The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

Academy Policy & Legislative Update **August 22, 2025**

Hello Academy Friends!

What is Happening Here in DC?

The end of August Recess is approaching, and we anticipate that when Congress returns to DC, the House will mark up the Labor-Health and Human Services (Labor-HHS) bill—the bill that funds NIH—in early September. We are keen to have the House provide a nominal increase in NIH funding, following the Senate's increase of $400M. That is more appealing than a 40% cut! If we get neither of those a continuing resolution will at least freeze fudning.

Lots of variables are at play, which I have illustrated for you below, so please skim for what you are interested in and reach out to me if you need more clarification.

What we are hearing through the grapevine is that the Dems are strategizing, and they are focused on encouraging people to highlight local impacts (this means you, please lend your voice). Reversing cuts to healthcare and insurance are a priority, but expecting Republicans to reverse course seems unlikely. Will the Dems allow a government shutdown? That is not clear either. The House is more aligned with the White House, proposing significant cuts to funding proposals, while the Senate is more bipartisan, providing small increases. How the House marks up the Labor-HHS bill will give us more clarity. I never thought I would be on pins and needles in anticipation of a House markup, but here I am.

Impoundment

Last week, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that only the Comptroller General of the Government Accountability Office (GAO), not private organizations or grantees, has the legal authority to sue when the executive branch withholds congressionally-approved funding, known as impoundment. The ruling that only GAO has standing to challenge impoundments could affect agencies like the NIH. This means universities, patient advocacy groups, and researchers would lose their ability to legally contest frozen or rescinded funding, even after Congress has approved it.

Academy Anonymous Grants Survey

Please consider sharing this anonymous survey with those in your department with **NIH grants who may be struggling with receiving their funding**. The Academy is collecting data that will enable us to communicate on behalf of this community more effectively. Additionally, knowing where the pain points are will help our communications with NIH and Capitol Hill. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Academy Distinguished Investigator Nominations Open for Members:
Nominations are open for the Council of Distinguished Investigators, closing Friday, August 29th at 5PMET. Reach out to Josie Wilkinson Miller, jwilkinson@acadrad.org, with questions.**NOMINATE HERE** – *departments and societies*
NOMINATE HERE – *industry members*

The Academy continues to facilitate Congressional meetings:
This week, we extend our gratitude to Kathleen Capaccione, MD, PhD, for her continued advocacy: Kathleen Capaccione, MD, PhD, an assistant professor of radiology at Columbia University Irving Medical Center, met with Mia Furtado, a legislative aide to Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ), and Sara Maskornick, a legislative aide to Senator Andy Kim (D-NJ).

Dr. Capaccione discussed the impacts of NIH funding cuts on early-career investigators. She shared her experience with grant terminations and explained the potential consequences of funding loss, such as hindered drug development and an altered career path. Both Sen. Kim and Booker are strong supporters of NIH, and their staff stressed that the Senators will do what they can to help the NIH.

The Supreme Court's Mixed Ruling Lets NIH Termination on Grants Continue
The Supreme Court on Thursday, August 21, ruled by a 5-to-4 vote that the Administration could, for now, cancel more than $780 million in grants from the NIH that the government said had been intended to explore topics like DEI initiatives, "gender ideology," and vaccine hesitancy.

But a different five-justice majority let stand for now a lower court's ruling that the administration's underlying policy directing the cuts was probably unlawful and should be put on hold.

The Court's order is not the last word, and the case will proceed in lower courts. The Supreme Court's ruling on the NIH grants is not a final decision on the legality of the grant terminations. But it means the administration can withhold the funding while the legal fight plays out.

NIH Releases Implementation Plan to Drive Gold Standard Science
Today, NIH Director Jay Bhattacharya released a plan to promote Gold Standard Science, found here. He outlines nine tenets that he believes will make scientific research more objective, credible, and accessible to the public. This new policy is in response to an Executive Order issued on May 23, 2025, by President Trump.

Together, we can amplify our voices to ensure continued investment in imaging science.

August recess 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.

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.
- Thank the Senate!
- Encourage the House to follow the lead of the Senate!

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.

Medical Research Week
The Academy is working closely with leaders in the scientific community and congressional champions to establish a **congressionally designated Medical Research Week**, set for **September 15–19, 2025**.

A formal Congressional Resolution is being drafted to recognize the vital role medical research plays in improving the lives of patients, families, and communities across the country. In addition to the Resolution, members of Congress are planning a **press conference on the Capitol grounds**, where **patients, advocates, and researchers** will be invited to attend and rally in support of medical innovation.

Medical Research Week will spotlight the groundbreaking work of scientists driving advances in treatments, cures, and diagnostics for devastating conditions. This effort honors the life-changing impact of their work—and the critical federal investments that continue to position the United States as a global leader in medical research and development.

The Academy is serving as a partner in the Rally for Medical Research Hill Day (the Rally on Sept. 18)—a powerful, united effort to advocate for increased investment in the NIH. Together, Rally attendees meet with House and Senate offices to urge Congress to make NIH funding a top national priority. The goal: secure meetings with all 535 members of Congress to highlight how medical research saves lives, drives innovation, and inspires hope. You can join/attend!

Click to view the **logistics and details for the 2025 Rally for Medical Research Hill Day** on Sept. 18.

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

"NIH director lays out agency's research and funding priorities in new strategy statement"

Fear of Trump funding 'wrench' escalates as Congress faces shutdown cliff - POLITICO

"Can a humble, Harley-riding professor and former Trump adviser fend off science cuts?"

"Layers of political oversight have 'put sand in the gears' of NIH grant funding"

"Politicizing Scientific Research Comes With A Hefty Price"

"World Breast Cancer Research Day: Five UW Researchers Driving Change"

*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.