The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

March 6, 2026

Academy Policy & Legislative Update

Dear Academy friends,

COMING UP: **The Academy Research Roundtable Discussion** Wednesday, March 25, 2026, AAAS Headquarters, DC.
This day long research discussion will convene representatives from academia, industry, societies, investigators, & 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 can be found here.
The Academy is looking into virtual options for those interested in listening in on the discussion. More to follow**.** ***THE HOTEL BLOCK IS SOLD OUT.*** Here is a list of alternative hotels near AAAS compiled by the Academy for you.

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.

Endorsements are still being accepted on a rolling basis. If your organization or institution would like to sign on in support of the FY27 recommendation, please complete this form.

Update on the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs
On Tuesday, March 3rd, the Senate passed the Small Business Innovation and Economic Security Act (S. 3971) and is now awaiting consideration in the House. The aim of this legislation, led by Senators Ed Markey (D-MA) and Joni Ernst (R-IA), is to reauthorize SBIR and STTR through September 30, 2031. During its creation, the goals were to engage all stakeholders, prevent political interference in scientific discovery, and ensure that the legislation created was then implemented.

Because the reforms are significant, it has taken almost seven months of bipartisan negotiations to reach this point. In September 2025, Senator Markey attempted to pass a one-year extension for these programs because of ongoing negotiations. This extension was blocked by Senate

Republicans. For SBIR and STTR, the result was a five-month lapse. Disruptions for small businesses, critical research, and jobs can be attributed to this lapse in SBIR and STTR.

In S. 3971, Markey ensured that there is language allowing unused FY26 funding to be carried over so that no SBIR or STTR dollars are lost.

The Small Business Innovation and Economic Security Act (S. 3971) does the following:

- Reauthorizes the SBIR and STTR program for five years.
- Rejects lifetime caps and preserves merit-based competition in the SBIR/STTR program.
- Protects the STTR program and research institutions' ability to participate.
- Ensures all SBIR funding is retained.
- Maintains strong foreign due diligence requirements and requires transparency from agencies.

To read the press release from the US Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, click here.
To read S. 3971, click here.
This bill still needs to pass the House. Take a few minutes to urge your House Member to support this bill using this letter template from AIMBE. Click here for the template.

MEDIA

"Delays in awards and funding calls worry NIH-funded researchers"

"Stark Divide: Americans More Confident in Career Scientists at US Health Agencies Than Leaders"

"Continuing to shed federal workers remains 'priority number one,' White House official says"

"Private money cannot replace public funding of 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.*

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.
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!