The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

May 8, 2026

Academy Policy & Legislative Update

Dear Academy friends,

It's time to nominate a 2026-2027 Council of Early Career Investigators in Imaging (CECI^2) class! Have questions about the process or the program?
Join Q&A Session Friday, May 15th, 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm ET. This session will cover the ins and outs of CECI^2, including its history, goals, purpose, and nomination procedures.
If you wish to participate in this Zoom call or receive a recording, please register here.
Watch a quick highlight video about CECI^2 here.

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

What We're Hearing

- NIH is increasing grant funding activity, but it remains behind prior years.
- NIH is still about $1.5 billion behind last year's grant funding pace and $3–4 billion behind historical funding levels.
- Funding distributions are expected to accelerate as NIH Advisory Councils resume meetings. The May council meeting schedule is available here.
- Congressional offices are seeking specific examples from constituents about the impact of funding delays, especially ahead of upcoming hearings.

If you are expecting funding and have not received a response, let us know. The community is tracking these experiences, and reports can be shared confidentially. 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.

The Mounting Toll of Multi-Year Funding on American Biomedical Research
ACT for NIH updated their one-pager on multi-year funding following the proposal in the President's FY27 budget request to utilize multi-year funding for all new awards. The one-pager explains how multi-year funding can lead to fewer grants and research discoveries, slower progress, and reduced competitiveness on the global stage. Click here to view the one-pager.

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.

Curious about the potential economic impact of the President's FY27 budget request? Click here to view the fact sheet.

Immigration changes are driving foreign researchers to leave the US – or not come to begin with

In a STAT survey of nearly 1,000 US researchers who receive NIH support…

- 14% of respondents reported that changes in immigration policies had forced scientists, students, and postdocs to turn down offers to work in their labs.
- 13% said their labs had lost researchers to other countries as a result of NIH funding changes.

For more information on the survey and to read the full article, click here.

Administration Updates:

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.

Upcoming Events:

Important Dates:

Virtual Discussion with ARPA-H Leadership: Dr. Alicia Jackson, Director of ARPA-H, on **Thursday, May 21, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ET** on Zoom. Dr. Jackson will share her vision and priorities. This discussion is open to the public hosted by Research!America. Register here.

MEDIA

"New H-1B Lottery Pushes International Students To Rethink Their Majors"

"NIH Reinstates Employee Put on Leave After Criticizing Trump Research Cuts"

"'Vulnerable' Medical Schools Caught in MAGA's Crosshairs"

"'Highly problematic for a thousand reasons': NIH employees criticize Trump-era requirement to scrutinize grants with words related to diversity"

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!