The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

Academy Policy & Legislative Update **August 15, 2025**

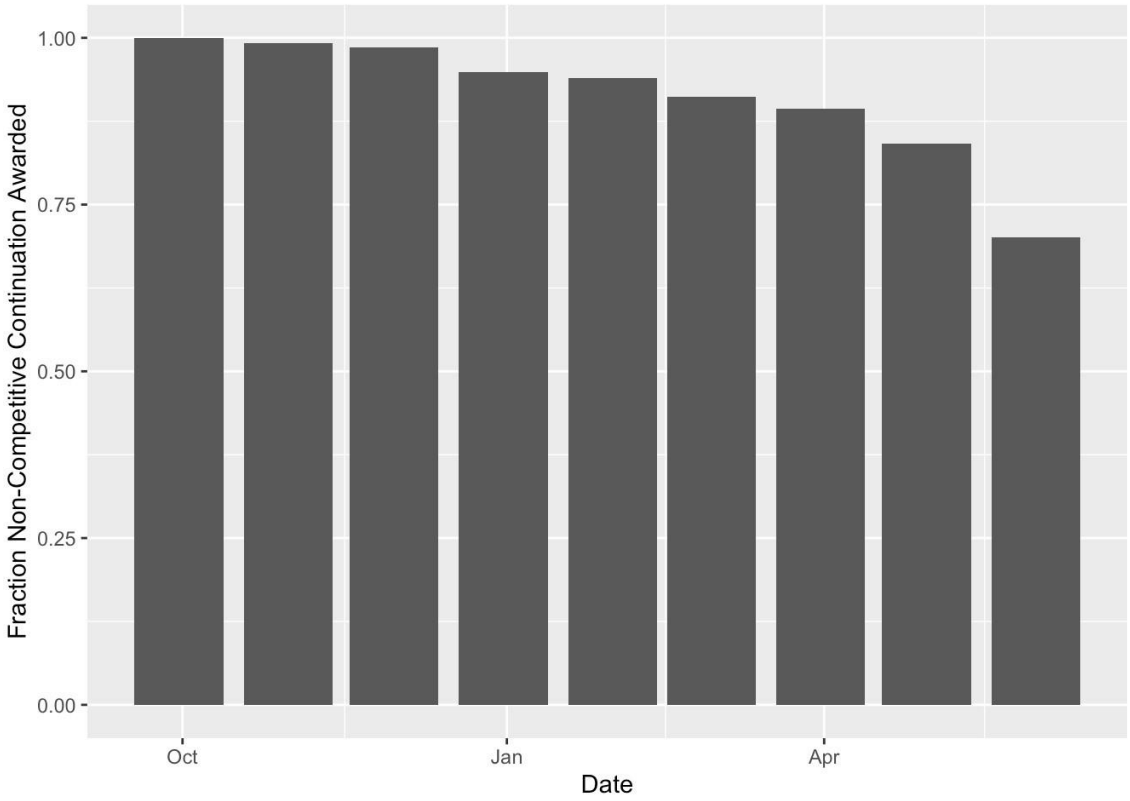
We are halfway through the August Congressional recess, and closer to the end of the FY on September 30th. We need Congress to pass a budget, or a continuing resolution prior to September 30th. We also need NIH to get Congressionally approved grant funding out the door. Please consider lending your personal voice as a constituent to the issues that impact you personally. You will find additional information and a helpful guide below. Reach out to us anytime you would like additional information.

NIH Funding Analysis:

Jeremy Berg, PhD (former NIGMS Director at NIH) provided an update of his analysis of NIH funding through July (*this data for current FY would not include August/September*). Keep in mind that all NIH grant money has to be disseminated by Sept. 30th, the end of the FY.

- Overall, **78.2%** of the anticipated non-competitive renewal awards have been received in **FY2025**, compared with **98.5%** for the same period in fiscal year **FY2024**.
  This is a 20.3% difference between last year and this year.
- In **FY2025**, the fraction of awards made on time is **48.4%** with **80.0%** of awards made within 1 month of the expected start date. **FY2024** The fraction of awards made on time is **65.8%** with **90.4%**of awards made within 1 month of the expected start date.
  This is a 17.4% and 14.2% difference between this year and last year.
- **FY2025** Total funding received for non-competitive awards:
  Anticipated: **$18.7B** Actual: **$14.7B**. Difference: **$4.0 B**.
  Last month's difference: **$4.65B** -- **$0.65B** of the difference has been made up.
- **FY2025** Total funding received for new and competitive renewal awards: Anticipated (based on FY2023 and FY2024: $4.1 B (8574 awards). Actual: $3.83 B (7245 awards). Difference $0.27 B Last month's difference $1.63 B--$1.36 B of the difference has been made up.
- Good news: Some progress is being made in decreasing the deficit in the amount of funds needed to fully commit the FY2025 appropriation.
- Concerning news: Some of this progress is due to the use of multi-year funding where more than 1 year of a grant is committed out of the FY2025 appropriation.
- Of note: Though missing funding for non-competitive renewals and new awards had decreased from June to July by 1.99B. It appears that 0.28B is due to multi-year funding. This represents 651 grants and investigators that could have been funded.

The fraction of grants with award dates in each month are shown below:



Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking:

On August 7, 2025, President Trump issued an Executive Order (EO) titled "Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking," which introduced sweeping reforms to the federal discretionary grantmaking process. The EO directs federal grantmaking agencies to make significant changes to the long-standing process of grant funding, and introduces substantial uncertainty and barriers for grantees, particularly in academia, the nonprofit sector, and scientific research institutions. Remember, an EO is not law.

The order directs each agency head to designate a senior appointee who will be responsible for creating a process to review grant opportunity announcements and to ensure any grants awarded are "consistent with agency priorities and the national interest." This, along with requiring federal agencies to provide prior authorization before grant recipients can access funds with a written explanation for each drawdown, will exacerbate the disruptions we're already seeing to critical scientific research.

The order details many changes that the Trump administration has been implementing in federal grantmaking agencies, but has met resistance from career officials, Congress, and federal courts. The EO, most importantly, has significant implications for grant recipients. Grant

recipients should expect more detailed reviews of both applications and ongoing projects, with greater emphasis on alignment with administration priorities.

Overall, researchers should be concerned with grants being judged by politics rather than science.

- Click here to read the Academy's outline of what the EO entails.
- For a deeper breakdown of the changes, see Arnold & Porter's analysis here.

Academy Anonymous Grants Survey
Please fill out this anonymous survey from the Academy if your grant has been canceled by the current administration. This data will help us understand the current situation of our members and how we can better communicate with them as a whole.

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 (or even their staff) and advocate with your own voice in support 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, that is what we are here for.

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. If you need help, please reach out!
4. Send.

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

*One Voice for Advocacy. We have created a communication which illustrates value from the perspective of early career investigators directly impacted by all current and future challenges. This is shared with each Congressional office, and YOU are welcome to share this link when you advocate as well.

*An Academy video clip that we are also sharing with each Congressional meeting we facilitate. This is a three-minute video with early career investigators speaking directly about how NIH funding supports their research. Feel free to share this as well.

We encourage you to **advocate** and **connect** with the Senate DIRECTLY in support of their increased budget numbers for NIH.

- The Senate provided a **400M** increase to NIH
- The President requested an **18B** reduction.
- The House meets in early September.
- We want you to thank the Senate!
- We want you to encourage the House to follow the lead of the Senate!

Please consider communicating your *appreciation* towards the Senate for their efforts while also *encouraging* House members to follow or exceed the Senate's action. You can utilize this form **here** **to email your Senators and House Member of Congress.** Modify the text using your own voice. You can reference the Academy's fact sheets found here.

Please share this alert with your colleagues~

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.

MEDIA

"It's carnage: Former NIH director decries Trump administration efforts to slash research spending"

"Inside science labs trying to survive in the Trump era"

"Devastating: 10 Harvard researchers detail 'essential' work set to be cut by Trump"

"How Many Times Can Science Funding Be Canceled?"

Academy Nominations Open for Members:
The Academy is excited to announce that nominations are open for the Council of Distinguished Investigators. Nominations will be open to our membership for six weeks, closing on Friday, August 29th at 5PM ET. Please reach out to Josie Wilkinson Miller, jwilkinson@acadrad.org, with any questions.
NOMINATE HERE – *departments and societies*
NOMINATE HERE – *industry members*

*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 Miller, at jwilkinson@acadrad.org.