The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

April 3, 2026

Academy Policy & Legislative Update

Dear Academy friends,

Appropriations Updates

The President's Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) budget request was released this morning. The Budget establishes the Administration for a Healthy America (AHA) as part of a reorganization of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and eliminates programs that do not advance MAHA goals.

It includes a 12.5% decrease from the FY26 funding level for the Department of Health and Human Services Budget. This includes a request of $41.2 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), representing a cut of more than 12% from the FY26 funding level. Additionally, the budget seeks to eliminate or consolidate several centers, including the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

The President's Budget provides $408 million for the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB), which is a decrease of over 7% from the FY26 funding level. It also provides $945 million for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), a 37% cut from the FY26 funding level.

The budget request also indicates that the Trump administration plans to exclusively use multi-year funding for all new NIH grants. This would significantly reduce the number of grants funded by the NIH.

To view the President's budget request, click here.
To view agency specific requests, click here.
To track NIH budget updates, click here.

The Academy's 2026 Research Roundtable Discussion

On March 25th, the Academy hosted its annual Research Roundtable at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) building in Washington, DC. The event brought together representatives from 15 medical imaging societies, more than 20 representatives from federal agencies, several industry leaders, and dozens of imaging researchers covering a wide range of subspecialties. Opening remarks were given by previous NIH Director Dr. Elias Zerhouni and current NIBIB Director Dr. Bruce Tromberg.

Participants engaged in focused discussions on two key priorities: developing a collaborative, strategic approach to prepare for AI-driven advances in imaging research and strengthening the research pipeline by supporting investigators at every career stage. These conversations emphasized the importance of coordination across organizations to ensure the field remains innovative, well-supported, and positioned for future growth.

The Academy will lead follow-up efforts, including the development of white papers, to keep the community informed on the outcomes and next steps from these strategic discussions. You can view the agenda and find more information below.

Click here to view the Roundtable agenda.
Click here to view the PowerPoint slides from the discussion.
Click here to view the attendee list.

If you attended the Roundtable and are interested in contributing to the White Paper, please reach out.

SBIR / STTR Reauthorization
The House passed a bill to reauthorize the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs through September 30, 2031. This would end the six-month lapse and authorize these programs for 5 years. Now the bill awaits the President's signature so that it can become law.

The reauthorization follows a months-long effort to continue the programs. Within the Senate Small Business Committee, there was disagreement. Committee Chair Joni Ernst (R-IA) insisted reforms were necessary, while Senator Ed Markey (D-MA) pushed for a reauthorization that would allow lawmakers to continue working toward an agreement, while continuing to fund the programs for a year.

According to the House Committee on Small Business, this bill intends to strengthen research security within the programs, reduce administrative burden, and accelerate innovation.

To read more, click here.

NIH Grants Policy Statement
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) announces publication of the updated NIH Grants Policy Statement (NIHGPS, rev. March 2026). The NIHGPS provides both up-to-date policy guidance that serves as NIH standard terms and conditions of award for all NIH grants and cooperative agreements, and extensive guidance to those who are interested in pursuing NIH grants.

Trump Unveils AI Legislative Framework
Last week the Trump administration published a national policy framework for artificial intelligence. The framework aims to guide AI development, protect consumers, and remove

barriers to innovation. It suggests that, instead of creating new regulatory bodies, existing organizations should be responsible for AI regulation. The framework also touches on copyright laws and infrastructure.

To read more, click here.

Request for Information (RFI): Inviting Comments and Suggestions on a Framework for the NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2027-2031
NIH invites input from stakeholders throughout the scientific research, advocacy, and clinical practice communities, as well as the general public, regarding the proposed framework for the FY27-FY31 NIH-Wide Strategic Plan.

Comments will be accepted until May 26, 2026.
Click here to submit comments.

MEDIA

"March 2026 POLITICO Poll results on Americans' views on the MAHA movement, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and more"

"NIH restrictions on foreign research partnerships significantly impacted 1 in 4 US scientists"

"NIH director's invocation of Vannevar Bush's legacy to promote Trump science policies sparks pushback"

"Research advocates prepare for next NIH budget fight"

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