



The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research

Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Weekly Roundup

September 15, 2025

NEWS

House Appropriations Committee Advances NIH Spending Bill

The House Appropriations Committee [amended](#) and [voted 35-28](#) along party lines on Sept. 9 to advance the fiscal year (FY) 2026 [Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies \(Labor-HHS\) Appropriations Act](#) and an [accompanying report](#). The Ad Hoc Group [issued a Sept. 3 statement](#) following the release of the bill and subcommittee consideration.

The bill would provide \$46.9 billion for the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) base budget. The funding level would represent a \$99 million (0.2%) increase relative to the comparable \$46.8 billion FY 2025 total, including funding from the 21st Century Cures Act. The bill would provide funding for all existing 27 institutes and centers. Additionally, the bill would provide \$945 million for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), a \$555 million (-37%) decrease compared to FY 2025.

The committee adopted several NIH-related amendments including report language directing NIH to reestablish and expand the size of existing bridge programs that support opportunities for students with limited access to STEMM education and research; report language directing NIH to submit a report

providing an update on efforts to reduce and replace the use of dogs and cats in NIH-funded intramural or extramural research; report language on alternatives to animal testing and encouraging NIH to include grant proposal reviewers with expertise in new approach methodologies (NAMs); and an amendment to the bill barring funds for research on vertebrate animals for the purpose of studying the effects of drugs, surgery, or other interventions to alter the human body to no longer correspond to its biological sex.

The committee also rejected a number of amendments, including amendments to the report related to NIH grant cancellations; impoundment of NIH funds; and firearm injury and mortality prevention research.

With none of the 12 annual spending bills yet signed into law, lawmakers likely will need to pass a continuing resolution to keep the federal government operating past Sept. 30 while negotiations continue.

Participate in Medical Research Month

As Congress considers funding for NIH, the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research is treating September as “Medical Research Month” in recognition of the many events and efforts that advocates across the medical research stakeholder community are undertaking. The Ad Hoc Group has [developed a shared calendar](#) to coordinate and amplify NIH-supported medical research advocacy efforts across the community. The calendar highlights events, Hill days, and campaigns, and includes suggested social media activations to showcase the value of NIH-supported medical research to Members of Congress. If your organization is planning any September activities related to NIH medical research advocacy, please email aherrin@aamc.org to be included on the calendar.

NIH Launches Centralized Resource for Research Areas of Interest

As part of a [wider NIH strategy](#) to simplify and streamline the application and funding process, the NIH on Aug. 29 [announced a new centralized and simplified resource](#), [NIH Highlighted Topics](#), to inform the research community

about particular scientific areas of interest to the NIH. Highlighted topics are not funding opportunities, but rather, descriptions (e.g., grant deadlines, participating institutes and centers) of where the NIH encourages applications from the community, including a new or emerging area that is not well known. As a reminder, starting Oct. 1, [new funding opportunities](#) will only be posted on Grants.gov, a federal-wide portal for discretionary funding opportunities.

National Academies Releases Report on Potential Federal Changes to Research Regulations

Following a Sept. 3 [public release](#), the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine issued [Simplifying Research Regulations and Policies](#), a report that provides a road map for establishing a more resource-effective regulatory framework for federally funded biomedical research. The authors set forth 53 recommendations for improving regulatory processes and administrative tasks, reducing or eliminating unnecessary burden, and modifying or removing regulations that have outlived their purpose. One key recommendation is the establishment of the Research Policy Board, a recommendation from the seminal 2016 National Academies report [Optimizing the Nation's Investment in Academic Research: A New Regulatory Framework for the 21st Century](#). The 21st Century Cures Act mandated the establishment of the research policy board, but it was never created.

Upcoming Events

NEW Tune in for the 2025 Golden Goose Awards Ceremony

Since 2012, the Golden Goose Awards have recognized researchers whose seemingly obscure, federally-funded research has led to major scientific breakthroughs. The award ceremony will be held on **Sept. 16 at 5:30 PM ET** and a livestream is available [here](#). In addition, ahead of the ceremony, please see here ([toolkit 1](#), [toolkit 2](#)) for two toolkits that include information about each of this year's awardees, as well as drafted social media copy.

NEW Register to Attend the Rally for Medical Research Reception

On Sept. 18, advocates from around the country will participate in Capitol Hill visits for the 2025 Rally for Medical Research. The evening before, on Sept. 17, the Rally for Medical Research will host a reception on Capitol Hill to celebrate medical research with all partners and participants. The goal is to continue to call on our nation's policymakers to make funding for NIH a national priority and raise awareness about the importance of continued investment in medical research. The reception will take place on **Sept. 17 from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM ET** in the Russell Senate Office Building Kennedy Caucus Room, S-325. [Go here](#) to RSVP.

Register for FASEB's Advocacy Town Hall Meetings

Join the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology's (FASEB) Advocacy Town Hall meetings — a recurring virtual space where researchers and advocates come together twice a month (first and third Tuesday from noon to 1:00 PM ET) to: receive updates from Capitol Hill and the latest science policy news from NIH, NSF, and other federal agencies; share your experiences or express your opinions on important science policy issues; contribute to grassroots mobilization efforts; and help share the future of the research community through continuous input. The 2025 dates are Aug. 5, Aug. 19, Sept. 2, Sept. 16, Oct. 7, Oct. 21, Nov. 4, Nov. 18, Dec. 2, Dec. 16. [Register here](#), and please complete all requested fields.

Sign-on Letters

NEW Community Sign-on Letter Responding to Executive Order on “Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking – Deadline Sept. 18

In response to the Aug. 7 Executive Order on “[Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking](#),” several societies spanning different fields of scientific and medical research have drafted a [letter](#) to Congress to express concerns and request Congressional oversight. The initial drafting coalition includes the Academy of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging Research, American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research, American Astronomical Society, American Geophysical Union, American Society for

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Biophysical Society, International Society for Stem Cell Research, and SPIE, among others.

Please fill out this google form to sign the letter:

<https://forms.gle/daoSAFgGuVyGh3Pi7>

The deadline to sign-on is **Thursday, Sept. 18**, with the goal of sending the letter shortly after the Rally for Medical Research. If your organization needs more time to consider the letter, or if you have any questions, please reach out to Roohi Dalal (roohi.dalal@aas.org) or Leann Fox (LFox@biophysics.org).

NEW Sign-on Opportunity on Federal Support for Essential Research Costs – Deadline Sept. 19

In response to efforts by the administration to limit federal research agencies' support for indirect costs or facilities and administrative (F&A) expenses, the Joint Associations Group on Indirect Costs (JAG) has proposed the Financial Accountability in Research (FAIR) Model as an alternative. In turn, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have included bill and/or report language in a number of their individual FY 2026 spending bills acknowledging the work of the JAG and urging the administration to work with the extramural community before making any changes to F&A support.

Please join members of the JAG in signing the attached letter to appropriators expressing support for the work of the JAG, thanking appropriators for including language in some of the bills to date, and urging that they strengthen language in the final spending bills supporting the JAG work and prohibiting OMB from instituting arbitrary caps on federal support for research costs. **Please note that the letter is open to all national organizations, societies, and associations.** The letter is not intended for individual institutions at this time. To sign, staff who are authorized to sign the letter on behalf of their organization should **please complete [the form at this link](https://forms.gle/daoSAFgGuVyGh3Pi7)** by close of business on **Friday, Sept. 19**.

Request for Public Comment & Funding Opportunities

NIH Issues Request for Information: Maximizing Research Funds by Limiting Allowable Publication Costs

The NIH [issued a request for information](#) (RFI) regarding policy options to maximize research funds by limiting allowable publication costs. The NIH notes that while it “recognizes the value of disseminating and publishing findings, journals with large publishing fees can lead awardees to pay unreasonably high fees from their NIH awards that lessen the funds available for conducting research and which burden American taxpayers.” The RFI follows a July 8 [announcement](#) to establish new policies limiting allowable publication costs. Comments must be submitted electronically to <https://osp.od.nih.gov/comment-form-maximizing-research-funds-by-limiting-allowable-publishing-costs>. Responses will be accepted through **September 15, 2025**.

Please Note: *If you have information of interest to the NIH advocacy community that you would like to share with the Ad Hoc Group, please forward it to Tannaz Rasouli at trasouli@aamc.org.*

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