As an organization underwritten by Imaging Societies, Academic Radiology Departments, and Partners in Industry, Academy leadership appreciates your continued support and participation.

**A Year in Review**

“As the Academy community continues to advocate for consistent federal funding for all medical imaging related research, we have collectively been developing programming to ensure our investigators are better prepared for and aware of opportunities for both professional development and funding. ARPA-H is open for business, and we are encouraging engagement and awareness. We continue facilitating conversations to ensure that our community is prepared to take advantage of new opportunities. Preparation is key for all of us—departments, societies, and industry alike. Meanwhile, we remain a voice representing our entire community, so that we may maintain the progress we have all worked for over the past several years.” Ruth Carlos, MD, Academy President

“This year, our 2023 Council of Early Career Investigators in Imaging class (CECI²) returned to Washington DC after a full year of virtual programming. Divided into two groups, investigators from this class benefitted from both virtual and in-person opportunities. Founded in 2014, this program educates early career faculty on the importance of advocacy and its impact on their research. The opportunities they are afforded to engage with staff at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and on Capitol Hill ensure that these investigators have the tools they will need to advocate effectively for their own research. Over the years, alumni of CECI² have gone on to receive significant grant funding, including their first R01s, K awards, and industry grants. Many of them have also received multiple academic promotions. – Etta Pisano, MD, Academy Vice President

We hope the achievements outlined below secure your engaged participation and financial support for another year.
**Legislative and Advocacy Updates:**
We continue to advocate for support for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and to raise awareness of the opportunities available through the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H). In 2023 the NIH received its eighth consecutive; multibillion dollar increases to its budget. At $47.5 billion, NIH continues to be the single largest funder for biomedical research. These robust budgets have allowed for commensurate increases to funding of radiology and imaging specific projects, with academic departments seeing grant funding rise by nearly 17% in FY2022. NIH maintains a strong record of using nearly 85% of its budget to fund extramural research. Additionally, ARPA-H received a second year of appropriations and now has $2.5 billion at its disposal to pursue high-risk, high-reward biomedical research projects. In 2023, we saw expanded hiring of ARPA-H Program Managers and the release of two funding announcements—one a general request for program ideas and the second a specific call for tissue-related projects, *Novel Innovations for Tissue Regeneration in Osteoarthritis* (NITRO). Both programs provide new sources of potential funding for the imaging research community.

These recent successes cannot be sustained without Academy members continuing to engage their members of Congress. Researchers must continually show the benefits coming from the investment in science and research and why policymaker support for NIH remains important. There is already a pitched budget battle for next fiscal year, with many programs in the research and development space—including NIH—facing major funding cuts. The confluence of the debt limit negotiations with increased intention by some in Congress to drastically cut the budget puts past gains at risk of being reversed. The Academy, along with our coalition partners and most importantly our members, will continue to strenuously advocate for NIH and publicize the benefits of biomedical and imaging research. As always, you can easily contact your member of Congress concerning the importance of NIH funding by using the Academy’s action alert center: https://www.acadrad.org/take-action/#/.

Other on-going advocacy priorities include:
- Engaging in planning and dialogue around the ARPA-H structure and opportunities.
- Communicating these efforts to our Membership, ensuring awareness across the imaging community.

**New Academy 101 Virtual Presentations to Radiology Departments and Societies:**
Please reach out to us to arrange a virtual presentation about the Academy to your department or society. We complete several such presentations throughout the year, ranging anywhere from 30-60 minutes long and covering issues such as NIH & ARPA-H, NIH funding, how to engage in advocacy, as well as tools for early career investigators.

**New Academy Resource Guide for All Members:**
This PDF document highlights the mission of the Academy and educational resources to benefit investigators.
OPPORTUNITIES FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS:

- **The Academy Collective to Support & Connect Women in Radiology & Imaging.** This program seeks to augment and disseminate the programs that most departments must support female faculty by expanding those connections and potentially broadening the impact between and among institutions and leaders from across radiology. Progress will be made as we work to showcase the diversity of leadership, perspectives, experiences, policies, and cultures that can be gained by exposure beyond one institution. This new program for women radiologists was initiated by members of our Council of Early Career Investigators in Imaging (CECI²) in collaboration with Academy leaders Drs. Elizabeth Krupinski, Pamela Woodard, Ruth Carlos, and Aisling Chaney. This pilot workshop for women in academic radiology fostered interactive discussion among researchers at various career stages to identify common experiences, issues, and goals for intervention at the individual, department, and society levels.

- **Academy’s Book Club Initiative:** The Academy invites people of all genders to meet quarterly with our community to discuss a book that explores topics of importance to our female members. The goal of this book club is to engage our entire community on common themes with guided discussions on how women can become more effective leaders in our field. Our first two sessions discussed the books “Crucial Conversations” led by Dr. Alex Norbash, Chair of Radiology at UCSD and “First Eat your Frog” led by Dr. Cheri Canon, Chair of Radiology at UAB. The Academy is currently planning its next session and seeking suggestions for a new book and discussion leader. We hope to announce a session date for the Fall of 2023 in the coming weeks.

- **NIH Program Officer Introductions:** The Academy facilitated nearly 60 individual connections between NIH Program staff and the 2023 CECI² class to discuss their individual grant application ideas and progress.

- **CECI² Grant Success:** More than 30% of CECI² participants report receiving grant funding since this council’s establishment. Many of our alumni attribute their successful applications or highly rated
applications to their experiences with the Council programming. We are delighted to see these investigators empowered by the CECI² program and will incorporate their experiences into programming to benefit future participants.

CECI² Council Testimony:
When asked to describe the value of the Academy and its CECI² programming, Dr. Ponnatapura said: “The Academy is an extremely energized organization working relentlessly for the betterment of biomedical and imaging research. Research which would in turn help countless patients as well as the healthcare industry in general. This unique mission, combined with their dedicated council programming, motivated me to do more advocacy work of my own, with the goal of moving the needle for imaging research funding.” -

Janardhana Ponnatapura, MD, CECI Class of 2022-23, Wake Forest University

When it comes to future collaboration, Dr. Zhang stated: “The Academy provides a great opportunity for investigators, particularly early-career investigators, to step out of their comfort zones and learn “how the sausage is made” or how the governmental process works. CECI² is a unique experience that not only benefits investigators through professional development, but also creates a wonderful platform for meeting peers with whom we may collaborate on future projects. –

Rongxiao Zhang, PhD, Class of 2022-23, New York Medical College

When asked what makes the CECI² program so valuable, Dr. Jacobsen added: "It is a rare platform to bring experienced investigators from across the country together with early career investigators in an intimate enough setting to really foster communication and collaboration. Talking with investigators, early-career to senior, from such a diverse group of departments was incredibly valuable. I came away with a better understanding of what physicists can do to support radiologists in the clinic and in research and made some career-long connections.” — Megan Jacobsen, PhD, Class of 2022-23, University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center
Dr. Bathala noted that: “The Academy holds immense value as it uses events like MedTech23 to bring together their wealth of knowledge, expertise, and experience, with the broader imaging community. With such a diverse pool of talented individuals and resources, the Academy serves as a hub for learning and collaboration. CECI² can be seen as an example of this as participants can tap into a vast array of meetings, mentorship opportunities, fostering both personal and professional growth while also operating in a dynamic exchange of ideas from a culture and community of continued learning.” – Tharakeswara Bathala, MD, University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center

For Dr. Patel, CECI² value was found in “the unique and wonderful opportunity to experience and witness first-hand what medical advocacy consists of, as well as its impact. I am so grateful for this experience that not only educated my perspectives on advocacy, but also led to some amazing networking with professional colleagues and future mentors.” – Bhavika Patel, MD, Mayo Clinic, CECI² Class of 2022-23

RESOURCES FOR MEMBERS:

- **Funding Friday**, launched earlier this year, provides a list of relevant funding opportunities across the government and foundations that is sent to our membership weekly. If you have not been receiving these announcements and wish to, please contact Casey Cappelletti, ccappelletti@acadrad.org.

- **Live Advocacy Town Hall Sessions** are led by Academy staff and held quarterly to update participants on legislative impacts to federal funding. These sessions also include an interactive Q&A discussion and are recorded for later, members-only viewing. We welcome you to join us next on August 7, 2023, (registration link forthcoming). Past recordings from these sessions can be found on the Academy website.
  - **Password**: Advocacy2023

- **Personal legislative updates for your society or department**, upon request.

- **NIH Resource Library** is a dedicated webpage featuring informational resources collected and organized by Academy staff on a wide range of NIH topics. Webinars, one-pagers, blogposts, and an extensive Frequently Asked Questions document is regularly updated as we continue finding useful information for our membership.
  - [https://www.acadrad.org/nihresourceslibrary/](https://www.acadrad.org/nihresourceslibrary/)  
  - **Password**: NIH2023

- **Comprehensive breakdown of NIH funding for Diagnostic Radiology for each U.S. Radiology Department**, along with more updates on this project, are featured on pages 5 and 6.
  - [https://www.acadrad.org/nih-datacollection-project/](https://www.acadrad.org/nih-datacollection-project/)

**ACADEMY’S COUNCIL OF EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATORS IN IMAGING (CECI²):**
The CECI² continues to offer some of the Academy’s most unique, dynamic, and engaging content for early career investigators across our community. This year the Academy successfully implemented two-level programming that lasts a full calendar year. Beginning in April with Level-1 virtual programming, 2023 members have been engaged in online sessions featuring discussions led by Academy...
leaders, CECI² program alumni, and NIBIB Director, Dr. Bruce Tromberg. Level 2 programs included two full days in Washington, D.C, culminating in our annual Medical Imaging Technology Showcase. See our video here. Read about the events here.

The Academy has also begun planning and facilitating high-impact programming for CECI² alumni. The group of nearly 200 investigators in the CECI² alumni network has helped us to understand their needs beyond their time with us in D.C. These guided sessions on topics like changing institutions, seeking your next promotion, setting up a lab, as well as balancing work and family life can truly help these investigators navigate their next phase of career development.

“As the Academy’s CECI² continues to expand in its membership, it must also expand its scope of work. With the establishment of the Collective to Support & Connect Women in Radiology & Imaging, the Academy continues to implement unique and key opportunities for early-career investigators. The purpose of this initiative is to create unique, organic, and impactful programming that will serve as a foundation to build an active and connected community of women, something those of us in the early-career phase could benefit from immensely.” - Aisling Chaney, PhD, CECI² Co-Chair & Class of 2020-21, Washington University, St. Louis

Despite the challenges of the pandemic these last 3 years, the Council of Early Career Investigators in Imaging has remained an engaged and highly invested group for the Academy. I’m proud of the work we’ve done to continue advancing the priorities of early career researchers while training the next cohort of NIH advocates.” - Anton Becker, MD, CECI² Co-Chair & Class of 2020-21, New York University

The Academy is also pleased to report that both alumni and current CECI² Class members continue taking advantage of the Academy CECI² Mock Study Section Program, now led by Dr. Mariam Aboian, CECI² Class of 2020-21. This programming, modeled after the NIH Study Section and scientific review process, continues to leverage the collective knowledge of the council and the extensive experience of the Academy’s Membership, as they confidentially review, score, and revise actual grant proposals, giving new applicants much-needed support, peer review and feedback, knowledge, and confidence in their submissions.

The Academy continues to create ways for our investigators to engage, network, and collaborate with one another regionally, by research specialty, or by topic of interest. We’ve created the CECI² Resource page, and CECI² Alumni Page, which houses continuously updated information and opportunities, and continue to maintain the CECI² Directory, highlighting the focus of CECI² members’ research, while providing an accessible way to connect with one another.

**Links to CECI² Resources:**

CECI² Alumni Resources: [https://www.acadrad.org/ceci2-alumni/](https://www.acadrad.org/ceci2-alumni/) - password: Alumni2023

**Academy’s Annual NIH Data Collection Project FY22 Data**

The Academy leverages the annual findings on funding radiology as a strong advocacy tool for imaging research. In addition, we know that many academic radiology leaders use these data to benchmark their programs and advocate for their departments. Below, you will find graphs and charts outlining the four categories of grant information collected and their corresponding totals.

**FY 2022 saw an increase of 16.6%** in NIH funding to Diagnostic Radiology Research across the United States (FY22 $973,501,211 vs. FY21 $835,299,142.00).

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**NIH Dollars to Radiology Funding Trend**

*FY 1994 - 2022*

- **FY 2022** saw an increase of 16.6% in NIH funding to Diagnostic Radiology Research across the United States (FY22 $973,501,211 vs. FY21 $835,299,142.00).

*This table reflects the overall increases in funds to Diagnostic Radiology since 1994. The red lines indicate the year’s data collection figures.*

**Totals for Entire Data Collection - FY22**

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LINKS TO NIH DATA COLLECTION PROJECT RESOURCES:
NIH in Your State – A look at Funding to Diagnostic Imaging Interactive Map:  
https://www.acadrad.org/nih-funding-in-your-state-2022/

Members Only: NIH Data Collection Project Webpage:  
http://www.acadrad.org/nih-datacollection-project/

For any questions or concerns affiliated with this project or our current guidelines for inclusion, please contact Academy Project Lead Casey Cappelletti, ccappelletti@acadrad.org.

ACADEMY’S 2023 DISTINGUISHED INVESTIGATORS COUNCIL Awardees:  
The Academy is now accepting nominations for the Council of Distinguished Investigators, Class of 2023. This prestigious honor recognizes individuals for their outstanding contributions to the field of medical imaging.

“The Distinguished Investigators represent the future of research in radiology, advancing the field and developing ways to significantly improve patient care through imaging. With the important inclusion of team science contributions, we now have an even better perspective of how these investigators are impacting research in our community.” – Elizabeth A. Krupinski, PhD, Co-Chair of the Council of Distinguished Investigators & Class of 2014, Emory University School of Medicine

The Academy has created programming to engage more deeply with our DI Council, taking better advantage of their experience and expertise to address issues of importance to the radiology community. The first session of this programming is scheduled for August 14, 2023, with a focus on Advocacy and Federal funding of research. Moving forward on a quarterly basis, the fall session is being planned for this coming October. Be on the lookout for further session details, including registration information, from Academy staff Casey Cappelletti.

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LinkedIn: Connect with us!  
Newsletter: Subscribe today!