The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

October 10, 2025

Academy Policy & Legislative Update

Dear Academy Friends,

October is truly magical. The air is crisp, the leaves are ablaze with color, and the harvest moon lights up the night sky. My furloughed husband has even taken up the art of baking fresh bread… If only our political leaders could find their own recipe for cooperation.

Day 10 of Shutdown Continues

- There is no clear resolution.
- Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) is making it clear he's done legislating until the Senate "comes to its senses."
- Rather than continue to keep taking failed votes to reopen the government, the Senate gaveled out last night and won't be back until Tuesday.
- Meanwhile, in the Senate, Senate leadership talks have completely broken down. Rank-and-file members have picked up the mantle and have begun holding bipartisan talks.
- Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.) is leading these conversations with Republicans on how to find a way out of a government shutdown.
- The Administration has quietly started moving money around to keep parts of the government from grinding to a halt. About $41 million has been redirected to keep the Essential Air Service program flying past its expiration date, and officials are reportedly looking for ways to pay active-duty troops even as Congress refuses to pass a standalone fix.
- The problem is no one outside the White House seems to know where all the cash is coming from—or what legal foot it's standing on. Tariff revenue is supposedly being eyed to keep WIC nutrition aid flowing to states, but so far, nothing new has landed in local accounts.

Appropriations Plan

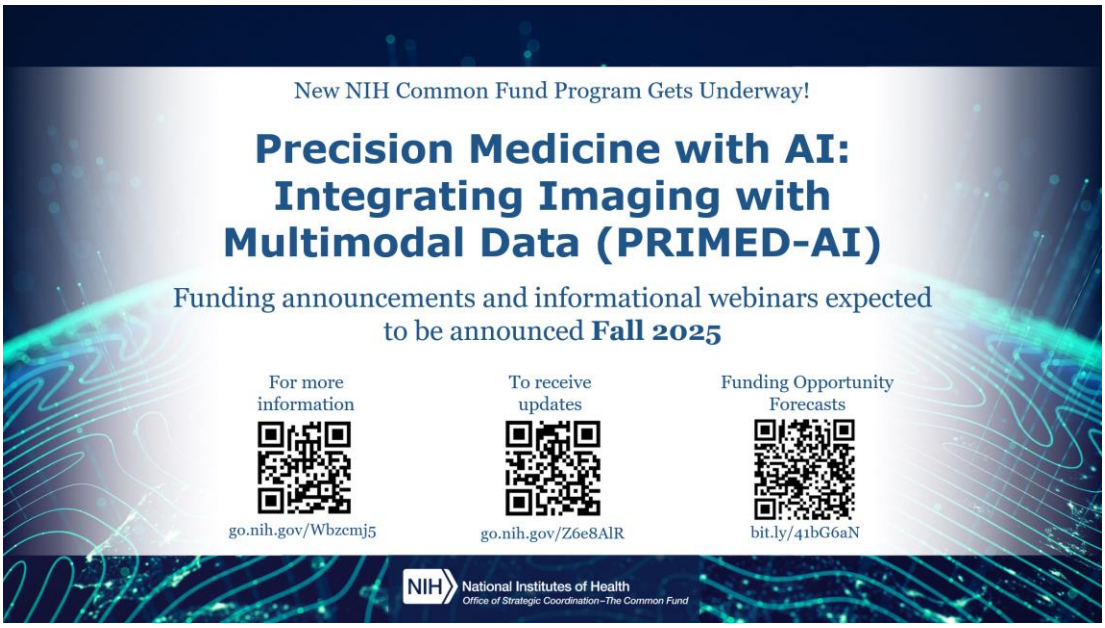
- While some Senators negotiate a plan to reopen the government, Appropriators in the House and Senate are still working on final appropriations bills.
- Senators and House Members are floating the idea of a mini-omnibus bill that includes the Labor-HHS bill and the Department of Defense bill.

- The two bills tend to be the most contentious spending bills. By combining the two, you increase the chances of passage.
- The last time they were combined into a larger bill was 2018. Fun Fact: 2018 was our last shutdown. But because Congress packaged the Labor-HHS bill and the DOD bill, it was passed before the end of the fiscal year, thus those agencies were funded even through the shutdown.

NIH and the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs

- As of October 1, 2025, Congressional authority for the SBIR and STTR expired.
- The programs needed to be reauthorized, but Congress failed to pass the House one-year extension or the Senate bill to permanently extend the programs.
- Without Congressional action, NIH and other federal agencies may not be able to award funding under SBIR/STTR programs and solicitations may be delayed, canceled, or rescinded.
- According to a Senate Small Business Committee Report, the NIH would be affected by the lapse in the reauthorization in many ways:
    - Around 1,500 small businesses would lose over $1.2 billion in funding for early-stage life science research and development. This would prevent the development of countless innovative healthcare products and services.
    - Without SBIR/STTR, Small Businesses would be forced to compete for NIH resources and private capital with academic institutions and large businesses. This would make accessing government capital harder (and place small businesses, with less initial resources, at a disadvantage) or force them to sell stakes to private financiers.
    - NIH also supports SBIR or STTR companies to pitch their projects at investment partnering meetings, which is essential for transitioning projects to the private sector for further development and commercialization.

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!

In other news in and around DC

- On October 6, Senate HELP Committee Chair Bill Cassidy (R-LA) sent a letter to American Medical Association (AMA) President Dr. Bobby Mukkamala accusing the AMA of abusing its government-backed monopoly over the CPT medical coding system. Cassidy argued that the AMA's high licensing fees for these mandatory billing codes drive up healthcare costs and conflict with its stated mission to support physicians and patients. He requested detailed financial and operational information—including revenue from CPT licensing, pricing methods, and administrative spending on diversity and gender care initiatives—by October 20, 2025.
- States that expanded Medicaid saw significantly better 5-year cancer survival, especially among patients in rural and high-poverty areas, compared with non-expansion states. Analyses showed improvements for multiple high-mortality cancers and for non-Hispanic White and Black patients, likely driven by increased insurance coverage, screening, and timely treatment. Researchers say these findings reinforce the importance of expanding Medicaid in the remaining non-expansion states to improve long-term cancer outcomes.
- Six former U.S. surgeons general warn that HHS Secretary Kennedy's ideology and rhetoric undermine science, threaten public health, and risk lowering vaccine rates. While some initiatives, like improving food standards, could help, they stress the need for qualified leadership and a science-based approach.

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

"Deafening Quiet from the Scientific Establishment"

"Trump slashed funding for universities that helped create these vital drugs"

"They advised federal health agencies on the ethics and impact of scientific research. They're no longer wanted."

"Op-Ed: NIH is Failing Early Career Investigators"

*Thank you for following these Academy updates! If your department, society, or company isn't yet a supporting Member, now is a great time to join. Your support powers our advocacy efforts and helps advance the interests of our entire community.

Discover The Value of the Academy in this short clip and explore our membership [here]. For personalized guidance or questions, connect with Josie Wilkinson Miller at jwilkinson@acadrad.org —we'd love to hear from you!