The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

October 24, 2025

Academy Policy & Legislative Update

Dear Academy Friends,

Washington has never felt more like a demolition zone. This week, a wrecking ball literally struck the White House, while a government shutdown continues to batter the nation figuratively. With no end in sight, the hits keep coming—and this shutdown is on track to become the longest in U.S. history.

Shutdown Updates:

- The Senate voted for the 12th time to vote for the House-passed CR that would open the government until Nov. 21, which is not that far off now.
- Both parties appear content to hold their ground. A shift is most likely only if outside forces – such as changes in public opinion, market volatility, or other major events – alter the political calculus. Should those pressures mount, leaders may be forced to reassess and move toward compromise. Until then, the shutdown could easily stretch on for several more weeks.
- Expecting the shutdown to continue, several in Congress have begun considering a new CR that extends past the House-passed CR that expires on Nov. 21.
- Republican leaders are quietly kicking around new CRs with deadlines stretching into mid- to late January, while some in the House are even entertaining the fantasy of a stopgap that runs to December 2026.
- The president is traveling to Asia, he won't be around for a week to sign any bill reopening the government.

Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health has new Director:

- President Trump tapped health entrepreneur Alicia Jackson to lead the ARPA-H.
- Dr. Jackson was sworn in on Monday, Oct. 20, according to a spokesperson for the Department of Health and Human Services.
- Dr. Jackson is currently the founder and CEO of Evernow, a healthcare company that provides virtual medical care to people experiencing menopause and perimenopause.

- During the Obama Administration, she spent five years at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. She worked as a program manager and became the founding deputy director of the Biotechnology Office.
- Funding: While the Senate proposed flat funding for ARPA-H of $1.5 billion for FY2026, the House followed the President's recommendation and proposed funding for the agency at $954 million for FY2026. Any cuts to funding for this relatively new and productive agency would hurt its ability to transform health and medicine.

Academy Submitted Comments to the Department of Commerce/Bureau of Industry and Security:

- On October 19, the Academy responded to the U.S. Department of Commerce's request for comments on Section 232 National Security Investigation of Imports of Personal Protective Equipment, Medical Consumables, and Medical Equipment, Including Devices.
- Among our issues, we noted concerns about the potential impact of tariffs on patient access to medical imaging services as well as the cost of providing these services in communities across the United States.
- Read our full comments: "Academy Comments for Submission"

Ad Hoc Appropriations Conference Letter:

- The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research circulated a letter for signatories urging Congress finalize the fiscal year (FY) 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) spending bill with a robust investment in the NIH.
- The Imaging Community strongly supported this letter! It's important to have this representation from the imaging community—doing so demonstrates that we are collectively advocating for robust and consistent federal research funding. Please see the societies highlighted on the letter.
- Being on the letter isn't just symbolic — it's strategic. It helps protect and grow the resources that sustain imaging research, ensures the field's voice is heard in national funding decisions, and reinforces imaging's vital role in the biomedical ecosystem.
- This letter will be sent to Appropriators on Monday, October 27.

H-1B Visa Update

- The Trump Administration released new guidance on Monday affirming that the $100,000 H-1B visa fee will apply only to new applicants living outside the U.S.

- For these new visas, employers will be required to pay the fee after the worker's visa is approved and before they enter the country to begin employment.

NIH Legal and Funding Issues

- Since the beginning of the year, several lawsuits have been filed that sue the NIH for terminating hundreds of DEI-grants.
- The money for those terminated grants is considered de-obligated. Meaning, they can be reused for new grants. And some grants got reinstated, and the money returned to the PI.
- Current lawsuits continue, and the question remains: What happens to those funds now that the government's fiscal year 2025 ended?
- If the courts order NIH to reinstate the grant funds, the money would have to be returned to the grantee.
- If the courts side with the Administration, allowing the terminations to remain in place, then the money returns to the Treasury because the FY25 has ended.

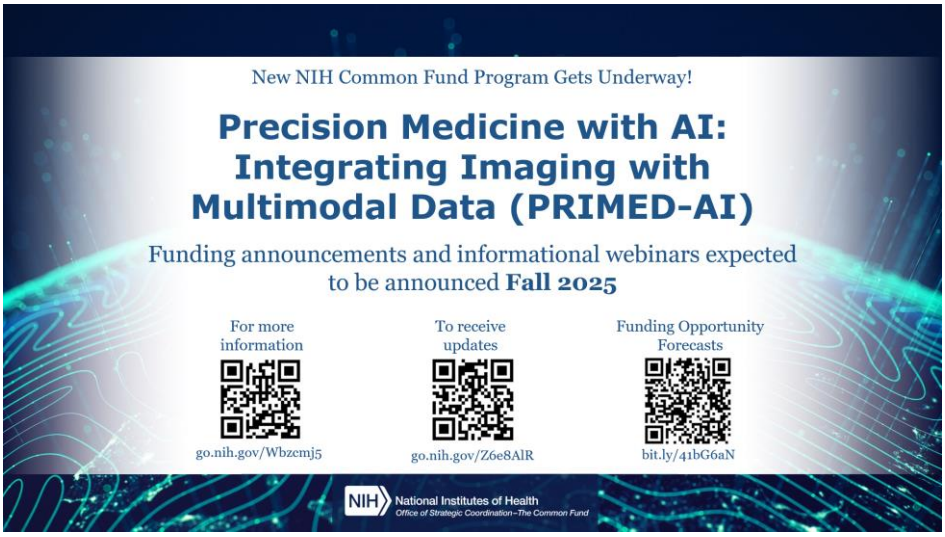
Multi-Year Funding Grants

- At the end of FY25, NIH was behind in spending its appropriated funds.
- Institutes and Centers (ICs) utilized the Multi-Year Funding (MYF) funding mechanism to ensure all appropriated money was obligated.
- Understanding that this mechanism is used by quite a bit by certain ICs; this is not something that should be employed so broadly. Doing so results in far fewer grants and far fewer investigators being funded.
- The Academy is joining with the community, asking the House to adopt the Senate's language limiting the use of MYF grants.
- To underscore this issue, Act for NIH created a fact sheet on it.

Center for Digital Health and AI

- The American Medical Association (AMA) announced a new Center for Digital Health and AI that will help include physicians in the discussion and implementation of AI technology into medicine. Since AI is rapidly entering the medical field, AMA wanted to prioritize using the technology in a way that is effective and improves patient care while decreasing unnecessary burdens on physicians. The center will focus on policy and regulatory leadership, clinical workflow integration, education and training, and collaboration between the tech and health care sectors.

More info to follow after the government re-opens 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 a sample document to send to your elected official, 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

"Nearly 20 Percent Fewer International Students Traveled to the US in August"

"As Compact Deadline Nears, White House Meets With University Leaders"

"Capitol agenda: Time for a new CR?"

"Corporate support cannot make up for threats to the NIH budget"

"US Taps Ex- Defense Official to Run Health Tech Moonshot Agency"

"Request for Public Comment: Measuring and Evaluating Artificial Intelligence – enabled Medical Device Performance in the Real-World"

*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!