The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

April 17, 2026

Academy Policy & Legislative Update

Dear Academy friends,

So much to cover this week—let's start by sharing a snapshot of our recent events and the strong momentum they've generated.

The annual Academy Research Roundtable brought together an exceptional group of leaders from academia, societies, industry, and representatives from more than 20 federal agencies. We were honored to open the session with remarks from Dr. Bruce Tromberg (Director, NIBIB) and Dr. Elias Zerhouni (former NIH Director), setting the stage for thoughtful discussions on collaborative approaches to advancing AI in imaging and strengthening the talent pipeline. Stay tuned for updates!

In addition, the Academy's Medical Imaging Technology Showcase welcomed representatives from more than 25 Congressional offices this year—a record level of engagement that underscores growing interest and support for the field.

View the Academy's Summary of Spring Events! Read about Hill Day, MedTech, and the Research Roundtable.

What to pay attention to (additional details below):

- The President's budget request to cut NIH in FY27 by 12% appears to have no support on either side of the aisle. Some of these cuts are related to the elimination of NIMHD, Fogarty, and combining NIDA and NIAAA into one entity. Most other ICs have some funding cuts between 3-7%. It also implements multi year funding at 100% of all new competing grants. If this is implemented: New and competing grants decline from 10,251 in FY24 to 5,145 under President's FY27 budget. Caps indirects at 15%.
- OMB remains focused on capping Indirects/F&A at 15%. There is an injunction protecting the current rates. This is a short-term fix, not long term.
- NIH obligations to grants are lagging. See link to the AAMC dashboard which is actively tracking this.
- RFI on NIH strategic plan still open.

Appropriations Update

OMB Director Russ Vought appeared before both the House and Senate Budget Committees to defend the President's FY27 budget request. Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. also appeared

before the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education.

Democrats and Republicans are coming out in opposition to the President's FY27 budget request and the $5 billion decrease in funding to NIH.

Senator Collins (R-ME) and Senator McCormick (R-PA) both expressed opposition to NIH cuts. Sen. Collins said the cuts are "unwarranted", and Sen. McCormick made a promise to oppose any cuts while giving a tour of a University of Pennsylvania cancer lab to Bhattacharya.

In Secretary Kennedy's hearing before the House Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee, Subcommittee Chair Robert Aderholt (R-AL) said that he doesn't support the proposed cuts to NIH. Additionally, Representative Bice (R-OK) explained that there is no path to a healthier nation without sustained investment in research. She added that to maintain global leadership in biomedical science, drive breakthroughs, and confront the chronic disease epidemic, funding for the NIH is critical.

It is not yet known where Bhattacharya stands on Vought's proposed cuts to NIH. He is expected to defend the budget to Congress.

This week Congress' markup schedule was released with Labor-HHS set to begin in early June. Click here to view the full schedule.

To read more about Congress' initial opinions on the President's FY27 budget, click here.
For polling data on where the American people stand on cuts to research, click here.

To view the President's budget request, click here.
To view agency specific requests, click here.
To track NIH budget updates, click here.
To view Congressional justifications for each IC, click here.

Financial Accountability In Research (FAIR) Model

Key messages of FAIR model: Precise, Transparent, Fair, Transition period of two years. Uniform across all agencies.

NEXT STEPS for FAIR:

- Key FY26 spending bills preserve the current system until 9.30.26.
- Seeking language in the Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) appropriations bill to enact the FAIR model government wide.
- Language includes a 2-year transition period.
- One government wide and uniform system for F&A payments.

Specific asks the Academy will focus on for lawmakers to support for the FAIR Model:

- Support FY27 language that implements the FAIR model government wide.
- Ensure a two-year transition period.
- Preserve the existing F&A reimbursements until new model is fully implemented.

High level Outcomes and objectives of FAIR model:

- FAIR One Pager
- FAIR Legislative Language

NIH is Lagging
Despite resuming research awards after the government shutdown, a significant gap remains in total grants and obligations almost halfway into the fiscal year.

- FY 2026 new awards are markedly less than the prior 5-year average: 63% fewer overall, 55% fewer RPGs, and 61% fewer R01s.
- Information and updates on the NIH's FY 2026 obligations and funding trends can be found on the AAMC website at the Tracking NIH Funding page.
- To read about the lack of NOFOs, 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. Click here to submit comments.

NHLBI and NINDS are hiring!
NHLBI and NINDS are looking to fill their director positions. Both applications are open through April 20.

To view details about both positions, view the links below.

- Click here for the NHLBI job posting.
- Click here for the NINDS job posting.

Federal Notices

NOT-OD-26-069: Continuation of Modifications to Peer Review Practices

MEDIA

"A deserved defeat on NIH funding cuts"

"House appropriators tell RFK they'll nix medical research cuts"

"Vought Won't Commit to Spend Appropriated Funding at NIH"

"RFK Jr.: HHS Making Plans to Hire 12,000 New Employees"

Academy "Funding, Facts, and Follow Up" Emails. Monthly updates and funding opportunities: Click here to access an archive of the emails we send out, including our most recent.

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