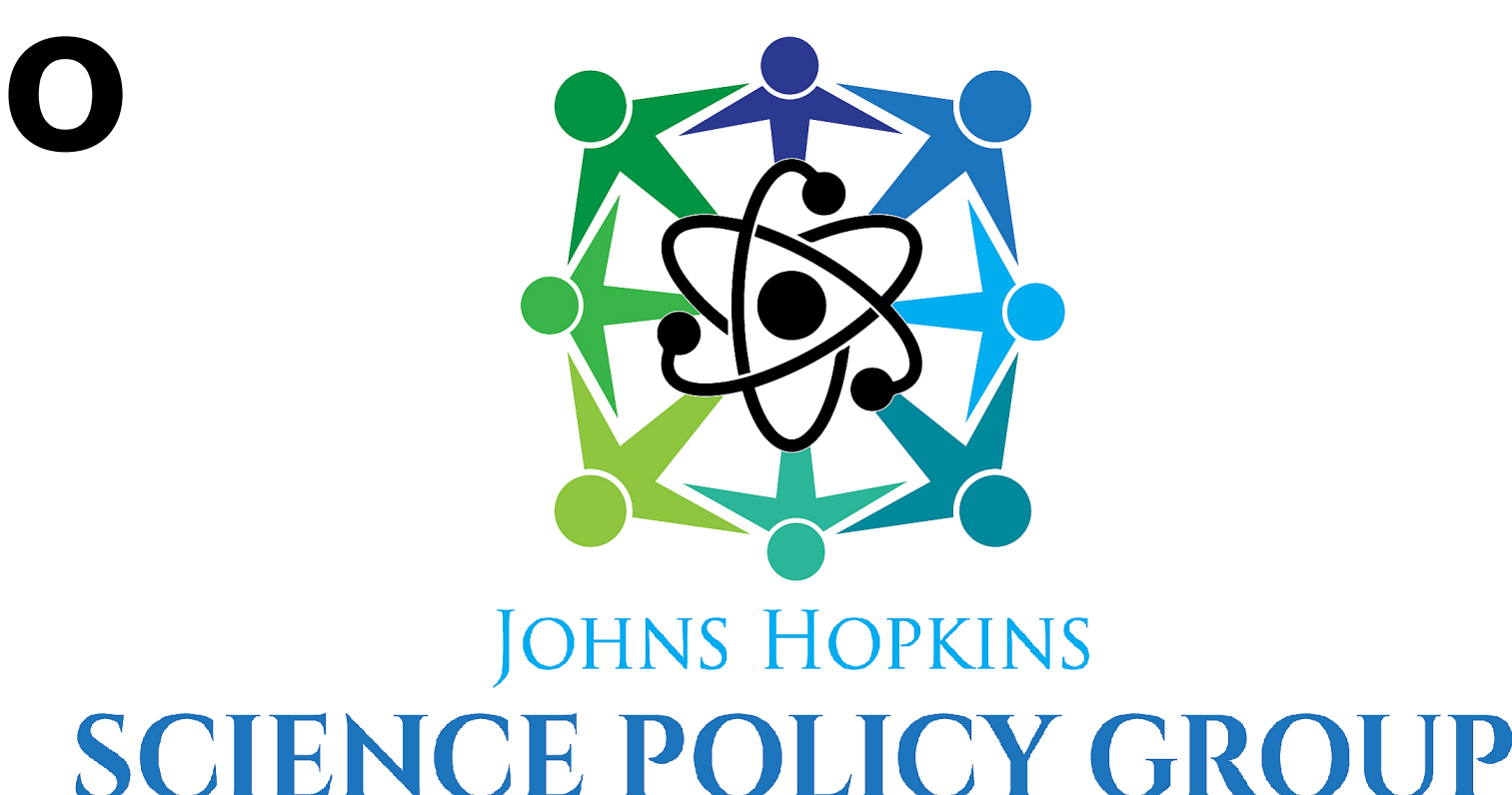




Johns Hopkins Science Policy Group: Training scientists to be effective advocates and communicators

Chanel Matney¹, Richard Sima¹, Jenny Carlson², Leah Cairns³, Kaitlin Wood⁴, and Daniel Pham⁵

1. Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Department of Neuroscience, Baltimore, MD 21205 2. The National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, Washington D.C. 20418 3. Bloomberg School of Public Health, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Baltimore, MD 21205 4. Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, McKusick-Nathans Institute of Genetic Medicine, Baltimore, MD 21205 5. American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Rockville, MD 20852



Who We Are

The Johns Hopkins Science Policy Group (JHSPG) is comprised of members of the Johns Hopkins University research and medical communities. We **advocate** for **evidence-based** policies that advance **science** and safeguard **public health**.

Our participants include graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, healthcare professionals, and faculty. Projects are led and coordinated by a dedicated Executive Board.

Our Mission

- Develop science policy coverage and commentary that promotes civic engagement and increases policy literacy among researchers.
- Provide training, toolkits, and science communications resources for our advocates.
- Coordinate advocacy events around the STEM legislative agenda.
- Engage with science policy professionals via an invited speaker series.
- Through programming and professional partnerships, help interested trainees launch science policy postgraduate careers.

What We've Advocated For

- Federal research funding (NIH/NSF)
- Ethical considerations of gene-editing technology
- 21st Century Cures Act
- Opposition to the 'grad tax'
- Climate change
- Expanded healthcare access



(Left) In March 2018, JHSPG, Doctors for America, and the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research organized over 100 Hopkins affiliates to 'walk out' in support of federally-funded firearm violence prevention research. JHSPG President Richard Sima delivered remarks. JHSPG later organized a poster-making happy hour and sent volunteers to the 2018 March for Our Lives Demonstration in Washington in D.C.



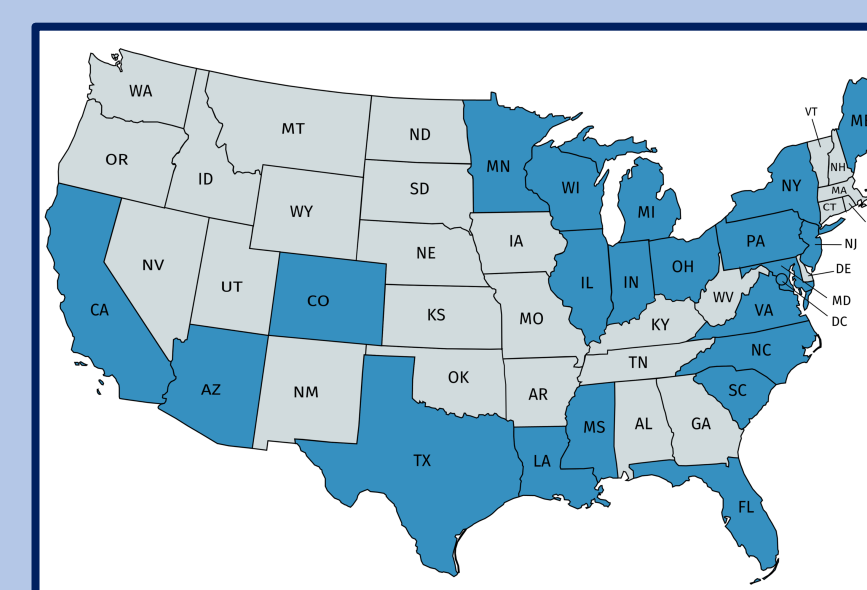
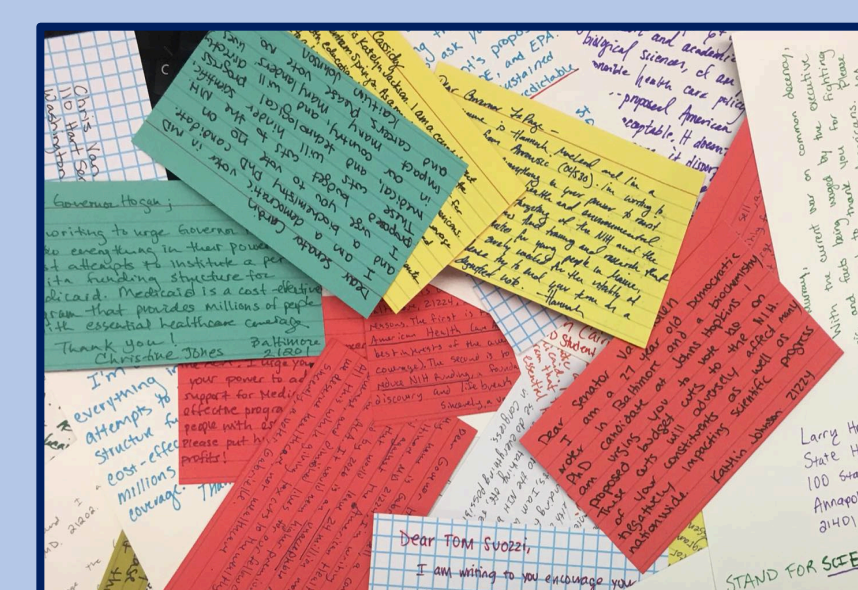
(Right) JHSPG supports regulations that protect patients from prescription medication price-gouging. In March 2018, JHSPG Advocacy Chair Leah Cairns partnered with our state's largest health care consumer coalition, The Maryland Citizens Health Initiative, for an Advocacy Day in Annapolis regarding a state-level Drug Price Commission Bill.

Our Programming

Eat and Advocate

At Eat and Advocate, participants are briefed on an emergent science policy or health issue, and given advocacy toolkits supporting their outreach to elected representatives – all with a delicious, free breakfast.

In addition to food and coffee, we provide policy memos, sample phone/letter scripts, and district contact information.



(Top row) To voice support for health care reform, 22 participants wrote 84 postcards to representatives in 11 different states.

(Right) JHSPG Communications Chair Kaiti Wood (far right) offers tips on how to call a district office for Eat and Advocate participants.

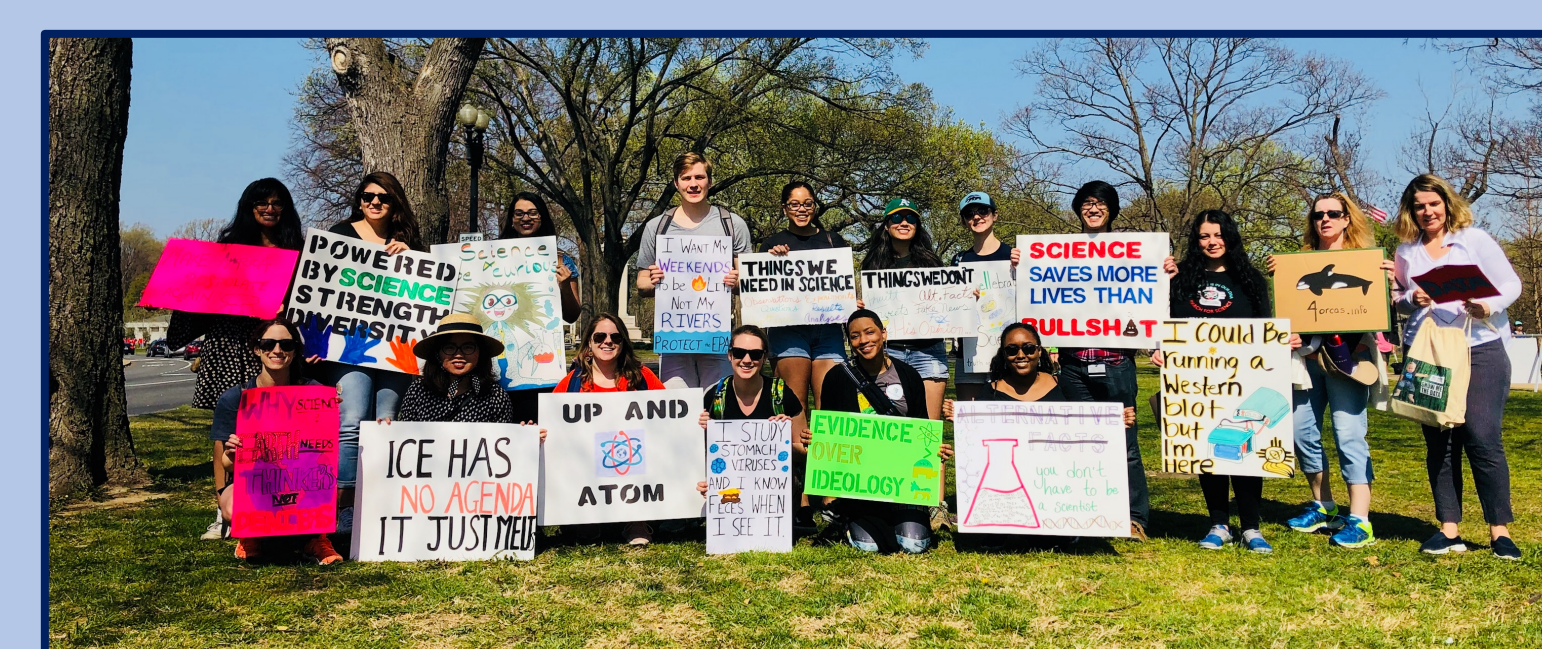


Science Marches

Our group joined thousands of science enthusiasts and advocates across the world in the 2017 and 2018 March for Science demonstrations. We hosted poster-making sessions and provided bus transportation to and from the event.



March for Science 2017



March for Science 2018

Seminars and Panels



JHSPG Advocacy Chair Leah Cairns and former Vice President Jenny Carlson (3rd and 4th from the left, respectively) joined a panel on how to leverage enthusiasm for the 2017 March for Science towards higher impact advocacy efforts.

Our seminars and panels feature professionals in:

- Policy
- Advocacy
- Bioethics
- Regulatory affairs
- Health care research

Program Growth



In 2016, former JHSPG Vice President Chanel Matney (far left) leads one of the group's first General Body Meetings. It was attended by over 20 trainees and staff in biological science research, medicine, and public health.

- JHSPG was founded in late 2016 by two graduate students.
- Presently, JHSPG is led by an Executive Board of 4-5 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers.
- Peak general body meeting attendance featured 33 participants.
- The JHSPG mailing list reaches over 170 people as of April 2018.
- Grant funding supplies an annual budget of >\$1400 for 2017-2018.

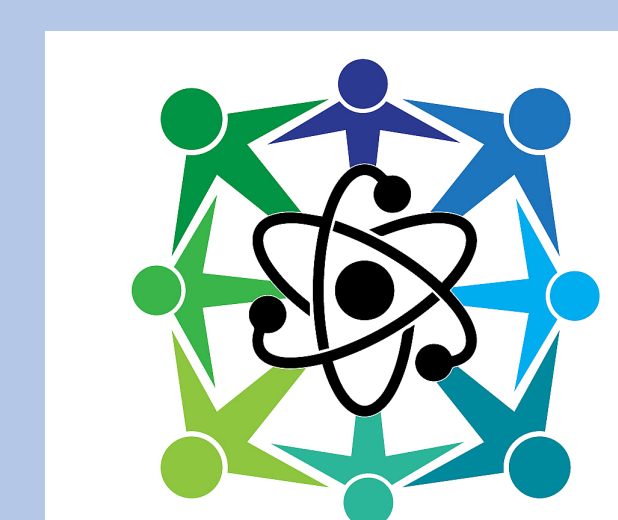
Future Directions

- Successfully publish op-eds, letters to the editor, and policy briefs.
- Develop a science policy and advocacy career pathway program in partnership with the Johns Hopkins Professional Development and Careers Office.
- Align efforts with the East Coast Advocacy Hub Consortium.
- Establish a second chapter on the Hopkins undergraduate campus.
- Identify new leadership for 2019-2020

Acknowledgements

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