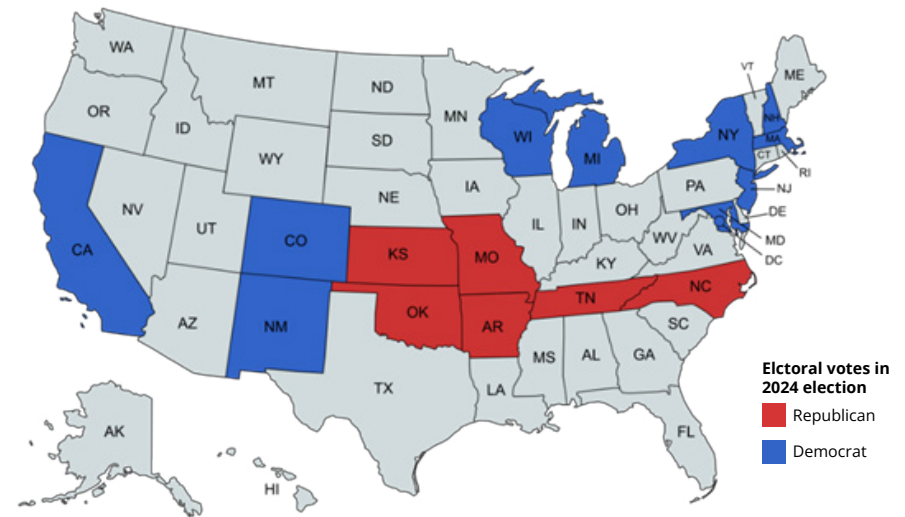
Your voice matters: If you or your lab have been impacted by policy changes in the United States and would be willing to share your experience anonymously, we'd like to hear from you. Submit your story through [this private form](#).

Standing up for science on Capitol Hill

Together with the Coalition for Life Sciences, GSA and the Early Career Scientist Policy and Advocacy Subcommittee co-organized a virtual Capitol Hill Day. Participants received messaging, facts, and a preparation checklist to support their discussions, which focused on (1) asking Congress to support the allocation of federal funds for NIH, NSF, and other agencies; (2) emphasizing that federally funded research needs steady, predictable funding; and (3) relaying that federally funded fundamental science research is essential for establishing the foundational knowledge on which all other biomedical innovation is built.

At Capitol Hill Day 2025:

- Participants met with legislative staff from **6 red states, 10 blue states**, and the District of Columbia.
- 31 participants engaged in **41 meetings with legislators**.
- 28 participants met with policymakers from their own congressional districts.



"GSA's Virtual Hill Day was a great opportunity for us to talk across the political aisle about science and the importance of science funding. The staffers we met with were really engaged and knowledgeable, and we had real discussions about topics important to scientists and the perspectives of members of Congress. I would highly recommend the event to scientists interested in expanding their impact on scientific policy and outreach."

– **Audrey Gasch**, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*

Uplifting scientists facing career uncertainty

Scientists have faced unprecedented career hurdles in 2025, including layoffs due to unplanned reductions in force, rescission of graduate school and postdoc offers, and increasingly competitive and uncertain career prospects. To help our community weather these difficult times, GSA staff organized myriad events aimed at providing support and practical career guidance:

- **“Crafting Your Resume”** and **“Shining in the Moment: Strategies for a Strong Interview,”** job-hunting workshops with career development professional Doug Dluzen
- **“Grants and Funding in Europe”** and **“Postdoc Opportunities Abroad: Studying, Working, & Growing Outside the U.S.,”** seminars for researchers interested in career opportunities outside the U.S.
- **“Acing the Interview,”** a professional development seminar by Certified Career Coach and Career Development Educator CJ Neely
- A six-week **Academic Writing Workshop** by science writer Carolyn Beans
- **“Developing an Academic CV/Resume,”** a workshop by Olumuyiwa Igbalajobi
- Fifth annual **Leadership and Management in Action Program**, a workshop that helps graduate students and postdocs to build leadership, management, and inclusive teamwork skills through active learning



Looking for your next career move? Visit the [GSA Job Board](#), where you can post and apply for jobs, studentships, internships, or postdocs. Sign up for job alerts to get notified about the latest openings relevant to you!

Reaffirming our commitment to inclusion



In 2025, promising research was halted, grants rescinded, and opportunities erased—not because the science was flawed, but because of shifting U.S. political priorities that flagged terms like “diversity,” “equity,” “accessibility,” or “underrepresented.” Despite these challenges, GSA’s commitment to inclusivity and our support for all scientists remained unwavering.

At GSA Conferences, the Equity and Inclusion (E&I) Committee continued the [Inclusion Ambassador Program](#) in which volunteers model inclusive behavior, promote DEI programming, and provide information on GSA’s Code of Conduct and DEI efforts in order to help create a safe and welcoming space for all attendees. The E&I Committee also continued the [Presidential Membership Initiative](#) (PMI) in 2024, which awards free GSA membership for one year and discounted for another, a conference abstract fee waiver, a spot in GSA’s Early Career Leadership Program and the GSA Journals Peer Review Training Program, and more.

In 2025:

- **55** Inclusion Ambassadors trained for GSA Conferences
- **76** Presidential Membership packages [awarded](#), totaling **278** since the Initiative’s launch in 2021
- **2** Equity and Inclusion events held at Dros 2025 and Worm 2025: “Initiatives in Education and DEI”

In the works: The E&I Committee is creating a handbook for GSA Conference organizers using the “[Vision for Inclusive Conferences](#)” as a base to promote accessible conference design and inclusive practices at GSA meetings, including guidance on creating an Academic Research Session covering equity and inclusion topics.

Elevating research in scientific publishing



New in 2025: The Early Career Scientist Multimedia Subcommittee published six episodes of the *Genetics in Your World* podcast. Our refreshed podcast now exclusively spotlights GSA Journals authors and their work by highlighting noteworthy studies concurrently with their publication in GENETICS and G3.

The GSA Journals, [GENETICS](#) and [G3: Genes | Genomes | Genetics](#), are peer-reviewed and peer-edited. Publishing thematic collections spanning a broad range of current topics, the Journals are known for their expert reviews, clear and fast decisions, rigorous data policies, and commitment to enriching the author experience.

In 2025, the Journals continued to contribute to the intellectual exchange of ideas across genetics and genomics:

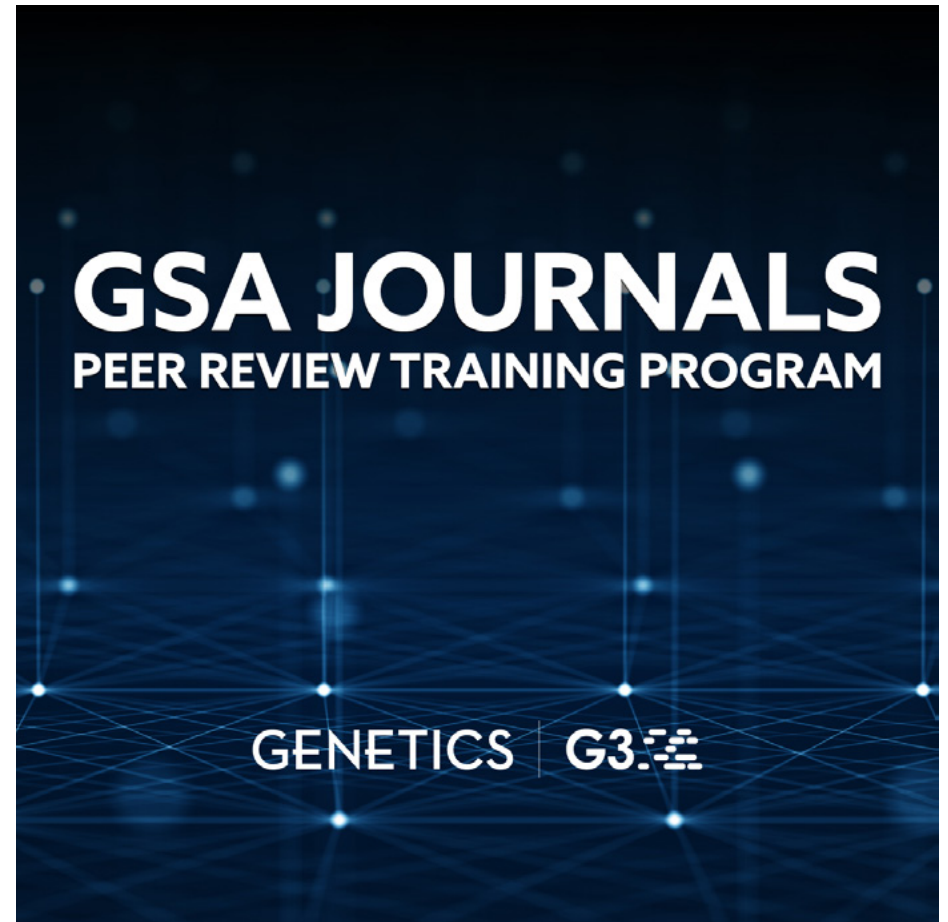
- GENETICS launched a Call for Papers (CFP) for a [Special Issue on Fitness Landscapes](#), and both Journals launched a CFP on [Selfish elements: Genetics of natural and synthetic systems](#).
- GENETICS and G3 published 2 new Series: [Opportunities and Challenges for Genomic Data analyses in Biobanks](#) and [Genetics of Bacteria](#).
- G3 launched a new article type, [Omics Report](#), to publish high-quality results from multi-sample omics experiments.
- G3 published [4 papers addressing the challenges of new technology](#), from machine learning limits to mapping bias and beyond.
- GENETICS launched the new [Functional Genomics and Systems Biology](#) section.
- GENETICS expanded its section of Primers, which help instructors use peer-reviewed articles in their classrooms when teaching about research methods and model organisms.
- 28 journal articles were highlighted on *Genes to Genomes* [blog posts](#).
- Each GENETICS and G3 article, per issue, received individual, dedicated promotion on social media.

Expanding peer review training for early career scientists

The [GSA Journals Peer Review Training Program](#) provides formal instruction in the key skill of manuscript evaluation and gives participants the opportunity to review for the GSA Journals while honing their skills and receiving feedback from editors. Participants had the opportunity to review a broad array of papers, as 2025 was the first full year the program expanded to include reviews for [G3: Genes|Genomes|Genetics](#) in addition to [GENETICS](#).

In 2025:

- **199** students, postdocs, and early career faculty received training
- **127** trainee peer reviews submitted to GENETICS
- **177** trainee peer reviews submitted to G3



Reconnecting the *Drosophila* and Worm research communities

GSA hosted two model organism community conferences in 2025, the [66th Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference](#) in San Diego, CA and the [25th International Worm Meeting](#) in Davis, CA. These longstanding meetings have become cornerstones for the fly and worm research communities to share and learn the latest science, reconnect with colleagues, and form new collaborations.

Dros 2025, by the numbers:

- **1,402** scientists attended
- **939** abstracts submitted
- **7** [Professional Development events](#)
- **16** Undergraduate Travel Awards granted

Worm 2025, by the numbers:

- **1,243** scientists attended
- **1,022** abstracts submitted
- **5** [Professional Development events](#)
- **9** Undergraduate Travel Awards granted

To increase support for early career scientists at the Dros 2025 and Worm 2025 poster sessions, GSA organized the Poster Advocacy Program. To foster meaningful interactions, the program encourages mid-career scientists and PIs to make their first poster visit to early career presenters who might otherwise be overlooked, such as those outside their network, presenting alone, or attending their first conference (identified by lanyard ribbons).

- **168** Poster Advocacy volunteers at Dros 2025
- **228** Poster Advocacy volunteers at Worm 2025



New in 2025: The first [Hugo Bellen and Catherine Tasnier *Drosophila* Neurogenetics Lecture](#) prize, which recognizes a postdoctoral fellow or assistant professor for their outstanding achievements in the field of genetics as applied to neuroscience in *Drosophila*, was presented at Dros 2025. The inaugural recipient, [Qili Liu](#) from the University of California, San Francisco, gave a talk entitled “Cellular and Molecular Basis of Protein-specific Appetite.” The 2026 lecture will be presented at the 67th Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference in March 2026 in Chicago.

Help us preserve and protect the field of genetics

When you donate to the 2025 Annual Appeal, you are ensuring the sustainability of GSA's programs and enabling the Society to support the scientists in our research communities when they need it most.

Donate Now

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



"With the current instability and uncertainty regarding scientific infrastructure in the United States, it is an unfortunate but important-to-recognize reality that scientists must participate in the political process more actively and frequently. I feel profoundly privileged to have participated in this year's Virtual Hill Day as a first-year PhD. student, representing the University of Oklahoma. I would recommend anyone to get involved in whatever way they can, through events like GSA's Virtual Hill Day, or others."

—**Austin Link**, *The University of Oklahoma*

Thank you, Donors!

GSA's successes in 2025 could not have been achieved without the generous support of our contributors. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to thank those who donated in 2025 for their invaluable support of GSA and the genetics and genomics community.

Visit the website for a [list of 2025 and past donors](#).

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