The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

October 3, 2025
Academy Policy & Legislative Update

Dear Academy Friends,

As I write this weekly update, I'm reminded of the song by the Eurhythmics, "Here Comes the Rain Again." (*one of my favorite MTV videos from the 80s*)

The Academy is hosting a Town Hall on the shutdown (today at 4pm Eastern). We will discuss the implications of a shutdown and what the end of the shutdown can look like. The Town Hall will be recorded for anyone unable to participate.

The Government: Closed for Business

It's the scenario we've been worried about – the government has shut down. The impact won't be felt immediately on extramural researchers, but the longer it goes on, the more the research enterprise will suffer.

What we know:

- NIH is operating with only 25% of its staff. **75% of NIH staff are furloughed**.
- Most activities on campus are cancelled.
- Study sections and Council meetings will be postponed.
- New awards will not be issued during this time.
- You will not hear from most employees at NIH during the shutdown.

Why the stalemate:

- Democrats are demanding an extension to the ACA (Obamacare) subsidies. If not fixed, premiums are expected to spike by the end of the year, raising premiums by over 75%.
- Republicans want a "clean" continuing resolution. Meaning they do not want to consider any extraneous legislative language.

What is the Administration doing:

- Russ Vought, the Director of the OMB, is promising a mass firing of federal workers who are furloughed during the shutdown.

The NIH Narrowly Avoided Impoundment

The NIH was facing a possible impoundment of FY2025 funds. Meaning, if the agency did not spend its entire appropriated amount of money by the end of the fiscal year (Sept. 30), the funds would be returned to the treasury and unusable for research.

The NIH staff worked tirelessly to ensure that the agency's funding for FY2025 would be fully obligated before the end of the fiscal year. **The Academy extends its deep appreciation to the dedicated NIH staff who seemingly pulled off a miracle**. We strongly encourage everyone to send a thank you to your program officer if you can. You may not hear back from them, as many are not working at the moment and will be inundated when they do return, but I assure you they could use the boost of appreciation even if sent via a brief email.

Some background:

- In July, the research community and some Members of Congress were sounding the alarm that not all money appropriated to the NIH for FY2025 would be spent before the end of the fiscal year.
- At this time, the agency was nearly $5 billion behind in awarding grants, and it seemed a nearly impossible feat to get all the money out the door.
- However, while all money has gone out the door, fewer research projects are funded.
- Roughly 3,000-4,000 individual grants are not funded due to the shift to multi-year funding.

The Trump Administration's Compact with Universities

- On Oct. 2, it was reported that the Administration sent "A Compact for Academic Excellence" to nine universities and colleges across the country, encouraging them to sign a pledge of allegiance to conservative values and policies.

- According to the New York Times, colleges that agree to sign the compact would get priority access to federal funds and looser restraints on overhead costs. Signed compacts would also serve as assurance to the government that schools are complying with civil rights laws.
- The Academy will closely monitor this issue and collaborate with our university colleagues when appropriate.
- Currently, lawyers are reviewing the contract to determine its constitutionality. Union leaders are threatening a lawsuit if their university concedes to these demands. University leaders seemingly agree that changes are needed in higher education, but they also believe that a heavy-handed government approach is not the way to achieve this change.
  To read more, click here.

Op-Ed from Roy Blunt, "FAIR model is America's best path forward on research funding"

Roy Blunt, the former chairman of the Senate funding committee for health research, discusses the value of the American research enterprise, the importance of transparency in research costs, and the promise of the FAIR model. Blunt explains that he is joining the many supporters of JAG's alternative to F&A costs and that the FAIR model is "the best method being discussed for covering and accounting for the resources necessary to perform world-leading research while providing greater accountability and transparency for American taxpayers."

To read the full article, click here.

Notice of Request for Public Comments on Section 232 National Security Investigation of Imports of Personal Protective Equipment, Medical Consumables, and Medical Equipment, Including Devices

On Sept. 2, 2025, the Secretary of Commerce initiated an investigation to determine the effects on the national security of imports of personal protective equipment (PPE), medical consumables, and medical equipment including devices.

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments, data, analyses, or other pertinent information.

Click here to leave a comment.

Click here for the full announcement.

Dr. Anthony Letai Sworn in as NCI Director

Dr. Anthony Letai, MD, PhD, on Sept. 29, was sworn in as the 18th NCI Director. Dr. Letai previously served as professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and medical oncologist at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and has experience in the study of cell death in cancer, developing treatments, and identifying biomarkers. Following his swearing-in ceremony, Dr. Letai stated that he, NIH Director Jay Bhattacharya, MD, PhD, and HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., "will work around the clock to identify cancer's root causes, predictive biomarkers, and most effective treatments. Advances in understanding cell death and replication are essential to realizing President Trump's vision for a healthy America."

NIH Intramural Access Planning Policy Set to Take Effect, Additional Guidance Available

NIH's Intramural Research Program (IRP) Access Planning Policy goes into effect tomorrow, Oct. 1, 2025. This policy seeks to improve access to medical products developed from NIH-owned inventions. Starting Oct. 1, organizations applying to NIH for certain commercial patent licenses will be required to provide the agency with an access plan, describing the steps they will take to promote patient access to any new drug, biologic, or medical device that results from the licensed invention.

Additional information about the policy, guidance, and resources can be found through the NIH Office of Technology Transfer website here: https://www.techtransfer.nih.gov/policy/access-policy. NIH will continue to work with stakeholders and communities to support effective implementation of this policy and to promote the best health outcomes for the American public.

Questions may be sent to the NIH Office of Technology Transfer at nihott@mail.nih.gov.

NIH Common Fund Launches the Complement-ARIE Reduction to Practice Prize

The NIH Common Fund has teamed up with NASA's Tournament Lab to launch the Reduction to Practice prize, a competition that invites innovative New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) solutions from teams who can successfully demonstrate implementation of integrated human-based solutions in a practical and usable form within a 3-year period.

The Reduction to Practice Prize will task innovators in an open competition to accelerate technological development of NAMs platform and translate their products into practice.

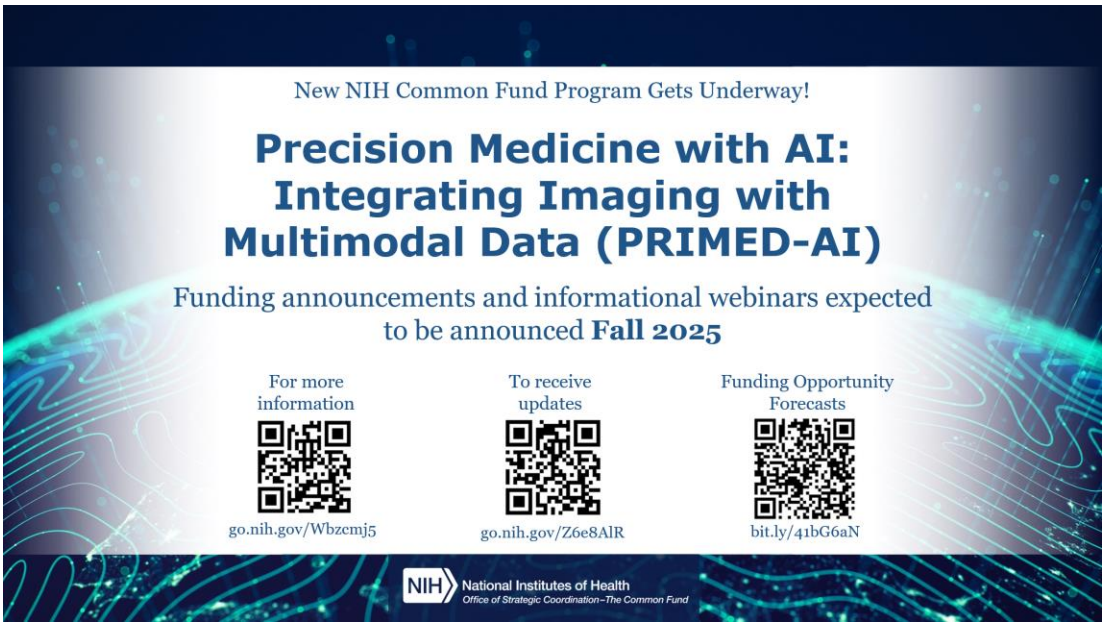
Key Dates/Contact

Submit your ideas by **Mar. 1, 2026, 11:59PM ET**

To accept the challenge, visit: https://bit.ly/3Wbow3C

Have questions? Reach out by email: gethelp@herox.com

More info to follow on this NIH program…….



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!

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 Pulled off a 'near miracle.' Scientists say there's still a problem."

"U.S. scientists gird for yet another government shutdown"

"HHS Doubles AI-Backed Childhood Cancer Research Funding"

"Exclusive: After months in limbo, four NIH institute directors fired"

*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.