Federal funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to diagnostic radiology departments has been collected and reported annually since this project was initiated in the early 90s by Stanley Baum, MD, former chair of radiology and professor emeritus of the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. In 2017, the Academy took over this effort and now annually, collects data directly from institutions and cross checks that data with NIH Reporter. The criteria for those grants can be found in the below guidelines. This project illustrates the historical trajectory of Federal funding from the NIH to radiology departments across the country. The grants collected for this project represent all funding to radiology departments, including funding related to the following (although not limited to): diagnostic radiology, interventional radiology, nuclear medicine, ultrasound, advanced imaging research, internal medicine, neuroscience, and radiation medicine.

This project’s information is tracked annually for each fiscal year (FY) and shared by the Academy to show the amount of Federal funding from the NIH that goes to radiology, as well as how that funding is allocated across departments. Shown below is a chart depicting the history of this funding between 1985 & 2021 (note the outlying increase in 2010 as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) with lines indicating both the percent change to NIH's overall budget as well as diagnostic radiology funding.

The Academy collects and leverages these data as a strong advocacy tool on behalf of our community. In addition, we realize that many academic radiology leaders use these data for benchmarking their programs and advocating for their departments. Since this project’s founding, the Academy’s goal has been to employ a transparent way to disseminate these data to empower departments while reflecting the Academy’s role in the dissemination. The growth in multi-investigator collaborative research has led to challenges in apportioning credit in a formal ranking system, so in 2019, after much discussion about how this project intersects with the Academy’s mission and its overall value to our membership, the Executive Committee voted to disseminate the data in a new, more dynamic format. The Academy now distributes an ALPHABETICAL list, as opposed to a ranked order. You will find more details in the nine-step instructional guide below.

Additionally, in 2020, due to the major delays in the FOIA requests of FY2020 and FY2021’s data from COVID-19, the Academy decided to ask member departments, research hospitals, and non-member departments (included in the FY19 data collection) to submit their own data. Utilizing NIH Reporter Academy staff vets each grant individually before adding to a department’s final totals, departments are also given the chance to review the Academy’s changes and offer more evidence for inclusion. Through this process the Academy is able to transparently collect and collate two years of NIH funding to diagnostic radiology. Given the successful outcomes of this new process, the Academy now uses this method of collection.

This table reflects the overall increases in funds to Diagnostic Radiology since 1994.
Processing of Submitted Data and Academy Next Steps

The following pages contain the steps that will be used to complete this year’s data collection project. They also include details on how departments should vet and submit their data so that they can be included in the Academy’s NIH Data Collection Project for FY2023.

*Please review the below guidelines carefully. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to Academy staff, Casey Cappelletti, ccappelletti@acadrad.org. For even more information about the Academy’s NIH Data Collection Project please visit: http://www.acadrad.org/.nih-datacollection-project/

1. Grants to Non-Radiology departments should not be included

Grants from the following departments will not be counted in the Academy’s data collection project:

- Radiation Medicine
- Radiation Medicine and Applied Sciences
- Radiation and Cellular Oncology
- Radiation Oncology
- Radiation Oncology and Molecular Sciences

Grants from the following departments will be counted in the Academy’s data collection project:

- Center for Magnetic Resonance Research
- Center for Radiological Research
- Diagnostic Radiology
- Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine
- Institute of Radiology
- Medical Imaging
- Radiological Sciences
- Radiology
- Radiology and Biomedical Imaging
- Radiology and Imaging
- Radiology and Imaging Sciences
- Radiology and Radiological Science
- Therapeutic Radiology
- RADIATION-DIAGNOSTIC/ONCOLOGY (All reported grants in this category are vetted thoroughly but are included in the NIH reporting system under the overall category of Radiology grants. Grants focused on diagnostic imaging under this category will be deemed eligible for inclusion.)

2. Clarifying MPI awards

A grant may have a Contact Principal Investigator (Contact PI) and Multiple Principal Investigators (MPIs) in separate departments. In prior years, to ensure we didn’t allocate an award to more than one institution we credited the total award to a single PI—typically the Contact PI. In instances where the Contact PI was not in a Radiology department, but an MPI was, the total grant amount was credited to the department of the MPI. While this situation was very infrequent, it did mean that the total funding to our field was slightly over-estimated because a total grant award was being allocated to a Radiology department even though it only received a portion of the total award.

For this reason, a new process was instituted in FY2020. Departments are now asked to subdivide awards where appropriate (see categories in step 7). In this way, the total amount allocated for these MPI grants is a true reflection of the dollars granted to radiology.

3. Vetting of all collected data from Academy member departments & invited non-member departments from FY23’s collection

Once we receive individual lists from departments for FY2023, we create individual master spreadsheets and total all applicable awards, paying attention to the items below:

- Ensure grants were entered in the appropriate format on the Excel template.
- Check that institution lists did not include sub-awards.
- Ensure all the award amounts submitted are what they received in that fiscal year, not spent that year.
Separating out ECOG-ACRIN

ECOG-ACRIN is a broad-based effort involving many centers and supports research at many institutions in this data collection. To be equitable to the many centers involved, funding will not be attributed to any academic department. We recognize the strong leadership of these institutions in this effort and encourage departments to submit those grants in the indicated tab on the Excel spreadsheet. However, for clarity we will only attribute the ECOG-ACRIN dollars to ACRIN, thereby contributing to the total radiology funding amount for FY2022 but not to the funding totals for institutions.

Contacting all Academy members and non-members present in the FY23 data collection, to cross check their vetted data sheets

Once the data had been collected, the Academy staff vetted each submitted grant in NIH Reporter to ensure its consistency with the inclusion guidelines. The revised individual grant sheets will be sent back to each submitting department for review so that they can dispute certain changes if appropriate by providing more evidence for their eligibility.

If departments do not submit changes by our requested deadline all amendments will be made, and totals finalized.

Conducting NIH Reporter Research for departments who do NOT answer our request for FY2023

Once the deadline for submission of data has passed, Academy staff conducts individual searches within NIH Reporter for all members, non-members, and research hospitals who do not respond to our data request. Staff will search for grants within the correct fiscal year that fall under the category of RADIATION-DIAGNOSTIC/ONCOLOGY, as that is the over-arching category covering most imaging and radiology-related grant funding within the NIH Reporter system.

Staff will then vet all results to ensure grants generated fall within the guidelines for inclusion. These totals will only appear in one of the categories, Contact PI on Grant to Primary Organization.

Create a breakdown of all data into four categories in an Excel spreadsheet

- Contact PI on a grant to the Primary Organization
- One of Multiple PIs on a grant to the Primary Organization
- Contact PI on a grant awarded to Another Organization
- One of Multiple PIs on a grant awarded to Another Organization

Send “early release” to all Academy member departments

All Academy member departments will receive access to the final data before they are published publicly.

Post the data collection materials on the Academy website & disseminate broadly via social media and Academy web resources

More detailed information in addition to these data sheets are also under a password protected portion of our Academy website, available only to the Academy’s membership. Non-members who are interested in accessing this data should contact Casey Cappelletti, ccappelletti@acadrad.org, for more information on becoming a member.