The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

April 24, 2026

Academy Policy & Legislative Update

Dear Academy friends,

What to pay attention to:

Dissemination of funds is slow out of NIH. You can track NIH extramural funding here, this site is updated every week.

If you are expecting funding and have not received a response from your program officer, please let us know. The community is tracking these experiences, and reports can be shared confidentially. You may also consider contacting your Member of Congress to share your situation. While NIH staff are working diligently to release funding, there appear to be additional challenges and approval requirements beyond the agency that may be contributing to delays.

*We have heard that NCI will not be applying MYF to any R01's this year. We are looking into how other ICs are applying MYF and if they share, we will communicate this.

Appropriations Update & Links

Democrats and Republicans continued to push back on the President's FY27 budget request. On Tuesday, health secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. testified before the Senate appropriations health subcommittee, where he was questioned by senators about how to address America's most significant healthcare challenges amid a proposal to cut NIH by 12%.

Both sides of the aisle have criticized the proposed budget. Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD) urged Secretary Kennedy to avoid cutting research projects aimed at curing diseases, and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) expressed her dismay at the continued proposal to cap indirect costs at 15%.

Secretary Kennedy defended the budget in his response to Senator Patty Murray's (D-Wash.) questioning about NIH cuts, explaining that research funding at NIH was being wasted on projects pertaining to gender diversity and minority groups.

Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) shared her concerns about the budget's funding levels, proposed reorganization of some programs, and loss of sight of the core mission, to which Secretary Kennedy reaffirmed his commitment to rural health.

To read more, click here.

The Academy is tracking developments as both the **House and Senate appropriations** processes move forward and will keep you informed. However please share this link with anyone in your department or society if they want to read how the appropriations process works. Click appropriations overview from the Congressional Research Service.

The Science and Community Mapping Project released a report illustrating the potential aftermath of the President's budget request, if it were to become law. According to the report, there would be a significant loss in economic activity and jobs. The President's FY27 budget request would result in a projected $18 billion loss in economic activity, negatively impacting local economies, reducing investment in areas of need, and producing job losses of around 60,000 positions on top of already eliminated NIH positions.
To view the full report, click here.

While cuts to research have been criticized by both sides of the aisle, some conservative groups still show strong opposition to DEI efforts in research and support for significant changes. For example, the National Association of Scholars announced its Prometheus Program this week. The program aims to combat the politicization of science by implementing reforms such as research influenced by DEI or with a DEI focus.
To read more about this program, click here.

Helpful Links:
Congress' markup schedule was released with Labor-HHS markup set to begin in early June. Click here to view the full schedule.
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 obligation and award activity at NIH and other major science agencies, click here.
To view Congressional justifications for each IC, 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.

ARPA-H: We're looking for small businesses with big ideas
ARPA-H supports a comprehensive ecosystem for innovative health research and development projects. That includes nimble small businesses ready to solve the biggest problems in

health! Visit our small business webpage to read the latest draft solicitation with new topics for our Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. You can also sign up for a Proposers' Day on June 11.

Special FDA Discussion - Advancing Rare Disease Treatments: On Zoom next **Thursday, April 30, at noon ET** Research!America is hosting a webinar with Amy Comstock Rick, Associate Director for Rare Disease Strategy at the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) and Director of Strategic Coalitions for the Rare Disease Innovation Hub at FDA. Amy, an emeritus board member of Research!America, will discuss FDA's work to advance treatments for people living with rare diseases. This webinar is open to the public. Register here.

MEDIA
"Key GOP senators push back on Trump's plan to cut NIH, reorganize HHS"

"Where U.S. science has been hit the hardest after Trump's first year"

"Pace of NIH Funding Slows Further in Trump's Second Year"

"Lawmakers Question Publish-or-Perish Culture of Scientific Research"

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

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.

The Academy is moving June 1, 2026! Our new address will be: *910 Seventeenth Street, NW, Suite 960, Washington DC 20006*.

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 Olivia Nelson at onelson@acadrad.org —we'd love to hear from you!