

# Leading the way and amplifying the voices of women in science

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## Abstract

Here we present the initiative of a group of women in science led by me in established and created the Albanian Society of Human Molecular Genetics (ASHMG created on 2020) together with a group of motivated specialists and scientists to contribute and bring a common spirit towards the promotion and progress of this field. We managed to establish one platform for the exchange of knowledge and ideas and our website [www.geneticsalbania.com](http://www.geneticsalbania.com) provide educational materials for various target groups – both for geneticists – professionals and for the general public, university students, but also students at secondary or primary schools. Five working groups are created within the ASHMG by our members, who focus on certain thematic areas in the field of human genetics, molecular biology, Forensic genetics, Genetics education, Bioinformatics, and Bioethics. The specific purpose of the working group is based on the nature of the chosen thematic area, it can be, for example, the preparation of current data for routine practice or a more detailed analysis of selected cases. Moreover, we established our Annual Conference of ASHMG. These conferences provided a forum for presenting the latest research findings, discussing advancements in genetic technologies, and exploring their implications for healthcare in Albania (ASHMG 2022, ASHMG 2023, ASHMG 2024). Programs of the society has been instrumental in developing educational programs aimed at training the next generation of geneticists. This includes specialized courses, certification programs, and partnerships with academic institutions to integrate molecular genetics into their curricula. The ASHMG has promoted research in human molecular genetics by facilitating collaborations between local and international researchers. Our consortium has 318 members of which 210 are women. ASHMG is member of the European Society of Human Genetics (ESHG), and we have our role in the National Human Genetics Societies (NHGS) and our annual meeting through the *Get2Gather* activities, which are dedicated to the women members of all NHGS, where we encourage and provide financial support to participate.

