The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

September 26, 2025
Academy Policy & Legislative Update

Dear Academy Friends,

But first... some delightful news!

The Academy's Fall 2025 Gold Medal Recipient

We are pleased to share that the 2025 Academy Gold Medal Recipient is Jonathan S. Lewin, MD, FACR. To read the full announcement, click here. To view the list of past recipients of this distinguished award, click here.

Please join us in Chicago to recognize Dr. Lewin and the 2025 Council of Distinguished Investigators at RSNA during a special ceremony and reception. Tuesday, December 2, 2025, McCormick Place, S105BC, 3:00 - 5:00pm CT.

October 3, 2025, Academy Live Town Hall
Join the **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.

Déjà vu All Over Again…

The deadline looms. Unless policymakers can agree on either a full FY26 budget or another continuing resolution (CR), the government will shut down Oct. 1.

- House Republicans passed a CR last week that would extend funding through Nov. 21. This bill failed in the Senate (Senate bills must pass a 60-vote hurdle).
- House and Senate Democrats advanced their own version of a CR, which Republicans blocked, leaving the CR situation in limbo.

Those of us in Washington have experienced government shutdowns. Some shutdowns last for a weekend, while others last for over six weeks. But it's always

the same. At this point, agencies are finalizing their shutdown contingency plans; the finger-pointing and blame game are in full swing; and Vegas is taking bets on how long a shutdown will last – the safe bet right now is more than three days but less than five days.

What we know

- Currently, no deal is in place to avert a shutdown.
- Trump initially agreed to meet with Democratic leaders to discuss a plan to avert a shutdown. Then decided not to. All in the same day.
- Members of the House aren't even returning to Washington until AFTER the government shutdown.
- The Senate will be voting on another CR on Tuesday, Sept. 30.
- Senate and House Democrats have drawn a line in the sand on what they want in any CR: extension of expiring Affordable Care Act subsidies and Medicare fixes.
- Senate and House Republicans want a clean CR.

What is the role of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in a Shutdown

- Traditionally, the OMB will release "agency guidance" for a government shutdown. That part is normal. What is not normal is what OMB is doing now. The OMB is planning not only to furlough government employees but also to permanently eliminate positions at its discretion.
- The Administration and OMB have wide discretion over how painful a shutdown will be. They would have the power to decide which agencies and offices would remain open and which would close until the deadlock is resolved.
- In a September 24 memo, OMB directed agencies to identify programs, projects, and activities where discretionary funding will lapse on October 1, and no alternative funding source is available. For those areas, OMB directed agencies to begin drafting Reduction in Force (RIF) plans that would go beyond standard furloughs, permanently eliminating positions.

For NIH-funded researchers, here are a few things that could cease in a shutdown:

- Grant review, awards, and program management.
- Admission of new patients at the Clinical Center.
- Translational research conducted by NIH scientists that develops clinical applications of scientific knowledge.
- Scientific meetings at NIH Facilities.
- Travel of NIH scientists to scientific meetings.

Trump Introduces a New Fee on H-1B Visa Applications

- President Donald Trump has announced plans to dramatically increase fees associated with the H-1B visa program, creating new hurdles for scientists and engineers looking to work in the U.S.
- In a proclamation on Friday, Sept. 19, the Trump administration introduced a $100,000 visa fee for companies that vie for the 85,000 visas granted through the program each year via a lottery system.
- The Chronicle of Higher Ed took a look at the impact of the Administration's new H-1B fee structure and what it could mean for higher education.
- The White House indicated earlier this week that physicians and medical residents may qualify for an exception from fee payment.
- In related news impacting foreign STEM talent, the Department of Homeland Security issued a draft rule last month that would create new restrictions on visas for international students. The proposed changes include capping visa duration at four years, instead of issuing visas for the duration of the applicant's academic program. That move could create hurdles for PhD candidates, whose degrees often take more than four years to complete and would require them to reapply to extend their stay. The comment period for the rule closes on Sept. 29.

Sign-on Letter Supporting the Joint Associations Group on Indirect Costs (JAG)

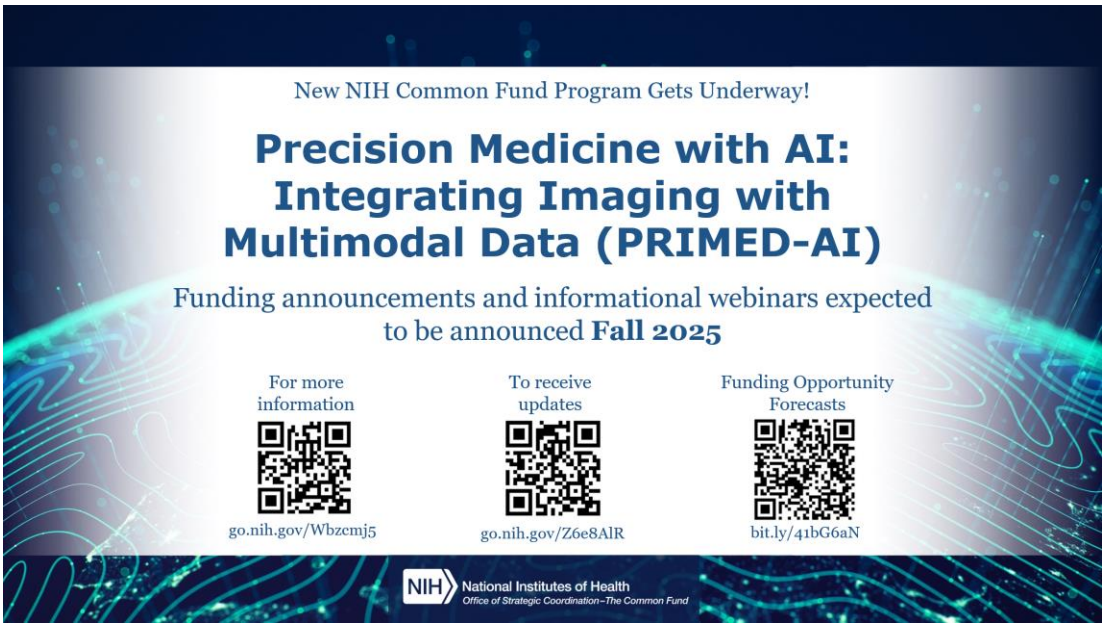
Thank you to the eight Academy member societies that signed on to the JAG letter! This community letter advocates for JAG's FAIR Model, which is an alternative to the OMB placing arbitrary caps on federal support for essential research costs.

For organizations that still wish to sign the letter, click here for the form. The letter can be signed by national organizations, societies, associations, and individual institutions.

For more information on JAG and the FAIR Model, 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!

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

What if NIH had been 40% smaller? | Science

“Opinion: Jay Bhattacharya Wants to Fix Science. Is He in Over His Head?”

“Former NIH chief spotlights ‘most powerful force’ for health funding”

“Anthony Letai of Dana-Farber is front-runner to lead National Cancer Institute”

“New NIH Organoid Center Announced”

“What if NIH had been 40% smaller?”

*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.