The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

February 6, 2026

Academy Policy & Legislative Update

Dear Academy Friends,

It's another week in the books, and it's been a busy one. As always, please reach out if I can be of assistance. Enjoy the Super Bowl commercials & nachos!

Appropriations Update

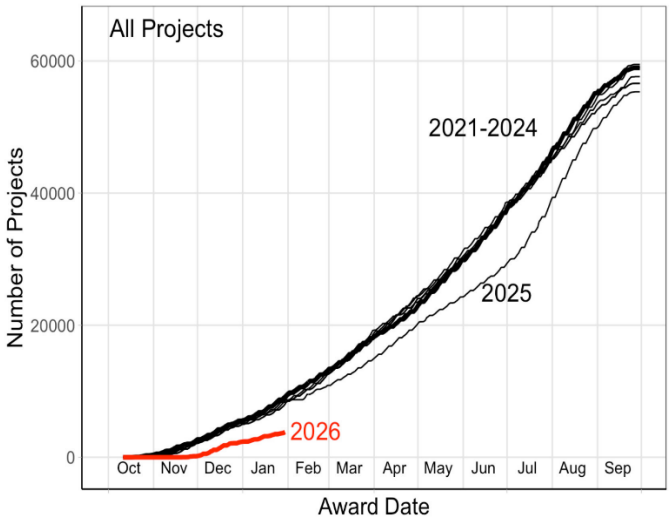
- NIH has a budget!
- NIH IC funding breakdown here.
- $48.7 billion for NIH. $415M increase over FY25.
- Multiyear funding grants are capped at 2025 levels (39%), not the 2024 levels we advocated strongly for. Concern: the total number of new awards could drop again by 2000 (fewer noncompetitive renewals).
- No NIH re-organization.
- F&A percentages are protected.
- The Academy sent this statement to the House and Senate Appropriations Chairs and the Chairs of the Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee, showing appreciation for passing a bipartisan, bicameral bill.

Lingering NIH Concerns

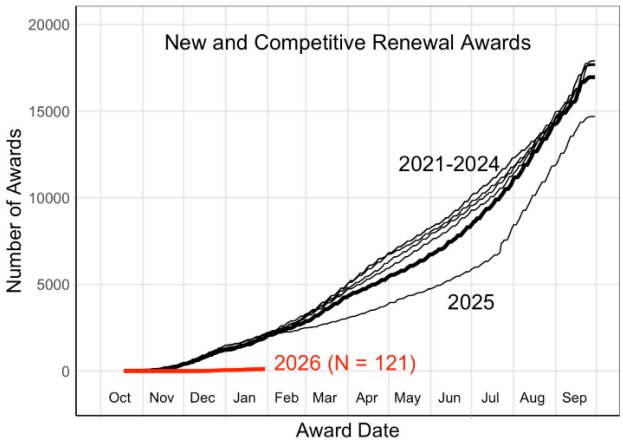
The NIH funding increase and bill language illustrate hard fought for, modest progress, but they do not signal that the challenges have been resolved. We have work to do, and we are tracking these issues. Please let me know what your concerns are so that we can ensure we have a finger on them.

- NIH is still trying to get awards out the door. Variables at play include the shutdown, the previous lack of budget, and far more red tape put in place which is slowing everything down.
- Jeremy Berg, PhD analysis update:

Graph below are for all projects:



Below curves for non-competitive renewal grants. The FY26 curve is still lagging, in part due to the shutdown and a slightly lower rate of grant issuance:



- **SBIR/STTR re-authorization is still in limbo:** There are plenty of meetings behind the scenes with both various Senate offices.
- **ARPA-H Layoffs:** The Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) laid off at least 15 employees this week, according to former agency officials, as reported by POLITICO Pro. The departures appear to include Deputy Director Jason Roos, as well as the elimination of the Office of Commercialization.

Hearing on NIH

- On Tuesday, February 3, NIH Director Jay Bhattacharya testified before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP) on "Modernizing the NIH."
- Read Academy's summary here.

NIBIB Council

On January 28, the NIBIB Council met to review activities, new policies, engagement with advocacy societies, and more. Of note from the meeting:

- The Council was particularly concerned with the evolving policy changes and asked about the best way to stay informed. It was noted that NIH Nexus is a good source. It was also recommended to stay connected with one's program director.

- The Council was also concerned with the lapse in authorization in the SBIR/STTR program. It was recommended that NIBIB staff compile several success stories for Councilors to use in a slide deck.

You can watch the meeting here.
The Academy has a summary of the meeting here.

NIH-MAHA Round Table Event
In January, the MAHA Institute hosted a special Round Table event in Washington. Reclaiming Science: The People's NIH featured NIH Director Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, who participated in a series of discussions on reforming the world's leading medical science research entity.

You can watch the event here**.**

Federal Notices
Notice of Temporary Extension to Early-Stage Investigator (ESI) Eligibility Period
Notice of Temporary Extension of Eligibility for the NIH Pathway to Independence Award (K99/R00)

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.*

"ARPA-H Continues to Layoff Federal Workers"
"US government has lost more than 10,000 STEM PhDs since Trump took office."
"New Study Shows University Indirect Cost Rates Are Reasonable"
"NIH Funding Cuts Disrupt Clinical Trials, Affecting 74,000 Participants"

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.

To support your efforts for advocacy, you can join this session!
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).

- We 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:*** **Required for participants in the Future of Health: Medical Imaging Research Hill Day**. Open to anyone who is interested in learning strategies for communicating the importance of scientific progress, momentum, and impact.
- 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!