The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

December 12, 2025

Academy Policy & Legislative Update

Dear Academy Friends,

I've been in Washington long enough to know one thing for certain: Congress becomes remarkably productive as the holiday recess approaches. True to form, lawmakers have been busy trying to close out the year by advancing several "must-pass" bills (including the one that funds NIH), and we're even seeing signs of movement on the Appropriations front. The Academy is closely monitoring the behind-the-scenes negotiations taking place on Capitol Hill, so let's dive into what's unfolding.

Congressional Update

Appropriations

- The current continuing resolution expires on January 30. Due to the Holiday, Congress has only 5 weeks to finalize 9 appropriations bills, including the Labor-HHS bill.
- **On the Senate side**, Republicans ran an exercise to see how many of their members would support a potential minibus before the holiday recess at the end of next week. The potential minibus package would include five bills—and a list of amendments. Yesterday, Senator Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) said that he is still working with GOP holdouts, who have taken issue with the package's spending levels and earmarks, to get the package across the finish line.
- **On the House side**, House Appropriations Chair Tom Cole (R-OK) is pushing for appropriators to negotiate a minibus **without** the two largest funding bills, Defense and Labor-HHS. Chair Cole met with Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) this week to discuss the dueling House and Senate plans, and it does not appear that they reached consensus on a package.
- Notably, Chair Cole continues to express interest in negotiating all of the funding bills and not passing another continuing resolution (CR). Ultimately, if the House does not vote on any appropriations bills next week, they will be effectively postponing movement until the new year.

National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)

- The NDAA is an annual must-pass bill. This year, Congress tried to include language in the bill called the SAFE Research Act that the Academy opposed.
- The SAFE Research Act would have far-ranging impacts affecting ***all research agencies***, not just the Department of Defense. It would create such enormously broad definitions of

"hostile foreign entity" and "affiliation" that would apply to ***any*** agreement that a U.S. university has with ***any*** university in China or other defined countries at the time of application or in the ***five years prior*** to application. This would include collaborative work with any individual faculty member or former student who subsequently returned to China as a required condition of their U.S. visa.

- We were pleased to see that the SAFE Research Act was pulled from the NDAA and will not be considered in the final version.
- Congress pulled language that would block states from regulating AI. However, President Trump issued an Executive Order that does block states from regulating AI.

Opportunity to speak with a former NIH Director about policy impacts on research:

- **Thursday, December 18 at 4pm EST**, Please join the Academy for a virtual session with Dr. Jeremy Berg as he discusses the significant changes, challenges, and broader impacts shaping the NIH—both recently and looking ahead into next year and beyond.
    - Dr. Berg is the former Director of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the former Editor-in-Chief of Science magazine, and a Professor of Computational and Systems Biology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.
    - **View the invitation and register here**.

Summary of Events from this week:

- **This week,** Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier who is leading the Joint Association Group (JAG) presented to the Academy membership an update on the Financial Accountability in Research model (FAIR) which aims to address transparency concerns with F&A.
- Dr. Droegemeier did note that a FAIR bill could be introduced soon. The Academy will update you when that happens. For more information on FAIR:
    - **Link to JAG / FAIR Resources**
    - **Link to an explanation of the FAIR model**

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!

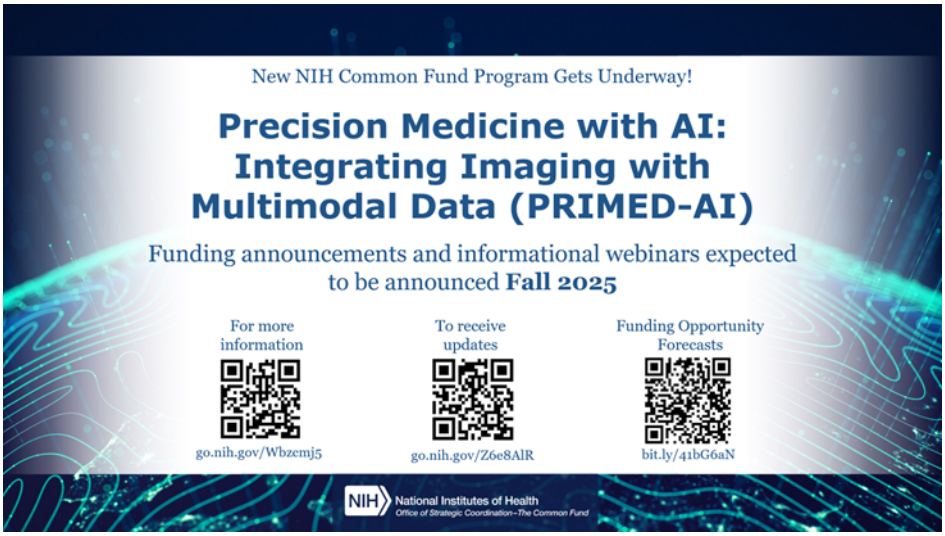
Federal News and Notices

NINDS Issues Update on FY2026 Funding

- The National Institute on Neurological Disorders and Stroke issued key guidance on FY2026 grant funding decisions.
- More information will be released when the final FY2026 appropriations bill is finalized.
- To read the guidance, click here.

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 is currently working on comments.** Comments are due on or before 11:59 p.m. (ET) December 26, 2025. To read the RFI, click here.



All five NIH PRIMED-AI NOFOs continue to advance steadily toward publication and are now in OER policy review. We are anticipating a release aligned with the start of the new year, which would provide a substantial post-holiday window for the Academy to ensure outreach and for applicants to review the details and prepare strong proposals ahead of the deadline. Once the NOFOs are issued, the Academy will schedule virtual sessions with NIH Co-Chairs and staff to provide additional briefings for the community.

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.*

"NIH shut out hundreds of young scientists from funding to start their own labs"

"Demand that NIH Maintain the Scientific Credibility of its Institute Directors"

"A huge rupture in everything: US science faced major upheaval in 2025"

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

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!