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

Eat and Advocate

At Eat and Advocate, participants are briefed on an urgent 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.

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.

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

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Connect With Us

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