



The **ACADEMY**
for Radiology & Biomedical
Imaging Research

Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

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**The Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research
Statement on the Presidential Proclamation Limiting Non-Immigrant VISAs**

On behalf of its membership, including imaging societies and academic radiology departments, the Academy issued the following statement on President Trump's latest Executive Order, entitled *Proclamation Suspending Entry of Aliens Who Present a Risk to the U.S. Labor Market Following the Coronavirus Outbreak*:

“The Academy is deeply concerned by the Presidential Proclamation suspending certain new visas through the end of the year. Our nation relies on temporary visas to recruit international experts with knowledge and skills that complement US-based scholars and researchers to teach the next generations and make breakthrough innovations, while strengthening our institutions, economy, and country. The medical residents, physicians, postdoctoral researchers and graduate students who work and train in the United States with H-1B and J-1 visas are integral to providing health care nationwide. Many of these individuals are performing scientific research that is critical to advancements in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of the entire spectrum of illnesses, as well as future pandemics.

Radiology exists at the nexus of patient care and technologic discovery. Uniquely qualified scientists and investigators are urgently needed to grow the stellar workforce essential for transformational innovations. To that end, we must be able to attract the best and the brightest from across the globe. Radiology is uniquely and adversely affected by this Executive Order, and in many ways will be weakened through the restrictions that are being considered.

Foreign trained researchers are a critical part of Radiology research in the US, including graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, research associates and primary investigators that require temporary visas. The research conducted by individuals requiring temporary visas is key to progress in a large portion of the Radiology research being conducted at US academic centers.

The potential impact on the radiology/biomedical imaging and machine learning communities is substantial. A large percentage (often $\geq 50\%$) of our graduate students and postdoctoral fellows

conducting medical research hold visas. This is especially true in the machine learning/artificial intelligence (ML/AI) realm. Why?

- Tremendous ML/AI work is being heavily funded and performed outside of the United States, including algorithmic advances and clinical translational work. The international scholars doing this work are trained exceptionally well and are uniquely positioned to significantly enhance our research initiatives and our educational mission.
- Global collaboration is particularly important in machine learning to develop more generalized, less biased algorithms, and to promote broad clinical translation.
- US citizens often choose to accept the very high-paying jobs being offered by Google, Facebook, IBM, etc. rather than furthering their education—the salaries in academic positions cannot compete.

Master's degree students in the US often pay full tuition, without any subsidies from third parties, while other nations often subsidize their citizens' education, including some that provide full tuition and fees. The educational and research missions at our academic medical centers rely heavily on postdoctoral fellows. Limiting our access to the best and brightest scientists from across the globe will severely compromise American programs.

As we deal with COVID-19 and its impact on our nation's economy, the United States must ensure that we continue to attract the world's most talented researchers, innovators and scientists to drive scientific discovery and the economic innovation and job growth that accompanies such discovery.

This Proclamation will not stem the spread of the disease, yet it will jeopardize economic growth by hampering the scientific progress of our medical schools and teaching hospitals.

The Academy urges this administration to rescind this policy in the national interest, and instead bolster efforts to keep the world's brightest minds on our university campuses to ensure they make discoveries, start businesses and create jobs in the United States.”



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Established in 1995, the Academy leads the advocacy and educational effort for federal funding on behalf of medical imaging research at the NIH and across government agencies. The Academy represents academic research departments and professional imaging related societies. For more information visit www.acadrad.org