The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

February 20, 2026

Academy Policy & Legislative Update

Dear Academy Friends,

The Academy Research Roundtable Discussion
Wednesday, March 25, 2026, AAAS Headquarters DC.

The roundtable will convene representatives from academia, industry, societies, investigators, & representatives from the NIH, NIBIB, NCI, NHLBI, NIST, FDA, CMS, HHS, and ARPA-H. View the agenda here. More information about the Academy Roundtable is available here, and a link to register can be found here. THE HOTEL BLOCK IS SOLD OUT.

NIH Director to Lead CDC

- NIH Director Jay Bhattacharya will become acting director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Under federal law, Dr. Bhattacharya can serve as Acting Director of CDC for a maximum of 210 days. After that, he'd either step down or his title would change to "Performing the Duties of Director."
- The CDC has lacked a permanent political leader since August, when Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. fired career scientist Susan Monarez.
- Deputy Health Secretary Jim O'Neill, who is leaving his post, has been acting CDC director since then, presiding over the agency during a period of heavy turnover from staff reductions and DOGE-directed layoffs. O'Neill is expected to be named the director of NSF.

To read more about this appointment, click here.

Appropriations Update

- No rest for Congressional Appropriators. Having wrapped up FY 2026 funding at the end of January (except for DHS), it is time to start requesting the Academy's (and the communities) FY 2027 funding levels to appropriators.
- Community letters are the first step in the process**.** Below are two letters that the Academy has signed onto and urges your organization to do the same.

OPPORTUNITES TO SIGN ON TO SUPPORT NIH & ARPA-H

- FY 2027 NIH Sign-on Letter

- The Academy serves on the steering committee for the AAMC Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research. Our role as steering committee members is to help develop the annual funding request for NIH on behalf of over 400 organizations.
- This year the Ad Hoc Group recommends **at least $51.3 billion for the NIH in FY2027**.
- **Deadline to endorse the funding recommendation for the NIH is Friday, February 27 COB.**
- **The letter is here. We urge your organization to sign this recommendation by completing this form**.

- FY 2027 ARPA-H Sign-On Letter
  - The Academy was part of an informal coalition of stakeholders who helped guide the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) funding request for FY2027.
  - The community is **recommending funding ARPA-H at $1.7 billion**, which you can read here.
  - This recommendation, an increase of $200 million over current levels, is consistent with the level that the community requested last year for ARPA-H. The letter highlights the progress ARPA-H has made this past year as well as the need to continue the agency's momentum through strong funding in FY2027.
  - **Please fill out this form if your organization would like to sign the letter. The deadline is COB on Friday March 6.**

NCATS Seeks Exceptional Clinician to Lead Rare Disease Branch
Since January of last year, a hiring freeze has been in place at the NIH which has impacted the talent they are able to recruit and bring in. However, there is some hope as new NIH job opportunities are posted, such as the one below.

To advance our mission of transforming the translational science process and bringing new treatments and cures for diseases to patients faster, we are seeking an exceptional clinician to serve as Chief of the Collaborative Research, Informatics and Special Programs Branch (CRISPB) within the Division of Rare Diseases Research Innovation (DRDRI).

The CRISPB Chief will lead a multidisciplinary team of scientific, medical and support staff who administer extramural DRDRI programs and activities**,** including the Rare Diseases Clinical Research Network**.**

Applications are due by Thursday, February 26. View the job opportunity announcement for more information.

MEDIA
**If you come across an article that you would like us to include in our weekly policy emails, please send it to us, in case we miss any.*

"Exclusive: Key US infectious-diseases centre to drop pandemic preparation"

"The Scientists Groveling to Trump Are Kidding Themselves"

"Resources on AAU-ACE-APLU Legal Action Contesting DOD Cuts to F&A Reimbursement Rates"

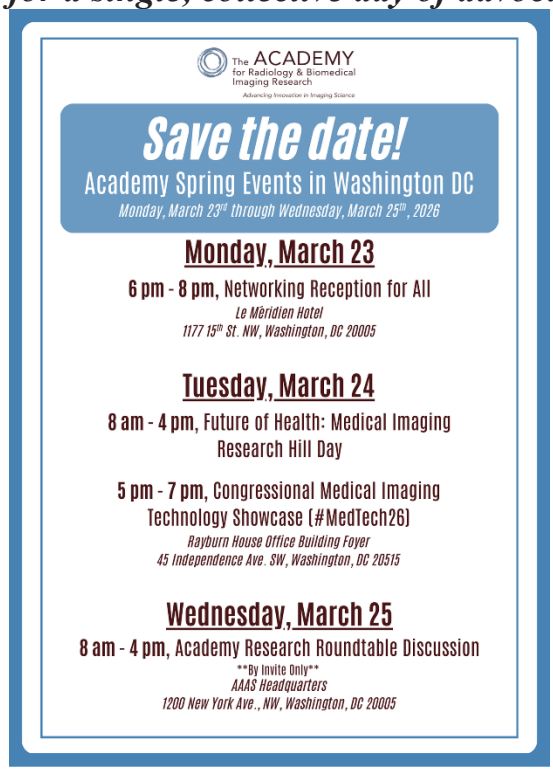
"The Brain Drain is Killing American Science"

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Academy Research Roundtable Discussion will 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.

The Academy is leading a multi-society collaboration among the following imaging societies for a single, collective day of advocacy in Washington, DC, on March 24:



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

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

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!