The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

November 14, 2025

Academy Policy & Legislative Update

Dear Academy Friends,

Finally, our Groundhog Day experience is over. At 1:30 a.m. Thursday morning, the President signed a continuing resolution to reopen the federal government, ending the 43-day shutdown—the longest in U.S. history. Federal operations resumed later that day, though it may take several days, and in some cases weeks, for agencies to return to full capacity.

Read the Academy's Fall 2025 Newsletter! Click here to view.

The Shutdown has ended. What does this mean for NIH?

- NIH will remain at FY2025 funding levels until an FY26 Labor-HHS appropriations bill is passed or until January 30 when this current CR ends.
- Staff returned to the office and will be able to field calls and emails, but they will face an immense backlog. If you need help reaching someone after a week please let us know and we will help facilitate a connection if we can.
- It's been reported that 379 NIH study section meetings (containing 24,380 grant applications) were postponed and will need to be rescheduled.
- It's the goal of the SROs to reschedule study sections in time for the January council.
- Council meetings and other NIH meetings scheduled initially during the shutdown will be rescheduled.
- There is no language restricting the administration's ability to forward-fund NIH grants (although this could change in the final Labor-HHS bill.)

The Shutdown has ended. What was in the final package?

- Funding until Jan. 30, 2026
- A full-year appropriations for the Veterans Affairs Department, Agriculture Department, and the Legislative Branch (3 of the 12 appropriations bills).
- As part of the minibus, the FDA will receive about $7 billion, including $3.4 billion in discretionary funding. This funding level is 1% lower than the FY25 FDA budget.
- Rehire government workers fired at the start of the funding lapse.
- Prevent all agencies from carrying out any RIFs through January 30, 2026.

    - *This includes NIH.*
- Guarantee backpay for all furloughed government workers.
- As part of the deal, Democrats will get a Senate vote on continuing Affordable Care Act subsidies in December.
    - *House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., has not agreed to bring the vote to the House floor.*

The Shutdown has ended. Time for Appropriations

- Now that Congress is working again, it's time to complete the remaining nine appropriations bills.
- The Senate is likely to attempt consideration of a second minibus comprised of the Department of Defense, Labor-HHS, Commerce-Justice-Science, and Transportation-Housing and Urban Development.
- These are Senate bills that will be bipartisan, but not products that have been conferenced with the House.
- Combining these bills will be much more difficult than the first tranche that were included in the CR, since they each have lots of political landmines. But they also have earmarks, which Senators really want.
- In the House, Speaker Johnson is making noise about considering more individual bills on the House floor.
- It is unlikely that Congress can pass final versions of the remaining bills before the 1/30 deadline.
- If Congress can't meet the 1/30 deadline, does the government shutdown again? Does Congress pass another year-long CR for the remaining appropriations bills?

NIH Policy

- New information is surfacing suggesting that, apparently, ~70% of grant applications for most mechanisms will be "triaged", i.e., not discussed at the study section.
- This is an increase from the ~50% level that has been in place for many years.
- The rationale for this is unclear. It could be to move the backlog of grants that need to be reviewed post-shutdown. However, NIH has not released data or a reason to explain this new process.
- It is likely to disadvantage applications from early-stage investigators.

The "Official MAHA Summit"

On Wednesday, top federal health officials, private sector executives, and wellness influencers met for a MAHA Summit:

- The event was mostly closed to the public and press. The conversation between Vice President JD Vance and HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. was broadcast, but the remainder of the event was kept private.
- Federal health officials in attendance included Jay Bhattacharya (NIH), Marty Makary (FDA), and Mehmet Oz (CMS). No one affiliated with a university or hospital was in attendance. Click here to view the agenda for the summit, which includes the list of speakers and their affiliations.

To read the complete article, click here.

Got Questions?
Register for *"Coffee Chat with Lynn Marquis and Vivek Yedavalli, MD, MS"*!
On Monday, November 17th, from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm ET, the Academy will host an informal Q&A session. In addition to questions you submit at registration, we will cover topic areas such as:

- Navigating the use of AI
- Designing multi-center studies
- NIH federal funding, alternate funding sources, & multi-year funding
- Impacts on Early Career Investigators
- And more!

Click here to view a flyer with more information.
Register here and submit any questions you have for the Q&A.

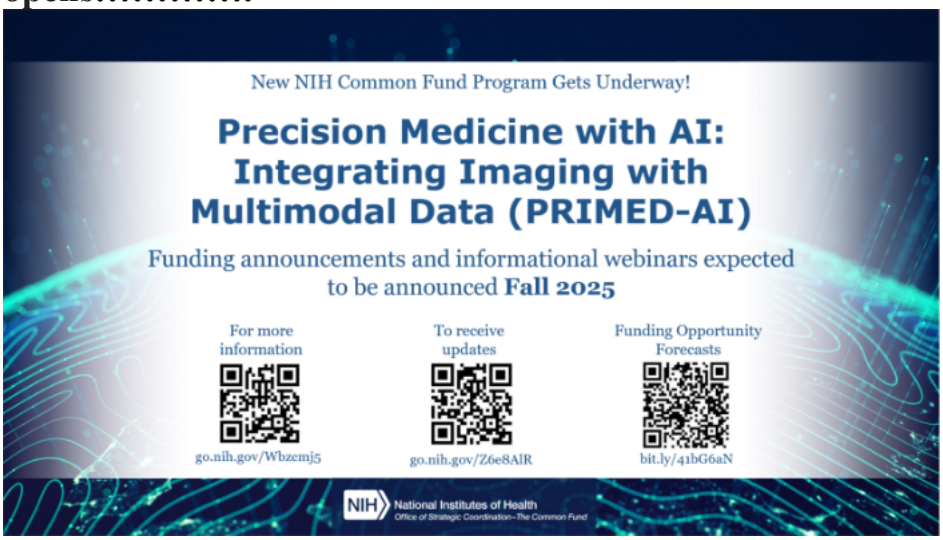
We hope that you will be able to join us!

Openings at NIH: In last week's update, we shared that NIH is soliciting applications for several institute and center director positions. This week, more listings were posted with a deadline of November 26. 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. Click here for the listings.

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
"The science that extended Dick Cheney's life was a choice"
"NIH funding uncertainty continues to threaten WashU research"
"NIH F32 Grants Boost Early-Career Researchers' Success"
"US Congress considers sweeping ban on Chinese collaborations"

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!