The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

Dear Academy Board,

Please consider sharing these emails with your society leadership. I do not always have emails for everyone as leadership changes.

What is happening with the FY2026 Budget?
Well….

- The FY ends on Sept. 30 (10 weeks).
- The House was scheduled to mark up the President's Budget on July 21. That has been cancelled.
- The Senate has NOT scheduled a markup.
- Keep in mind, Congress is OUT for August recess which is from July 28th through September 1st.
- Another Congressional recess happens September 22-27.
- Congress is OUT 5 of the 10 weeks left of the FY
- The best-case scenario (and I have never said THIS before…) is a Continuing Resolution (CR)
    - This would keep NIH funding at 2025 levels.

What is the Academy hearing?

- That there is not much appetite to cut NIH by 40%
- Expectation of NIH % cuts vary by Congressional office (off record) and range from 9-20%
- Historically strong republican NIH supporters want to hear from their constituents in support of funding science

Let's get into the details:

Budget and Appropriations Updates
In a narrow 216–213 vote, the House on Thursday passed a $9 billion **rescissions package**, advancing a key Republican spending priority and setting the stage for a broader partisan clash. All Democrats opposed the measure, joined by Representatives Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Mike Turner (R-OH), underscoring some internal dissent over the scope and priorities of the package.

The House vote followed a dramatic Wednesday night in the Senate, where lawmakers held a vote-a-rama during which Democrats introduced several amendments aimed at softening the proposed cuts—most of which were defeated

along party lines. The amended package was then narrowly advanced in a 51–50 vote, with Vice President JD Vance casting the tie-breaking vote. Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Mitch McConnell (R-KY), and Susan Collins (R-ME) broke with their party to oppose the bill.

The passage of the rescissions package could further complicate the FY 2026 appropriations process, as Democrats have expressed concerns that funds appropriated could ultimately be rescinded—undermining the purpose of future bipartisan negotiations and limiting the practical impact of enacted spending bills. This worry is compounded by Speaker Mike Johnson's (R-LA) reaffirmed commitment to deeper spending cuts and previewed plans to introduce at least two additional reconciliation packages over the next two years. Additionally, the OMB Director announced the Trump administration will send more requests to rescind previously appropriated funds but declined specifics on timing or targets for the future rescission package.

On the appropriations front, the House markup of the Labor-HHS-Education bill—originally expected next week—**was postponed until after the August recess**. The Trump administration has proposed an overhaul of HHS agencies in their FY 2026 budget proposal by combining multiple agencies into one Administration for a Healthy America and eliminating several programs. An updated analysis of the President's request can be found here.

House Appropriations Chair Tom Cole (R-OK) unveiled the chamber's full FY 2026 topline proposal, calling for $705.6 billion in non-defense discretionary spending and an "interim" 302(b) allocation of $184.49 billion for the Labor-HHS-Education bill.

Over in the Senate, appropriators advanced several spending bills, including Military Construction and Veterans Affairs. Senators have also expressed openness to moving appropriations in minibuses as early as next week. Tensions flared midweek when OMB Director Russ Vought suggested during a breakfast that the appropriations process should be "less bipartisan"—a comment swiftly criticized by several lawmakers, including Senate Appropriations Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) and Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD), who stressed the need for cooperation to avoid a government shutdown. While Republicans remain divided on the path forward, House hardliners are expected to increase pressure in the coming weeks.

HHS "RIFs": This week, thousands of employees at HHS, including at NIH, CDC, and FDA, were officially let go as part of a major reorganization effort. The layoffs

were first announced in the spring but had been on hold while legal challenges played out. A recent Supreme Court ruling allowed HHS to move forward. Some staff remain protected under a separate court case, but most of those previously notified are now, officially, no longer with the federal government. We are deeply grateful for the service of these individuals, who have undoubtedly contributed to saving lives in the U.S. and abroad.

Jay Bhattacharya's Advisory Committee
The Trump administration has disbanded the top advisory committee to the NIH Director Jay Bhattacharya. The Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD) will be reconvened with new members, according to NIH. The ACD, a body of outside experts who advised the director on topics ranging from genetic engineering to sexual harassment, last met in December 2024 with then-NIH Director Monica Bertagnolli.

New ARPA-H Program!
ARPA-H launched the Functional Repair of Neocortical Tissue (FRONT) program which seeks to help patients with stroke and traumatic brain injury restore brain function, combat chronic disease, save millions of dollars in care costs, and support military personnel using adult-derived stem cells.

NIH Issues Policy to Support Originality and Fairness in Research Application Process
NIH is issuing a policy to outline guidance for appropriate usage of AI in research applications. To support this goal, NIH is also limiting the number of applications that NIH will consider per PI per calendar year. Full policy information can be found at: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-25-132.html. Questions may be sent to SciencePolicy@od.nih.gov.

Reconciliation *VS* Recission *VS* BBB *VS* Appropriations *VS* a CR *OH MY*!
We have created an FAQ addressing many questions I receive about the legislative landscape. You can view the Academy Legislative FAQ here.

Radiology Specific Grant Terminations

In early June, the Academy learned that twelve grants that are part of the Academy's FY 2024 NIH Data Collection Project were terminated. The total of these cancelled projects was estimated to be around $15,737,046 and impacted the

following institutions: Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Columbia University, Washington University in St. Louis, the University of California, San Diego, the Mayo Clinic, Harvard University, Vanderbilt University, and the University of Pennsylvania.

As of July 14th, **all twelve grants have been reinstated** and are no longer on the grant terminations list provided by Grant Watch. Some of these grants were reinstated due to a decision made by Judge William Young of the US District Court for the District of Massachusetts on June 16th. As reported by Science, this decision regarding two lawsuits brought forth by attorneys general, researchers, and scientific groups resulted in approximately 900 grants being reinstated.

Among the reinstated grants is the project of Dr. Ilya Nasrallah, titled 'Alzheimer's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease Related Dementias in Prediabetes and Type 2 Diabetes: The Diabetes Prevention Program Outcomes Study AD/ADRD.' When asked about his experience with this project being cancelled and then reinstated, he said, "The abrupt termination threatened the relationships between the study team and participants, which had been cultivated over decades. It also resulted in uncertainty for the jobs of employees supported by the effort, which were more pronounced at other study sites than my own. The study must now overcome uncertainty about hiring new staff and how participants will connect with new study team members. However, we intend to pursue and fulfill the overall study objectives." **THESE a**re the types of stories that our Members of Congress need to hear about on both sides of the aisle.

The Academy continues to facilitate Congressional meetings for members of the Council of Early Career Investigators in Imaging (CECI²).

Gratitude to Marthony Robins, PhD, for his continued advocacy:

- Marthony Robins, PhD, an investigator at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical, had the opportunity to meet Emily Kane, the Health Legislative Correspondent with Senator Maggie Hassan (D-NH), and Nick Valenti, the Health Legislative Aide to Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH). Dr. Robins discussed how his training grant was canceled because it supported DEI initiatives, stressed the need for stop-gap funding or a continuing resolution at the end of FY 2025, and reminded his legislators of the importance of fully funding the NIH. In both meetings, the staff were keenly interested in the exciting research Dr. Robins is conducting and, most importantly, on behalf of their respective bosses, stressed the ongoing support for NIH.

Have You Been Affected by the Changes at NIH – Email Your Member of Congress!
The Academy makes it easy for you to contact your Member of Congress. It takes 4 easy steps:

1. Go to this page on the Academy website.
2. Plug in your address.
3. Edit, or use as is, the Academy's Action Alert.
4. Hit Send.

NIH-funded research is a proven economic engine, returning $2.56 for every dollar invested." Your Voice Matters.

Academy "Funding, Facts, and Follow Up" Emails. Click here to access an archive of the weekly emails we send out, including our the most recent.

MEDIA

"Exclusive: NIH to dismiss dozens of grant reviewers to align with Trump priorities"

"House Panel Punts HHS Funding Bill Work to September"

"Ex-NIH Chief Spells Out How Badly Trump is Screwing the Agency – And US Science as a Whole"

"Health Cuts Would Result in Fewer Drugs for Americans, Budget Office Reports"

Scientists Develop High-Performance MRI Scanner in Effort to Define Microscopic Brain Structures

> ***Of note:*** *This NIH press release makes no mention that the three lead authors are affiliated with Harvard, which the administration has significantly challenged/blocked/froze, nor does it mention that international collaboration was a key component of this NIH-funded research.*

***Thank you** for your interest in these Academy updates. If you are not already part of a supporting Member department/society/company, please consider supporting our extensive advocacy efforts on behalf of this community through membership. Please view this brief clip about The Value of the Academy, and view our

supportive membership here. For additional membership details, we welcome you to contact Josie Wilkinson at jwilkinson@acadrad.org.

Warmest regards,

Renee