The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

December 19, 2025

Academy Policy & Legislative Update

Dear Academy Friends,

We saw a little movement this week on a few issues—definitely not the progress we were hoping for. That said, my holiday wish for each of you is that, as the week comes to an end, you're spending more time enjoying eggnog and cheese than putting out fires or refreshing your inbox. I am personally about to pivot to holiday movies instead of watching the news. Christmas Story, anyone? I do have three full-sized leg lamps in my house.

NIH Update with Dr. Jeremy Berg

Last night, the Academy hosted a closed discussion with over 200 Academy members with Dr. Jeremy Berg about the impact that NIH policies are having or will have on our community. Dr. Berg is the former Director of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) at the NIH, the former Editor-in-Chief of Science magazine, and currently a Professor of Computational and Systems Biology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. We had close to 200 participants join this call. I strongly suggest you all follow Dr. Berg and pay attention to the analysis that he continues to provide. You can follow him here.

- Grant Witness (terminated and withheld grants tracking).
- NIH Funding Dashboard (Jeremy Berg).
- Congressional Research Service Report R41705.
- Congressional Research Service Report R46753.
- Association of American Universities (AAU).
- Link to JAG / FAIR Resources.

Update on the Joint Association Group FAIR Template to Address Indirect Costs

There is ***positive momentum*** on the FAIR template, according to Dr. Droegemeier. Please stand by for more updates on this topic following the Academy session last week, which was hosted for Academy members and led by Dr. Droegemeier.

- Link to JAG / FAIR Resources.
- Link to an explanation of the FAIR model.

The Academy Submits Response to The OSTP 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's response is here.** Comments are due on or before 11:59 p.m. (ET) December 26, 2025. To read the RFI, click here.

The Academy signs letter in support of ARPA-H
The Academy and 127 other organizations joined in a letter to Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee leaders making the case for 1) sustaining ARPA-H funding; and 2) doing that in a manner that does not supplant other NIH funding streams. Read the letter here.

Appropriations Update
We have no budget. Time ticks on. Congress adjourned for the holiday recess late last night. With 4 weeks of work before the current Continuing Resolution (CR) expires on January 30.

- The Senate spent much of the week debating. #GroundHogDay
- Significant disagreements between the House and Senate still remain on DOD and Labor-HHS (the bill that funds NIH).

NIH specifies how grant reviewers should ensure alignment with Administration priorities
This week, the NIH issued new guidance, in a 7-page memo, which provides program officers with instructions on how to evaluate their portfolios and terminate awards as necessary. That process begins with a computational text analysis tool that scans grants for words and phrases that indicate they are not aligned with the agency's priorities.
Here are a few notes from the memo:

- References to "terms, words, and phrases" in the memo used to identify non-aligned grants. The memo did not publish the list of terms.
- The memo noted that Institutes and Centers retained responsibility for their respective portfolio reviews.
- The memo states that, for awards that are fully out of alignment with NIH priorities and cannot be renegotiated, the award must be terminated.

To read an article about this memo, click here.

A Congressional Research Service brief on changes in NIH funding and grants policy covering the drop in NIH grants in FY25, the status of indirect cost reimbursement, the likely impact of multi-year funding, and more.

A report from the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation making the case for increased NIH investment.

Hill Updates

- On December 18 the House passed the Do No Harm in Medicaid Act (H.R. 498) which is legislation that prohibits federal Medicaid dollars from funding specified gender

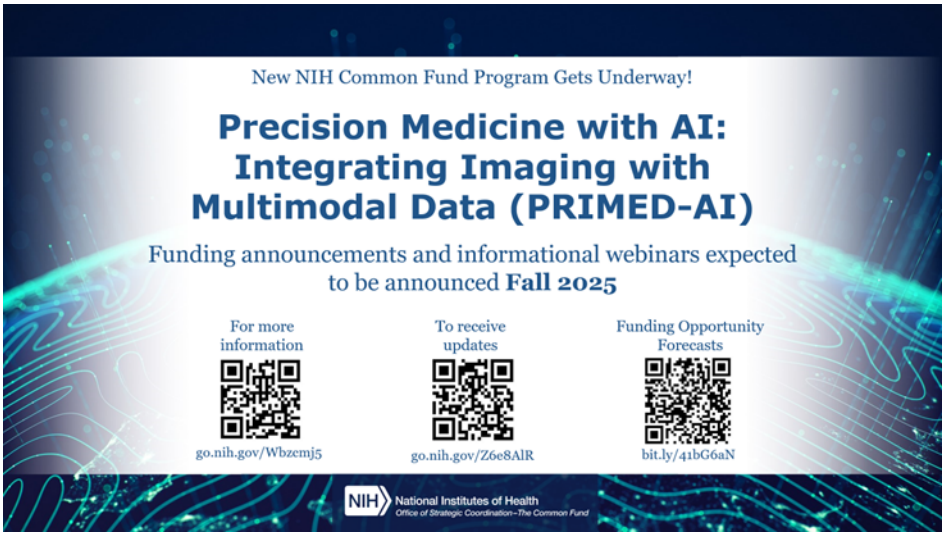
transition procedures for individuals who are under the age of 18. This bill was introduced by Representative Dan Crenshaw (R-TX) in January of 2025.

- Additionally, on December 18, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released proposed regulation via the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) that will withhold Medicare and Medicaid funding for hospitals that perform gender-affirming care on children under the age of 18. This proposed rulemaking comes as a response to the Trump Administration's executive order released earlier this year to stop gender-affirming care practices.
- Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) released draft legislation to overhaul the organ transplant system called the Organ Transplant System Improvement Act that would improve safety and fairness in the system by creating standards for Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) and enact stricter penalties for OPOs that do not meet the standards. This legislation is a continuation of the Securing the US Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) Act passed in 2023.
- Democratic Senators introduced the Seniors Deserve SMARTER (Streamlined Medical Approvals for Timely, Efficient Recovery) Care Act that would prohibit CMS for implementing the Wasteful and Inappropriate Service Reduction (WISeR) which is set to begin on January 1. The WISeR will introduce prior authorization requirements into Traditional Medicare and model will use artificial intelligence (AI) in prior authorization determinations in private companies.
- The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) was signed into law on December 18 by President Trump after passing the Senate earlier this week. This bill approves $901 billion in military spending for fiscal year 2026 and includes authorization for Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program. This bill also ends diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, and bans transgender troops from serving.

SAVE THE DATE: 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.]



All five NIH PRIMED-AI NOFOs continue to advance steadily toward publication and are now in OER policy review. We anticipate 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 Grants Policy Under the Second Trump Administration"

"The Most Feared Person at the NIH Is a Vaccine Researcher Plucked From Obscurity"

"How NIH-Funded Science Supports US Biopharmaceutical Innovation"

"Trump has 'shaken the hell' out of the 80-year research pact between the government and universities. What now?"

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 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. Weekly updates and funding opportunities: Click here to access an archive of the weekly 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 Josie Wilkinson Miller at jwilkinson@acadrad.org —we'd love to hear from you!