The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

July 17, 2026

Academy Policy & Legislative Update

Dear Academy friends,

Things to Know

- **OMB Uniform Guidance: The comment period has closed; stakeholder engagement and congressional attention continue as the rule moves forward.**
- **NIH Updates: NIH IC individual websites will go dark soon.**
- **The Academy will be hosting an NIH virtual presentation on the funding opportunities in late August. Details to come.**
- **NIH Funding for FY27. We have the House numbers. The Senate has not moved. A CR appears likely.**
- **Academy Updates: CECI² nominations are DUE and community announcements.**

Key Dates

- **July 31st: CECI² nominations due**
- **August 3rd NIH RFI on limiting simultaneous research project grants closes**
- **August 17th: Prescription drug pricing RFI comments due**
- **August 19th: NIH RFI on measuring and rewarding scientific impact closes**

OMB Federal Grantmaking Rule

The public comment period closed July 13th: Important to note AND next steps:

- 496,769 public comments submitted
- 52,000 comments so far for public review
- Vast majority of comments opposed
- 5% support the OMB Rule, most similar to the Heritage Foundation letter

Current Status:

- OMB is now reviewing comments as the rulemaking process moves forward.
- NSF and NASA have begun seeking stakeholder input on potential implementation approaches should the rule take effect.
- Congressional interest continues to grow, with letters submitted by the Maryland delegation and the US Chamber of Commerce.

What could happen? Before Oct. 1st
There is no legislative path to block this Rule before Oct. 1.

- A judge could order a delay.
- OMB could choose to delay implementation while it reviews comments or in response to legal or administrative considerations. They alone set the deadline of Oct. 1
- The White House could direct OMB to delay implementation.

Academy Action: If you submitted comments on the proposed rule, we encourage you to share them with your Members of Congress they need to know more about the impact. Here's a template you can use when sharing your comments. Need contact information or have questions? Please contact Olivia Nelson.

Selected Comments to Proposed Rule
Association of American Universities (AAU)
Association of Independent Research Institutes (AIRI)
Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities (APLU)

NIH Updates

NIH Funding
Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) announced plans to bring a continuing resolution (CR) to the floor next week that would likely fund the government through the November midterm elections, as lawmakers face a September 30 deadline to avoid a government shutdown. Negotiations remain complicated by demands from some House Republicans, including Representative Anna Paulina Luna (R-FL), to attach the SAVE America Act elections bill as a rider to any must-pass legislation, a move expected to face strong Democratic opposition and uncertainty in the Senate. It is also unclear how far beyond the midterm elections the CR would extend government funding.

NIH Launches Web Modernization
Beginning late July, NIH IC websites will be taken down. All communication will be centralized. In conjunction with these website changes, the Data Rescue Project have collected all the data from all NIH websites.
For more information, click here.

Funding Opportunity for NCI Bioengineering Research Grants (R01, Clinical Trial Optional) (PAR-27-072)
NIH is seeking multidisciplinary teams to apply innovative bioengineering approaches to address important biomedical challenges. This funding opportunity supports projects that integrate, optimize, validate, translate, or accelerate the adoption of promising tools, methods, and technologies in basic, translational, or clinical research.
For more information, click here.

Five Available Funding Opportunities for NIH PRIMED-AI Program
The PRIMED-AI program seeks to develop innovative, reliable, and cost-effective AI-based tools that integrate clinical imaging with other health data types to enhance personalized medicine for patients with chronic and other health conditions. PRIMED-AI will be a uniquely synergistic, catalytic, cross-cutting way of transforming the delivery of precision medicine through the emerging medical AI landscape.
The Academy will be hosting a presentation from NIH on this opportunity in late August. Details will be sent ASAP in a separate email.
For more information, click here.
View all 5 funding opportunities here.

NIH Requests for Information

Request for Information: Proposal to Cap the Number of Simultaneous Research Project Grants per Principal Investigator (NOT-OD-26-086)
The proposed policy seeks to maximize scientific productivity and innovation by enabling the NIH to support more investigators. The RFI cites a study that suggests diminishing returns as grant funding for individuals increases and suggests that limiting the number of grants per PI would:

- Broaden funding distribution across geographic regions and institutions.
- Support more PIs and institutions.
- Strengthen the biomedical workforce.
- Improve oversight of research progress.

View the RFI here.
To read more about this RFI, click here.

Comments are due August 3, 2026, at 11:59 pm ET. Submit comments here.

New Request for Information on Prescription Drug Pricing Policy
The Senate Finance Committee minority staff issued an RFI on prescription drug pricing policy. In it, there are extensive references to the NIH and questions related to potential new funding mechanisms and revenue streams for the agency. To view the RFI, click here.

Comments are due August 17, 2026. Submit written comments to drugs@finance.senate.gov.

Request for Information: Measuring and Rewarding Scientific Impact (NOT-OD-26-087)
The request states that the NIH seeks to incentivize and reward rigorous research, and to align its measures of success with its core mission of generating knowledge that enhances health, lengthens life, and reduces illness and disability. NIH is engaging stakeholders in defining indicators and incentives, such as:

- Rigor and Reproducibility.
- Data, Software, and Model Sharing.

- Training and Mentorship.
- Collaboration.
- Entrepreneurship and Translation.
- Foundational Scientific Exploration.
- Public Impact.

View the RFI here.
Comments are due August 19, 2026. Submit comments here.

NIH Resources
- Track NIH extramural funding here.
- Number of NIH Extramural Awards by Awarded Month
- Value of NIH Extramural Awards by Awarded Month
- Additional details on Active Funding by State and Active Projects by IC
- Fact sheet about the potential economic impact of the President's FY2027 budget request

**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.

Academy Updates

Council of Early Career Investigators in Imaging ($CECI^2$) Nominations are Open!
This opportunity is open to Academy members.

- Click here to access the nomination form.
- Review eligibility and expectations before submitting.
- Visit the $CECI^2$ homepage for additional information.
- Watch the $CECI^2$ program video.
- Nominations close **July 31st.**

Please reach out with any questions you have about the nomination process.

Academy Advocacy Resources

Why is advocacy important?
The Academy advocacy video features imaging researchers discussing the importance of their research and the critical role of sustained federal investment in NIH research.

Please feel free to share this video!

MEDIA

America's biomedical future depends on the NIH

OMB Director Testifies at House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government Hearing
Flood of comments on White House grantmaking overhaul is largely negative, analysis shows STAT
The Public Rejects OMB's Federal Financial Assistance Rule
Rep. Gillen Leads Bipartisan Letter Urging OMB Director Vought to Reconsider Rule that Politicizes Cancer Research Funding

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.

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