The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

Academy Policy & Legislative Update **August 29, 2025**

Dear Academy Friends,

Recess for Congress Comes to an End—Chaos Awaits:
We are all bracing for the return of Congress. In addition to sending our kids back to school/college, patiently waiting behind the buses each morning, patiently waiting for SNL to start up again for some much-needed comedic relief, we are waiting to see what happens with government funding, and specifically the NIH.

- There are 4 weeks to pass 12 annual appropriations bills before the end of the FY. This includes the bill that funds NIH.
- With no budget, Congress needs to pass a continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government open or risk a government shutdown. Honestly, there seems to be such drastic differences between the House and Senate that a CR seems very likely. Given the current political realities, a shutdown is not entirely out of the realm of possibility. A CR may be the best-case scenario, as it will keep NIH from being significantly cut.
- The Senate had marked up the bill that funds NIH and provided $400M increase (no cut).
- The House Committee is *aiming* to mark up its bill on September 2, followed by a full committee markup on September 9.
- The House is expected to be on recess again the week of Sept. 22.
- The Administration suggested a 40% cut to NIH.
- Once we have details of what we are looking at for NIH funding next year, the Academy will host a live Town Hall update and discussion for all Academy members.

Note: OMB (Russel Vought) sent a pocket recission to the Hill today (another Friday surprise). It focuses on foreign aid (not NIH), but this action may incite support for a government shutdown. This is money already appropriated by Congress, so it is taking that power/authority away from Congress. This sets a precedent.

Academy Distinguished Investigator Nominations Closing Today
Nominations for the Council of Distinguished Investigators are closing TODAY at 5PM ET. Reach out to Josie Wilkinson Miller, jwilkinson@acadrad.org, with questions or for an extension request.
NOMINATE HERE – *departments and societies*
NOMINATE HERE – *industry members*

The Academy continues to facilitate Congressional meetings:
This week, we extend our gratitude to Yikang Liu, PhD, for his continued advocacy: Dr. Yikang Lui is a research scientist with expertise in medical image analysis (interventional

radiology, MRI, fMRI, and ultrasound), artificial intelligence, and computational neuroscience at United Imaging Intelligence America. He had the opportunity to meet with Kei Helm, a legislative aide to Senator Ed Markey (D-MA).

Dr. Lui discussed the impacts of NIH funding cuts on early-career investigators. He shared his experience with grant terminations and explained the potential consequences of funding loss, which hinders the career path of early-career investigators. Sen. Markey is committed to doing all that he can to help the NIH continue its critical mission.

Help us with our data for advocacy! 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 more effectively on behalf of this community. 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.

ARPA-H
This week, the Trump Administration announced it would cut up to $150 million from AI, cybersecurity, and preventative care projects. Of significance for imaging research, the ImagiNg Data EXchange, or INDEX program, is on the chopping block. INDEX aimed to help create AI tools for radiology, pathology, and surgical imaging. To read the story, click here.

JAG & The FAIR Model
The Academy supports the efforts by the Joint Associations Group on Indirect Costs (JAG) to promote more transparent and accountable ways in which F&A rates are structured. Their proposal, called the Financial Accountability in Research (FAIR) model, has been gaining traction on Capitol Hill among bipartisan leaders. The Academy has drafted a summary of the proposal found here.
Here are additional links that seek to explain this new model:
FAIR Model PowerPoint Slides
Executive Summary
Key Legislative Messaging on the FAIR Model
Messaging for Research Societies to Disseminate to Members
Linktree of All JAG Resources
Academy Fair Model FAQ

RFK, Jr Goes to the Hill (again…..)
After this week's firing of CDC Director Susan Monarez, HHS Department Secretary Kennedy has been called to appear before the Senate Finance Committee on Sept. 4. The hearing is focused on the president's health agenda for the coming year. We can expect the Democrats on the committee to press Kennedy on the upheaval at the CDC. To read about Dr. Monarez firing, click here.

Maximizing and Safeguarding NIH's Investment in Foreign Collaborations
Dr. Bhattacharya believes that international research should provide scientific value in addition

to taxpayer value. So, he established principles to guide research collaboration abroad. To read the full announcement and more about these principles, click here.

Together, we can amplify our voices to ensure continued investment in imaging science. Advocacy is important. The Academy has compiled a document that includes best practices for advocacy, scheduling meetings, and preparing for conversations with your Member. 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!

*One Voice for Advocacy. 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.

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**.

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 **logistics and details for the 2025 Rally for Medical Research Hill Day**

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
"America First? Not When It Comes to Your Health."
"NIH cuts are pushing young scientists like me out of the country"
"Columbia Got Most of Its Research Funding Back. The Damage Goes Deeper."
"Establishing a Fixed Time Period of Admission and an Extension of Stay Procedure for Nonimmigrant Academic Students, Exchange Visitors, and Representatives of Foreign Information Media"

*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.