The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

*Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science*

November 7, 2025

Academy Policy & Legislative Update

Dear Academy Friends,

Day 38 of the current government shut down.

Earlier this week, as November's chill settled over Washington, D.C., it briefly looked as though the long freeze of the Capitol Hill shutdown might finally be thawing. For a moment, optimism flickered—negotiators believed they had found a path forward. But as quickly as the warmth appeared, the mood cooled again. And this is no joke: many Members have quietly voiced concern about marching in Veterans Day parades under the shadow of a shutdown. Motivation can take curious forms—but if it gets things moving, perhaps that's reason enough?

But FIRST! **Looking for a new job?** Do you need a new professional challenge? I may have the opportunity for you! The NIH is soliciting applications for several institute and center director positions. The turnaround to apply is tight with a deadline of November 21. Please share these openings with your networks so we can ensure that many qualified candidates apply. Please reach out to me confidentially with any questions you may have.

**Shutdown Update:**

- Senate Majority Leader John Thune is expected to tee up another vote on the House-passed CR. It could be voted on late Friday (today) or over the weekend. The deal that was being discussed earlier in the week looks as follows:

  An extended deadline for the CR. The House passed CR expires on Nov. 21. The Senate proposal looks to extend that into the new year.

  The bill would include a "mini-bus" to fund military construction, legislative affairs, and the agriculture department (3 of the 12 appropriations bills).

  Finally, it would **promise** a vote on the ACA tax credits int he Senate (this means nothing as the House has NOT agreed to a vote, and they both have to vote on this).

Democrats seem unpersuaded and emboldened after Tuesday's election results.

House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) refused to guarantee a vote on an ACA package in the CR.

President Trump won't sign anything that doesn't look like the House bill.

**The Academy will send an alert should the Senate pass a measure that could end the government shutdown**

**Indirect Costs Get Their Day in Court**

On Wednesday, November 5, the first court of appeals in Boston heard the lawsuit challenging the NIH's proposed changes to research overhead payments.

The Trump administration's attempt to slash billions in NIH research funds and overhead costs faced a skeptical appeals court, signaling a decision that could affirm a federal judge's opinion that the cuts are unconstitutional.

The judges did not definitively weigh in and issue a bench ruling, nor did they hint at when they might issue an opinion.

To read more, click here.

**How H-1B Visa Fees Impact Universities and Research Institutions**

The $100,000 H-1B visa fee has proven to be a significant challenge for prominent research institutions, many of which depend greatly on foreign employees but cannot afford the new fee. This is incredibly concerning for the future of the American research enterprise, but recent guidance suggests that the fee only applies to new H-1B petitions for employees outside of the US. In many cases, H-1B employees are hired while they are in the US on a student or non-immigrant visa. While this alleviates some anxiety, large universities still expect to pay millions a year to hire from abroad, and for smaller institutions, this could be a major roadblock.
Much of the impact will be felt at leading universities across the country—many of which have large departments that are Academy members. We've highlighted a few of those institutions here:

| *Institution* | *Estimated International New Hires* | *Estimated Additional Costs* |
|---|---|---|
| Stanford University | 125 | $11,789,375 |
| University of Michigan | 107 | $10,091,705 |
| Washington University in St. Louis | 83 | $7,828,145 |
| University of Pennsylvania | 79 | $7,450,885 |
| University of Chicago | 78 | $7,356,570 |
| Columbia University | 77 | $7,262,255 |
| Yale University | 73 | $6,884,995 |
| University of Wisconsin at Madison | 70 | $6,602,050 |
| University of California at San Francisco | 67 | $6,319,105 |
| Johns Hopkins University | 65 | $6,130,475 |
| The Ohio State University | 61 | $5,753,215 |
| Emory University | 60 | $5,658,900 |
| University of California at Los Angeles | 57 | $5,375,955 |
| University of Pittsburgh | 56 | $5,281,640 |
| Northwestern University | 55 | $5,187,325 |
| University of Colorado at Denver | 55 | $5,187,325 |

To read more about H-1B visa impacts on universities, click here.

**NIH Director Bhattacharya at Milken Institute's Future of Health Summit**

HHS officials, including NIH Director Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, gathered at the Milken Institute this week for the Future of Health Summit. When asked about what surprised him the most in his first eight months leading the NIH, Dr. Bhattacharya said, "***There still is amazing science and a desire to accomplish the mission of the NIH inside the NIH.***" The statement struck some as puzzling, given the immense effort researchers devote to advancing their work despite grant freezes and administrative hurdles. Few would question the remarkable science supported by the NIH or the dedication of its investigators.

To read more about the Milken Institute's Future of Health Summit, click here.

**Government Shutdown and Its Impact on Science: In 2025, the Stakes are Higher Than in Previous Shutdowns**

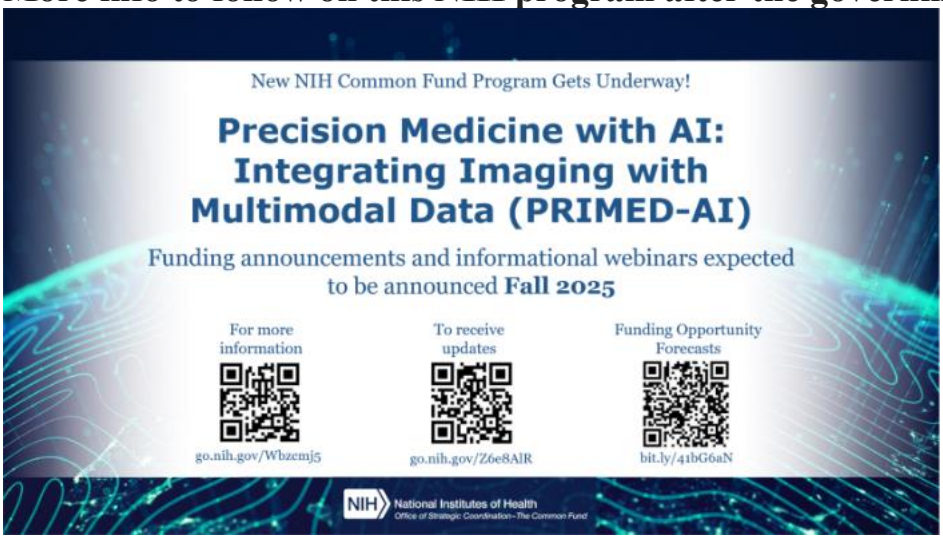
There are a variety of consequences we've come to expect from government shutdowns: funding lapses, the suspension of grant opportunities, and holds placed on review panels. However, this shutdown is different due to its timing. Right now, we are at a point of "massive upheaval" due to the Trump administration's misuse of executive power and efforts to politicize science. In addition to the negative impacts associated with the shutdown, fundamental changes are happening to the relationship between the US government and research universities. Many of the consequences of the shutdown are known, but there are still many impacts we cannot yet conceive.

To read more about the impacts of the government shutdown on science, click here.

**Academy Membership Programming Survey**

We've put together a survey to gauge the interests of our membership so that we can provide programming opportunities that you want to participate in. Please complete this survey and leave all feedback you may have. Thank you!

**More info to follow on this NIH program after the government re-opens…….**




**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**
"Top researchers consider leaving US amid funding cuts: 'The science world is ending'"
"Unions sue over 'loyalty question' for federal jobseekers"

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!

Warmest regards,
Renee