The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

December 5, 2025

Academy Policy & Legislative Update

Dear Academy Friends,

We extend our appreciation to all who participated in our RSNA meetings. A comprehensive summary and corresponding updates will be provided to the Academy Board in the near future. In the interim, please find several updates below. Thank you to all of the societies, departments and companies who support our efforts on behalf of this community.

Thank you to all of the societies, departments, and companies that continue to support our efforts on behalf of this community.

The Academy is excited to share that we are leading a collaboration among the following imaging societies for a single, collective day of advocacy in Washington DC this spring!

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

Appropriations Update

- With the holidays approaching and just 57 days until the January 30 funding deadline, Congress has a very narrow window to act. Congress is only in DC for the next two weeks, before they leave for the Holidays. Leaving roughly 6 weeks to pass 9 appropriations bills.
- Without a full-year deal, NIH could once again be funded under a year-long CR. This means flat funding at FY2024 levels.
- Senators and many House members are reluctant to set aside the Defense and Labor-HHS-Education bills until January, but there is no clear path for finalizing these bills in the next two weeks that Congress is in DC.

Updated NIH Application Policies: Removal of Requirements for Letters of Intent and Unsolicited Applications Requesting $500,000 or More in Direct Costs

- On December 3, the NIH issued a two-part policy: removal of the letters of intent (LOI), and NIH will no longer require applicants requesting $500,000 or more in direct costs (excluding consortium F&A costs) in any one budget period to contact the funding Institute or Center (IC) before application submission.
- Removal of LOI seems to be a welcome change and removes an administrative hurdle.
- However, there are still questions that linger about removing caps on submissions.
    - It is unclear what the motivation is behind this, so we are seeking clarity.
    - If reading this seems confusing, you are not alone.
    - This may be welcome news for some investigators who rightly feel that the caps on most (primary) grants are too low. This can reduce the number of grants an investigator needs to write to fund their research.
    - On the other hand, NIH has been flat-funded for the last few years. Without more resources, higher out-of-the-door grants mean fewer investigators may be funded.
    - There is worry that this will create confusion, impact larger projects like P41s, and limit individual investigators.
    - Please let the Academy know what questions or concerns you have.

To read the complete announcement, click here.

Academy Members are invited to join the "Joint Associations Group (JAG) Presentation on the FAIR Model" on Thursday, December 11th at 2 pm ET

The Academy invites all members to join host Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier and his team of subject-matter experts for a discussion of the Financial Accountability in Research (FAIR) model for negotiating indirect costs. This session offers an opportunity to engage directly with Dr. Droegemeier as he outlines the FAIR model and its potential advantages, including reduced administrative burden and increased clarity for both institutions and federal sponsors. Registrants will be sent relevant materials in advance of this call.

Click here for more information and a registration link.

The OSTP Issued an RFI on Accelerating the American Scientific Enterprise

- OSTP is seeking input from the research community on how to update Federal policies that aim to accelerate the American scientific enterprise, enable groundbreaking discoveries, and ensure that scientific progress and technological innovation benefit all Americans.
- **The Academy plans to submit comments. We will schedule a virtual discussion opportunity so that we reflect the broader Academy membership. If you would like to contribute, please look forward to that invitation soon.**
- Comments are due on or before 11:59 p.m. (ET) December 26, 2025.

To read the RFI, click here.

The U.S. is Funding Fewer Grants

- This week, the NY Times released a detailed analysis on NIH spending over the past year.
- The analysis highlighted how NIH funded far fewer competitive grants and more multi-year funding awards (MYF). MYFs pay grants upfront for 4 years of funding with only a 1-year no-cost extension.

To read the analysis, click here.

Sign-on Opportunity

- The Academy signed on to a Research!America (RA) letter supporting ARPA-H.
- **RA has opened the letter for signatories to the wider community. If you are interested in signing, the deadline is TODAY at 5pm Eastern.**

To read the letter, click here. To sign the letter, click here.

MEDIA

**If you come across an article that you would like for us to include in our weekly policy emails please send them to us, in case we miss any.*

"From doing science to saving science"

"Trump has 'shaken the hell' out of the 80-year research pact between the government and universities. What now?"

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!

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.

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!