The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

May 1, 2026

Academy Policy & Legislative Update

Dear Academy friends,

Happy May Day—whether you're marking International Labor Day, attending a festival, or just joining/dodging protests, here's what to keep an eye on after the maypole dancing winds down:

We continue to hear about delays in NIH funding dissemination. You can track NIH extramural funding here, this site is updated every week.

If you are expecting funding and have not received a response, please let us know. The community is tracking these experiences, and reports can be shared confidentially. You may also consider contacting your Member of Congress to share your situation (I can help with that). While NIH staff are working diligently to release funding, there appear to be additional challenges and approval requirements beyond the agency that may be contributing to delays.

Health Research Shake-Up: The Reduction of NOFOs
Elizabeth Ginexi, a former program official at NIH, published a Substack post analyzing the reduction in the number of Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) the NIH has been issuing in recent years. NOFOs are a tool the agency has used to prompt scientists to research specific areas and direct resources to NIH-prioritized areas.
To read Elizabeth Ginexi's Substack post, click here.
To read the article from Politico, click here.

Appropriations Information & Links
The Academy is tracking developments as both the **House and Senate appropriations** processes move forward and will keep you informed. However please share this link with anyone in your department or society if they want to read how the appropriations process works. Click appropriations overview from the Congressional Research Service.

Helpful Links:
Congress' markup schedule was released with Labor-HHS markup set to begin in early June. Click here to view the full schedule.
For polling data on where the American people stand on cuts to research, click here.
To view the President's budget request, click here.
To view agency specific requests, click here.
To track NIH budget updates, click here.

To view obligation and award activity at NIH and other major science agencies, click here.
To view number of NIH extramural awards by month (2022-2026), click here.
To view Congressional justifications for each IC, click here.

Administration Updates:
President Trump withdrew the nomination of Casey Means for surgeon general after her confirmation stalled amid bipartisan concerns, including scrutiny of her views on vaccines. In a post on Truth Social, the President announced he is instead nominating Nicole Saphier, MD, a radiologist and Director of Breast Imaging at Memorial Sloan Kettering Monmouth. The decision to pull Means' nomination marks the latest strife between the President and Senate HELP Chair Bill Cassidy (R-LA).

Behavioral health advocates warn that the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) may be delaying approval of at least 25 grant funding opportunities from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), potentially slowing critical funding for treatment programs nationwide (Inside Health Policy, subscription required). While SAMHSA says the review process is routine, advocates fear the holdup could signal a continuation of earlier proposed funding cuts and add uncertainty as SAMHSA faces staffing reductions and possible restructuring.

Doctor, wife of acting US attorney general, appointed to NIH advisory council
Kristine Blanche, an integrative medicine doctor, has been appointed to the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health at the NIH. To read the full article, click here.

NOT-OD-26-079: Announcement of Upcoming System Enforcement of Commons Forms and End of NIH's Leniency Period
NIH recently updated its Grants Policy Statement and last week announced it is adjusting the implementation timeline for some of its new Common Form requirements. The agency said the requirements would be fully incorporated into the next Grants Policy Statement.
To read the Grants Policy Statement, click here.
To view the new notice, click here.

Request for Information (RFI): Inviting Comments and Suggestions on a Framework for the NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2027-2031
NIH invites input from stakeholders throughout the scientific research, advocacy, and clinical practice communities, as well as the general public, regarding the proposed framework for the FY27-FY31 NIH-Wide Strategic Plan.
Comments will be accepted until May 26. Click here to submit comments.

NIH's Small Business Program is Back!
NIH's small business program is preparing to launch new funding opportunities for small businesses following the reauthorization of the STTR and SBIR programs, with some tweaks to foreign disclosure and risk management requirements.

To read about new opportunities, click here.
To read about tweaks to requirements, click here.

ARPA-H: We're looking for small businesses with big ideas
ARPA-H supports a comprehensive ecosystem for innovative health research and development projects. That includes nimble small businesses ready to solve the biggest problems in health! Visit our small business webpage to read the latest draft solicitation with new topics for our Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. You can also sign up for a Proposers' Day on June 11.

Hill Updates

Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) sent a letter to HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. pressing him to disclose details of drug pricing deals tied to the TrumpRx website, and questioning why cheaper generic alternatives are not clearly shown. Senator Warren warned the platform may steer consumers toward more expensive brand-name drugs, and she is seeking transparency on both the agreements and claims about how widely the site is used. The letter was sent as a follow up to the April 22 Senate Finance Committee hearing examining the President's proposed HHS budget for FY 2027.

On April 28, the House Ways and Means (W&M) Committee held a hearing on the impact of rising health care costs by examining the role of health systems. During the hearing, W&M Chair Jason Smith (R-MO) sharply criticized hospitals for high prices, calling some practices "borderline extortionary" as lawmakers seek to address rising health care costs ahead of the 2026 midterms. Chair Smith also threatened to pursue "site-neutral" Medicare payment reforms that could significantly cut hospital revenue.

On April 29, the House Energy and Commerce (E&C) Health Subcommittee held a hearing to consider a slate of bills seeking to change how the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates and oversees foods and food ingredients, dietary supplements, infant formula, and other products under the FDA's authority. The hearing, "Healthier America: Legislative Proposals on the Regulation and Oversight of Food," explored the link between chronic disease and products available to consumers, transparency in food labeling, and the FDA's regulatory oversight capabilities to protect consumers.

MEDIA
"NIH-funded research lags in reporting sex differences, new study finds"

"Securing NIH awards is getting more competitive – and confusing"

View the Academy's Summary of Spring Events! Read about Hill Day, MedTech, and the Research Roundtable.

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.

The Academy is moving June 1, 2026! Our new address will be: *910 Seventeenth Street, NW, Suite 960, Washington DC 20006*.

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!