The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

September 5, 2025

Academy Policy & Legislative Update

Dear Academy Friends,

Thank you for your continued support of the Academy, our mission, and for submitting your dues for the upcoming fiscal year. The work we do would not be possible without the partnership of our member societies, departments, and companies.

Let's start light:
The last time Congress passed all 12 regular appropriations bills on time was FY1997 (so, the bills were completed in 1996). The number one song on that day? September 30, 1996: "Macarena (Bayside Boys Mix)" by Los del Río. You're Welcome. 😉

The Impact of Advocacy
Advocacy has a measurable impact. Feedback from both sides of the aisle in our meetings consistently underscores the value of your engagement. Whether through emails, letters, virtual Congressional visits, or sharing your personal stories, your contributions strengthen our collective voice and shape policy conversations. Thank you for your commitment to this important work and for allowing the Academy to carry this torch on your behalf.

NIH:

- The House Bill: $48 billion for NIH: (slight increase).
  - Funding for all 27 NIH Institutes and Centers (no consolidation)
  - Caps F&A at 30%
  - The House Appropriations Committee has scheduled a markup of the fiscal year (FY) 2026 LHHS Bill, which provides funding for NIH, on Tuesday, September 9 at 11:00 AM ET. The hearing livestream is available here.
- The Senate Bill: $48.7 billion for NIH: ($400 million increase/1% increase)

DETAILS:

- 25 days (11 working days) left to pass a budget

- There is talk about a CR that would fund the government through November at the current levels, giving Congress more time to pass the budget.

October 3, 2025, Academy Live Town Hall

The Academy will host a live **Academy Town Hall** update and discussion for all Academy members on Oct. 3rd to discuss the Appropriations State of Play. To view the flyer for this town hall, click here, and to RSVP, click here.

What is the impact of tariffs on imaging products?
Several of you have asked about the impact of tariffs on companies that sell medical imaging products. We've spoken with our industry members to better understand this issue. One important point to keep in mind: employees of publicly traded companies (as many of our members are) cannot share details about their company's finances beyond what is already disclosed in public investor reports. This restriction exists to prevent the risk of insider trading.

For those interested in how tariffs are affecting these companies, the best place to start is with their published financial reports. If there is strong interest, we will explore ways to provide our members with additional context and awareness on this topic. Please continue to reach out to me with your questions and concerns.

The Role/Influence of OMB
The Office of Management and Budget released a 940-page budget guidance document, known as the Circular A-11, which provides instructions to federal agencies as they prepare the FY27 budget and carry out current spending.

Now, unless you're in the 0.1% of the population who actually follow federal budget mechanics, you may not know what an A-11 is—or why I'm flagging it here. Normally this is the kind of bureaucratic guidance that stays well below the radar. But in this case, the section on **"budget execution"** includes language that could be concerning.

This version puts into writing the administration's assertion that ***the president can delay or cancel federal agency spending without affirmative action by Congress***. This assertion counters what has been widely interpreted as making such "impoundments" illegal. Are annual Congressional appropriations suggestive or directive? Do appropriations bills set funding levels or funding caps? Here is a useful "Impoundments 101" resource.)

The OMB continues to make clear it's not planning to play by the *usual* rules. Through speeches, court filings, and administrative procedures, the Administration has effectively written its playbook for freezing or rescinding funds—pocket rescissions in particular—while insisting the law is on its side. While Congress and Appropriators press forward on FY26 bills,

the clash between executive ambition, congressional authority, and court oversight continues to dominate the calendar.

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.

Kneecapping National Institutes of Health will stifle economic growth, radiology groups warn.
"Support for NIH leads to cures and treatments that combat debilitating health challenges and secures our global leadership in research and technology," ACR and other members of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research said in a statement on Sept. 3rd, noting that the Appropriations committee has emphasized the need to "counter China's growing threat in basic science research." "NIH also drives economic growth and stability in communities nationwide—every state and almost every Congressional district receives a share of NIH funding," the group added. To read the full article, click here. The Academy is a member of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research's Steering Committee.

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!

Mark your Calendars:

September 9th @ 11am: House Appropriations Committee markup of the FY 2026 LHHS Bill, which provides funding for NIH. The hearing livestream is available here.

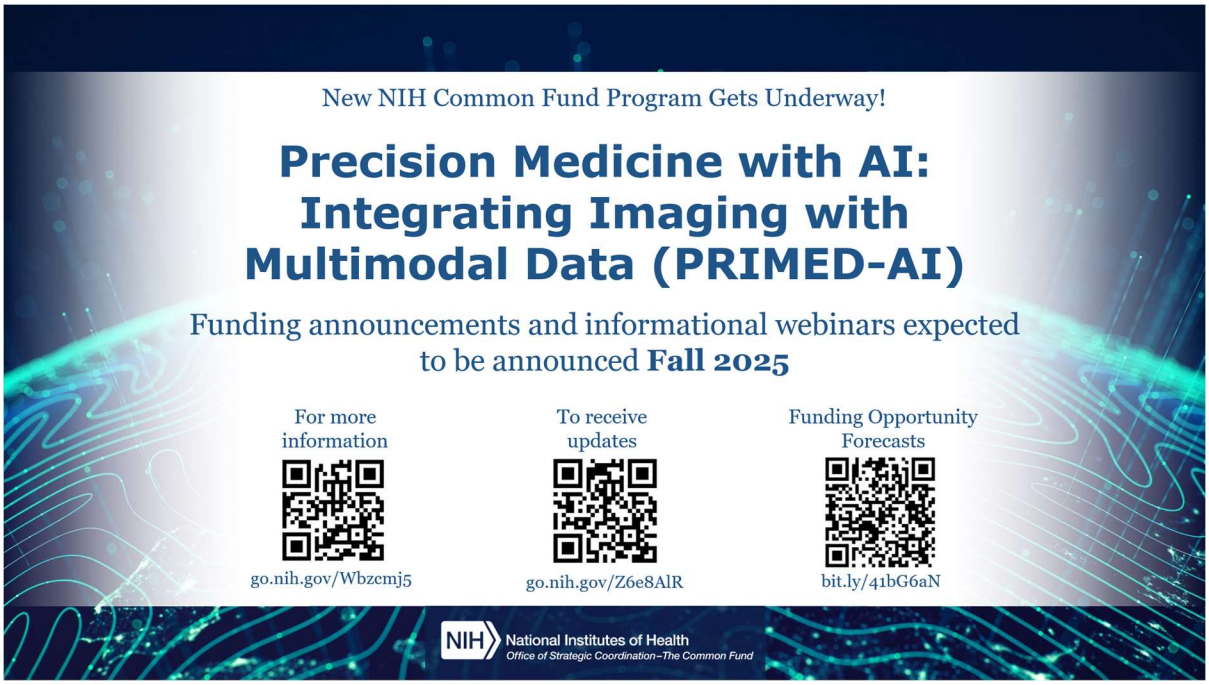
September 9th: Workshop Sustaining the Biomedical Workforce: Innovative Pathways for Retaining and Supporting Physician-Scientists. For more details on this workshop, click here. This event will be held at the National Academy of Sciences Building in Washington, DC.

September 15-19th 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**.

September 18th The Rally for Medical Research will take place. The Academy is serving as a partner and participating in this event—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.

More info to follow on this NIH program…….



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

"Pediatric Brain Cancer Group to Lose Federal Funding"

"Lawmakers Pitch Plan to Avoid Shutdown: BGOV Budget"

"NIH Funding and Local Employment"

"Why Congress won't do much on pocket recissions package"

"Whistle-Blower Complaints Detail Tension Over Vaccines at NIH"

Federal Notices

"Terminating National Institutes of Health Minority Biomedical Research Support Program and Rescinding the Program's Related Regulation"

"NIH Will Stop Posting Notices of Funding Opportunities in the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts in FY2026"

Secretary Kennedy in the Senate Crosshairs

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, testified before the Senate Finance Committee on Thursday, September 4th. This hearing came on the heels of a major shake-up at the CDC. You can watch the hearing here or read about it here.

*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.