The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

Academy Policy & Legislative Update **August 8, 2025**

It's officially August, and usually this is a nice, slow time in DC. Not this year. Here is what you need to know:

- The House & Senate are on Recess, returning after Labor Day. Meaning, no budget can be passed, though you can assume congressional staff are working behind the scenes.
- The House is also recessing the week of Sept. 22. The FY ends Sept. 30.
- We have a Senate bill (read summary here). The House will meet for their markup on Sept. 4th. They will then have to Conference (*When the House & Senate pass different versions of the same bill, a conference committee irons out those differences*), and pass a budget by COB Sept. 30th OR one of the following will happen:
    - Congress will pass a Continuing Resolution (CR).
        - A continuing resolution would guarantee the continuation of funding for the NIH and continue the current law governing F&A costs. Without a final agreement a CR is the best outcome for medical research funding.
    - The government shuts down.

What can YOU do as a constituent & a voter this month?

August Recess: A Guide to District Meetings with a Member of Congress

Members have returned to their home districts for a district work period. This is an excellent opportunity to reach out and/or meet with your Representatives & Senators and advocate with your own voice for federal investment in medical research. The Academy has compiled a document that includes best practices for advocacy, scheduling meetings, and preparing for conversations with your member, among other valuable tips and advice. For the full document, click here. Do not hesitate to reach out with questions or requests for help.

Advocacy in 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. *Personalize* your message.
4. Send.

NIH-funded research is a proven economic engine, returning $2.56 for every dollar invested. Your voice telling your story, your perspective matters.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Some Good News from NIH

On August 7, the NIH reversed its decision and re-enabled its no-cost extension functionality, see the announcement here. In May, the NIH released an updated process for no-cost extensions indicating that the NIH had temporarily disabled the No-Cost Extensions (NCE) in eRA Commons to allow staff to review all grants and ensure awards did not fund off-mission projects. At that point, all NCE requests required prior approval in

eRA Commons. NCE's would be denied if the research did not align with the NIH's mission or priorities. The Academy is pleased to see that the NIH reversed course and restored the NCE functionality.

Executive Order on Federal Grantmaking
President Trump issued an Executive Order (EO) on Thursday, August 7th, that seeks "To Improve Oversight of Federal Grantmaking." The EO released by the President contains a wide range of new oversight on the federal grantmaking process, review, and approval. For the Academy memo, click here. Please keep in mind that EO is not law.

GAO Report Highlights
On August 5th, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report: The Department of Health and Human Services – National Institutes of Health – Application of Impoundment Control Act to Availability of Funds for Grants. To view the report, click here.
To read the Academy's highlights of the GAO report, click here.

Not on our bingo card…
The Senate still has a long list of presidential nominees to work through, a process that Democrats have slowed to a crawl by stretching out debate on each nominee. Senators Schumer and Thune negotiated a path forward to reach an agreement that would allow Republicans to meet their goal of 150 confirmed Trump nominees before recess. However, negotiations broke down, and Senators adjourned for the month of August.

In an initial round of talks, Democrats offered to clear the way for about 25 relatively noncontentious nominees. In exchange, they wanted the White House to release an array of funds it has held up, **including $5 billion for the National Institutes of Health**, $50 million for combating AIDS overseas, and $142 million for UNICEF programs, along with $300 million in humanitarian assistance for Gaza. Without a deal in hand, Republicans are now vowing to change the rules when they return.

Turmoil continues over university grant cancellations.
The University of California, Los Angeles, was cut off from funding from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health last week after the Justice Department concluded that the university had violated civil rights law in its "deliberately indifferent" response to students' claims of antisemitism. To read the complete article, click here.

Difficulty Communicating with NIH?
Please let us know if you are having difficulty reaching your contacts at NIH. Let us try and help. NIH Institute leadership also wants to know where you are experiencing difficulties. The more we communicate these challenges, the more we can encourage and ensure that they are addressed.

Friends of the NIBIB Congressional Briefing
The Friends of the NIBIB (FoNIBIB) is hosting a Congressional Briefing in Washington, D.C. on **Friday, September 12, 2025**. The briefing is titled **"The Next Frontier in Biomedical Research: Can We Replace Animal Models?"** and will focus on the current state of New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) in the field. Dr. Bruce Tromberg, Director of NIBIB, will attend and speak about the Institute's strategic investments to support non-animal research alternatives. Stay tuned for more details.

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

A Collection of Media:

"With boost to NIH budget, Senate panel rejects Trump's plan to slash agency"

"Brown University strikes agreement with Trump administration to restore lost federal funding"

"Trump Administration Blocks Funding for CDC Health Programs"

"Trump team's 'pocket recission' idea runs into GOP opposition"

"Trump administration violated impoundment law by canceling NIH grants, slowing new awards, GAO finds"

"Fraudulent Scientific Papers Are Rapidly Increasing, Study Finds"

"Budget maneuvers expected to reduce NIH funding opportunities"

"Their NIH Grants Are Back. But Nothing Is Back to Normal."

"Statement on the retirement of Dr. Noni Byrnes"

"Trump executive order seeks to centralize control of grantmaking under political appointees"

*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 connect with Josie Wilkinson at jwilkinson@acadrad.org.