The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

March 13, 2026

Academy Policy & Legislative Update

Dear Academy friends,

We are patiently waiting for the Administration to release the **President's budget request for FY27**. It is a month overdue, and no one is quite sure when to expect it. This request will provide us with insight into what the Administration plans/wants for NIH in FY27. Please scroll down to the Media section below to read an article update on what Republicans are saying to expect. (*FYI no president has submitted their budget by the statutory deadline in 11 years, since 2015).*

Once the budget is released, appropriations offices begin receiving Member requests, federal agencies provide briefings, and the House and Senate start developing funding bills. The goal is to complete markups on all bills by August (also unlikely).

In the interim, advocacy efforts intensify. For the imaging community, this means clearly articulating the value of medical imaging research and the importance of robust funding for the NIH.

On Tuesday, March 24, the Academy—in collaboration with fifteen imaging societies—will make that case directly to Congressional offices across 19 states during the Future of Health: Medical Imaging Research Hill Day. Click here to learn more.

HEARING ALERT!
The House Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee will hold an oversight hearing on the NIH on **Tuesday, March 17, at 10:30 a.m. ET** in 2358-C Rayburn House Office Building, featuring NIH Director Dr. Jay Bhattacharya. Watch the hearing here.

Bipartisan Letter to HHS Secretary Kennedy
Late last week, a bipartisan group of 31 members of Congress sent a letter to Dept. of HHS Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. expressing concerns about the nature and impact of vacancies on NIH advisory councils. The primary concern is that only one member was added across 24 councils in the past year, and some institutes risk losing all members in 2026. Advisory councils play a pivotal role in guiding funding decisions. Read the full letter here.

Register for Virtual Attendance
Because the Academy Research Roundtable discussion at AAAS is now close to max capacity, **we are offering a virtual attendance option**. Virtual attendance will still require advance registration. If you would like to attend virtually, please register here. This link will close when maximum capacity has been reached that will still allow for a substantive online interaction among the virtual participants.

The Academy Research Roundtable Discussion is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at AAAS Headquarters in DC, beginning at 8:00 am ET.

This day-long research discussion convenes representatives from academia, industry, societies, investigators, and over 20 representatives from the following agencies: NIH, NIBIB, NCI, NHLBI, NIDDK, 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 to attend in person can be found here.

Thank you to the 558 organizations and institutions for signing the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research FY27 funding recommendation for the NIH!
We appreciate the dozens of imaging societies who signed on (highlighted in yellow) to support NIH funding in FY27, contributing to a record-breaking 558 signatories.

- View the letter here.
- Read the statement from the Ad Hoc Group here.

Request for Information on Draft NIH Controlled-Access Data Policy and Proposed Revisions to NIH Genomic Data Sharing Policy
NIH is requesting public input on its proposal to establish harmonized and transparent policy requirements for protecting human participant research data. Specifically, NIH proposes (1) establishing policy requirements for which data should be controlled-access under NIH data sharing policies, and (2) revising the NIH Genomic Data Sharing Policy to simplify and harmonize requirements.

Comments will be accepted until March 18, 2026.

Click here to submit comments.

UMR Releases Annual NIH Economic Impact Report
United for Medical Research (UMR) today released the 2026 update of its annual analysis of the economic impact of National Institutes of Health (NIH) research funding. **The $36.58 billion awarded to researchers in the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia in FY2025 supported 390,863 jobs and generated $94.15 billion in new economic activity nationwide – producing $2.57 for every $1 invested.**

Fewer Grants Awarded in FY2025
Although total funding remained strong, FY2025 saw significant shifts in how awards were distributed. To meet its September 30 deadline following earlier delays, NIH made expanded use of multi-year funding – obligating the full value of certain grants upfront rather than distributing funding annually.
While this allowed NIH to spend its budget, it led to significantly fewer total grants awarded in FY2025:

- 5,564 fewer grants were funded compared to FY2024
- Success rates fell to approximately 17%, the lowest level in nearly 30 years and down from 26% the prior year
- 19 states and the District of Columbia experienced at least a 10% decline in number of awards

Read the announcement.
Read the report.

Confidence in Scientists
Late last week, the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania released a poll that found Americans are expressing greater confidence in federal scientists and independent medical groups. Read more here.

MEDIA

"Aderholt says requests to slash NIH budget are in the past"

"NIH director launches "Scientific Freedom" lectures with non-scientist"

"Science Has a Major Fraud Problem"

"How Congress can restore the independence of US science"

**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.*

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