The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

September 12, 2025

Academy Policy & Legislative Update

Dear Academy Friends,

Shutdown or CR? Updates as we approach the final days of FY25.

- Less than two weeks left in FY25. Still no budget.
- For a continuing resolution (CR) to pass, it needs 60 votes. Requiring some Dem support.
- There are two options for extending government funding into FY26:
    1. A short-term CR into November or December
    2. A longer-term CR until January or February.
- President Trump submitted to Congress his CR plan, which would keep the government running until January 31.
- Last week, President Trump announced that the Administration will pursue pocket rescissions. Pocket rescissions prevent Congress from spending funds that have already been appropriated. While this move is directed at foreign aid, it sets a dangerous precedent. The Supreme Court is expected to review the legality.

A Government Shut Down: Let's look at it from both sides.

Camp Shut Down

This camp argues that the Trump Administration's disregard for Congress's constitutional "power of the purse" is more damaging than the disruption of a government shutdown. Under Article I of the Constitution, Congress has the sole authority to appropriate funds. Yet, the Administration has acted in ways that obstruct and distort how already-appropriated funds are spent. If the executive branch refuses to uphold the law, then, in their view, allowing a shutdown may be the only remaining option to defend Congress's authority.

Camp No Shut Down

This camp stresses that a shutdown carries real and immediate harm. Federal workers lose pay, services are interrupted, and uncertainty spreads across the economy. Moreover, a shutdown could inadvertently strengthen the Administration's ability to manipulate how funds are distributed—further undermining the very principles Congress seeks to protect. From this perspective, avoiding a shutdown is the better path, even in the face of executive overreach.

Appropriations Update

As the end of the FY clock continues to tick, the Appropriators in both the House and Senate are working to pass their individual bills. This week, the House Appropriations Committee completed its markup of all 12 of its annual bills, including the Labor-HHS-Education bill that funds the NIH.

The House bill provided:

- Small increase for the NIH.
- **Adopted** several NIH-related amendments:
    - report language directing NIH to reestablish and expand the size of existing bridge programs that support opportunities for students with limited access to STEMM education and research;
    - report language directing NIH to submit a report providing an update on efforts to reduce and replace the use of dogs and cats in NIH-funded intramural or extramural research;
    - amendment barring funds for research on vertebrate animals for the purpose of studying the effects of drugs, surgery, or other interventions to alter the human body to no longer correspond to its biological sex.

The committee also **rejected** various amendments. Those that didn't make the cut include amendments concerning the NIH grant cancellations report, impoundment of NIH funds, and research on firearm injury and mortality prevention.

Appropriations Chart

	FY25 Final Appropriations	FY26 Senate	FY26 House	President's Budget Request	Community Ask for FY26
NIH	$46.8 billion	$47.2 billion	$46.9 billion	$28.9 billion	$51.3 billion
ARPA-H	$1.5 billion	$1.5 billion	$945 million	$945 million	$1.5 billion

TOTALS	$48.3 billion	$48.7 billion	$47.8 billion	$29.8 billion	$52.8 billion

NIH Grants Updates

Finally, some good news coming from NIH! After months of NIH funding not being disbursed due to pauses, legal challenges, and new layers of review, the NIH is finally on track to spend all of its FY25 money before the end of the fiscal year on September 30th. To read the article, click here.

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.

Society Sign-on Opportunities

Sign-on Letter Opportunity: Federal Support for Essential Research Costs

The Joint Associations Group on Indirect Costs (JAG) proposed the Financial Accountability in Research (FAIR) Model as an alternative to the 15% cap on Facilities and Administrative Costs (F&A) proposed by the Trump Administration. Both House and Senate Appropriations Committees have included report language in their FY26 spending bills, recognizing the work of the JAG and suggesting that the administration work with the scientific community before making any changes to F&A.

The Academy, along with other national organizations, societies, and associations, is signing onto a letter to appropriators expressing support for the work of the JAG, thanking appropriators for including language in some of the bills to date, and urging that they strengthen language in the final spending bills to support the FAIR model and stop the OMB from putting such a severe cap on research costs.

This letter is not meant for individual signing. Instead, if you are authorized to sign the letter on behalf of your organization, please complete the form at this link by the close of business on Friday, September 19th.

To view a one-pager on the FAIR Model, click here.

To view the Academy's summary of the FAIR Model, click here.

For an FAQ about JAG's FAIR Model, click here.

Sign-on Letter in Response to Executive Order on Grantmaking Oversight

The Academy has been working with several societies that span the fields of scientific and medical research. We came together to draft a letter to Congress requesting their oversight of the August 7th Executive Order on "Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking.

The letter text can be found here.

Please fill out this google form to sign the letter. Click here for the form.

Academy Advocacy

The Academy continues to facilitate Congressional meetings:
This week, we extend our gratitude to Joseph Steiner, PhD, for his continued advocacy. Dr. Steiner is a nuclear medical physicist at the University of Chicago. He had the opportunity to meet with Jessica Sewall, a legislative aide to Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL).

Dr. Steiner discussed the impacts of NIH funding cuts on clinical trials and on early-career investigators. He discussed the exciting field of theranostics, including its current applications and the hope for future treatments. Sen. Duckworth is committed to doing all that he can to help the NIH continue its critical mission.

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!

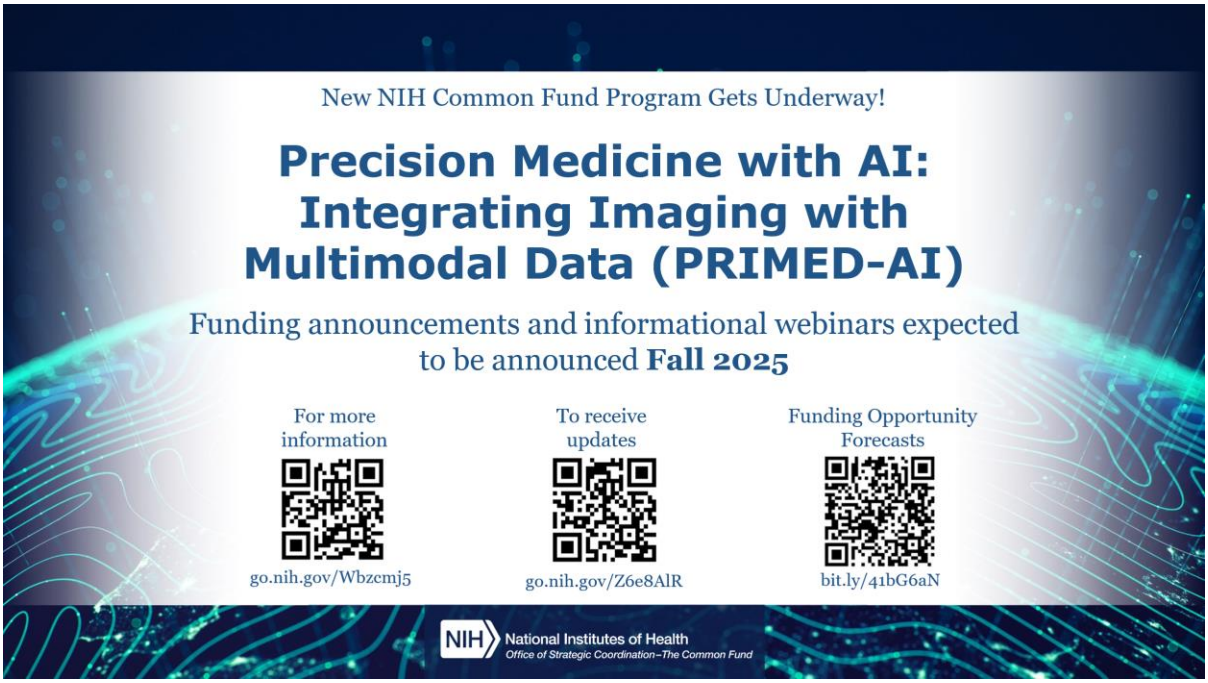
September 15-19th Medical Research Week
The Academy is working closely with leaders in the scientific community and Congressional champions to establish a **Congressionally designated Medical Research Week**. As part of Medical Research Week, the **Academy encourages**

you to share examples of NIH-supported research across social media channels, using the hashtag #fundNIH. Here's an example:

> ***My research on [disease/condition/innovation] would not exist without NIH support. Research saves lives and is why we need robust NIH funding. #FundNIH***

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.

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

"Harvard federal funding set to resume – at least for now"

"Harvard Was Cleared to Get Some Federal Funds. Then DOGE Stepped In."

"I'm one of the PhD students caught up in the cancelation of 'diversity' grants. I'm heartbroken"

"We Are Watching a Scientific Superpower Destroy Itself"

"ACR urges US House to advance 2026 radiology provisions"

*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.