

## 2026-2027 ASGCT Congressional Policy Fellowship

Questions? Email [fellowship@asgct.org](mailto:fellowship@asgct.org)

### Background and Overview

ASGCT will select one applicant each year to participate in a year-long policy fellowship on Capitol Hill. Fellows will provide high-quality, science-based, independent guidance to federal policy makers and elevate awareness of the Society among policymaking circles. ASGCT is hosting our Congressional Policy Fellow in partnership with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science & Technology Policy Fellowship program.

Fellows serve alongside congressional staff, bringing scientific rigor and expertise to the office in which they are placed. Job duties will vary office to office, but may include:

- Briefing Members of Congress and staff on scientific and technical topics.
- Meeting with constituents and special interest groups.
- Writing issue and policy briefs, talking points, speeches, and press releases.
- Drafting and negotiating text for legislation.
- Staffing budget authorization bills from preliminary agency reviews to House-Senate conferences.
- Coordinating oversight investigations.
- Planning and implementing events in Washington and in congressional districts.
- Organizing hearings.

### Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must be a member of ASGCT at the time of application and plan to remain a member in good standing for the duration of the fellowship. To verify your membership status, please [log in to your ASGCT account](#). **Not an ASGCT member yet? [Take the first step](#) - new members are welcome to apply!** Submit your membership application at least 5 business days prior to the application deadline to allow sufficient time for processing.
- Applicants must have a PhD or equivalent doctoral-level degree from an accredited institution at the time of application. The doctoral degree should be in one of the fields relevant to ASGCT's mission such biological or biomedical sciences, health sciences, biochemistry, pharmacology, genetics and genomics, or related specializations.
- Applicants must be a U.S. citizen.
- Applicants must be vaccinated against COVID-19.
- Federal employees are **not eligible** to apply.
- Fellows may not be party to any federally-funded grant applications, either as a PI, co-PI, or subcontractor. If a fellow is already on a federally-funded grant, he/she must stop work on the grant for the duration of the fellowship and may not receive funding from the grant during that time.

### Key Dates & Deadlines

Application Period	September 10, 2025 – February 20, 2026
Interviews conducted with top applicants	Mid March – April 2026
Selected fellow notified	April 2026
Fellowship begins in Washington DC	September 1, 2026
Fellowship ends	August 31, 2027
Attend the ASGCT Policy Summit	Fall 2027
Attend the ASGCT Annual Meeting	May 2028

## **Application Process**

The ASGCT Congressional Fellowship application documents outlined below must be submitted in one combined PDF to [fellowship@asgct.org](mailto:fellowship@asgct.org) with the subject line FirstName LastName – 2026 Congressional Fellowship. Submissions after the deadline of **February 20, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. EST** will not be considered. The applicant will receive an email confirmation within 24 business hours to verify receipt.

### **All applications must include the following and should be submitted as one combined PDF:**

1. Cover page (limit 1 page – please use the [ASGCT cover letter template](#)).
2. A letter of intent. Letters should address the following elements (limit 4 pages):
  - An explanation of why the applicant wants to participate in the fellowship.
  - How they anticipate the fellowship can help to advance gene and cell therapy.
  - An overview of the applicant's key scientific- and policy-related qualifications and how their background, interests, and experiences would contribute to their success as a fellow, including any experiences gained as an ASGCT member (if applicable).
  - A description of which scientific and policy-focused topics within gene and cell therapy are of particular interest to them.
  - A description of the personal and professional outcomes they hope to gain from the policy fellowship experience.
3. A resume or CV outlining the applicant's educational history and accomplishments, including volunteer work and any previous public policy experience (limit 4 pages).
4. Letters of recommendation from three qualified references who can speak to the applicant's scientific and/or policy credentials (~2 pages each). Letters may be included with the applicant's other materials, or they may be sent directly from the recommender to [fellowship@asgct.org](mailto:fellowship@asgct.org). All letters must be received by the application deadline noted above.

## **Evaluation and Selection**

Applications will be evaluated by ASGCT's Chief Executive Officer, Policy & Advocacy Department staff, and members of the Government Relations Committee. Evaluation criteria will include:

- Demonstration of relevant academic background and research skills.
- An interest in applying the applicant's scientific skills to the solution of challenges in the cell and gene therapy field and across society.
- Previous professional experience (internships, postdoctoral research positions, employment, etc).
- Record of publications, presentations, and professional activities commensurate with experience.
- Demonstration of clear understanding of how congressional policymakers inform development, implementation, and evaluation of policy.
- Demonstrated awareness of the ways in which science affects the universe of non-scientific issues; sensitivity to the political, economic and social factors that arise in relation to science and health policy.
- Evidence of strong verbal and written communication skills, including to non-scientific audiences.
- Evidence of maturity, integrity, good judgment, and self-direction.

## **Compensation Information**

Selected fellows will be compensated in the following manner:

- The fellow will be paid at the 2026 [GS-11](#) Level (OPM will announce that rate in January 2026). ASGCT anticipates that our fellows will mostly place at GS11-1, but steps will be available at GS11-5 and GS11-10 if applicants demonstrate exceptional past experience and achievement.
- ASGCT will provide a stipend to cover the fellow's health insurance costs, which the fellow will be solely responsible for arranging. Fellows will not be eligible for ASGCT's employee benefit package.
- Fellows will receive monthly commuting assistance; reimbursement of costs to attend professional development events during the fellowship; and, if the fellow is relocating from more than 50 miles outside of Washington, D.C., a one-time relocation stipend.
- Fellows will be eligible for reimbursement to attend to ASGCT's Annual Meeting and Policy Summit following the completion of their fellowship.