The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

January 30, 2026

Academy Policy & Legislative Update

Dear Academy Friends,

This week's update is a bit longer than usual—feel free to skim and focus on what's most relevant to you. I didn't expect to be talking about another government shutdown, but here we are!

Appropriations Update
Short, Partial Government Shutdown Expected
The government expects a partial shutdown. With the funding measure set to expire at midnight tonight, six appropriations bills remain unsigned into law, including the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education bill that funds the NIH.

- The Senate separated the DHS bill from the remaining appropriations bills.
- Should the Senate vote on the remaining five bills—Labor-HHS, Department of Defense, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, Financial Services, and National Security-Department of State—the House would have to pass the package.
- The House will not return to vote on any measure until Monday.
- The House would also have to vote on a CR to fund the Homeland Security.
- Until the House passes the Senate's bills, there will be a partial government shutdown.

I reported to you last week the details for NIH funding as they appear in the appropriations bill. The bill provides $48.7 billion for the NIH. This is a $415M increase over FY25.

- See NIH IC funding breakdown here.
- NIBIB is flat-funded at $440 million
- ARPA-H is flat-funded at $1.5 billion
- BARDA is increased by $35 billion (+3.5%)
- AHRQ is cut by $23 million (-6.4%)
- CDC is cut by $19 million (-0.2%)

Academy Engagement
The Academy joined 143 scientific organizations urging Congress to finalize the FY 2026 Labor-HHS-Education funding bill. This letter was sent to Congressional Leadership on January 20. In addition to being received by Congress, *MedPage Today* published a blurb about the letter, available here.

The letter highlights the following:

- Passing a full-year appropriations bill (not a continuing resolution).
- Limit the use of multi-year funding grants.
- Prevent arbitrary caps on indirect costs.

Hearing on NIH
NIH Director Dr. Jay Bhattacharya is scheduled to testify before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions this **Tuesday, Feb. 3, at 10 a.m. ET.** Watch the hearing, which is titled: "Modernizing the National Institutes of Health: Faster Discoveries, More Cures," online here.

Academy Research Roundtable Discussion, to be held on **Wednesday, March 25, 2026**, at the AAAS Headquarters in Washington, DC. The roundtable will convene invited representatives from academia, industry, societies, early-career investigators, and representatives invited from multiple government agencies including NIH, NIBIB, NCI, NHLBI, NIST, FDA, CMS, HHS and ARPA-H.

You can view the agenda here.
More information about the Academy Roundtable is available here, and a link to register can be found here. **Members Only*

NIH: Check Out the Latest How to Apply – Application Guide
In December 2025, the NIH updated the application guide to reflect policy and procedure updates. Some of the updated or new instructions include:

- Foreign justification attachments.
- ORCID iD requirements.
- Biographical Sketch Common Form.
- NIH Biographical Sketch Supplement.
- Current and Pending (Other) Support (CPOS) Common Form.

For more details on the changes that are reflected, click here.
For more details on the application guide and helpful resources, click here.

NIH: Issues a NOFO on a new award structure for research collaborations with international components.

- On January 20, NIH published the trans-agency announcement of the new PF5 Collaborative International Research Project.
- This new structure/NOFO is applicable for grant submissions on or after May 25, 2026.
- The launch of this new NOFO represents the culmination of nearly eight months' effort to update NIH policies and practices pertaining to foreign subawards.

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.*

"Texas Pauses Use of H-1B Visas at State Universities"
"PhDs in STEM Roles Fled Federal Agencies"
"NIH Director Jay Bhattacharya talks 'replication crisis' at Duke panel, omits funding cuts"
"Secretary Kennedy Appoints New Chair and Ten Members to Federal Alzheimer's Advisory Council"

Academy Upcoming Workshop! ***The Stories Behind the Science: Best Practices for Communicating Medical Imaging Research to Policymakers***

- Led by Elizabeth O'Hare, PhD, Director of Government Relations at the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA).
- This webinar will examine how to best translate advances in biomedical research into compelling, relatable narratives that demonstrate the real-world impact of federal investment in scientific research.
- ***Important Note:*** **This workshop is required for participants in the Future of Health: Medical Imaging Research Hill Day**. However, it will also be valuable to anyone who is interested in learning strategies for communicating the importance of scientific progress, momentum, and impact. So, we are disseminating this virtual opportunity broadly.
- View an informational flyer here.
- Register for the workshop here.

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!

Click here to view the save the date with more event details.

Click here to view the Academy 2026 Spring Events & Meetings website.

****If you are participating in these events and wish to access the private webpage with materials like registration links, Zoom links, and planning session summaries, please respond directly to this email and we will send you the link with a password.*

Academy Membership Programming Survey
We've put together a survey to gauge the interests of our membership so we can provide programming opportunities that you want to participate in. Please complete this survey and leave all feedback you may have. Thank you!

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.

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!