



April 17, 2025

The NABR Update is a news summary of federal and state government affairs, animal rights activities, and other issues related to animal research that may have a direct effect on your organization or its constituents. It's an exclusive service available for NABR members only. If your organization is interested in joining NABR or if you have any questions or suggestions, please email us at info@nabr.org.

FEDERAL

NABR Responds to FDA's Plan on Reducing Animal Testing

In response to Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s [remarks on reducing animal testing](#) at health agencies and the [Food and Drug Administration's announcement](#) on April 10 on plans to phase out animal testing in the development of monoclonal antibody therapies and other drugs NABR issued the following statement.

WASHINGTON – Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s announcement of a “dramatic reduction in animal testing” at the FDA reflects a growing interest in emerging technologies, but it overlooks a critical truth: **There is currently no full replacement for animal models in biomedical research and drug**

development.

Animal studies remain essential for understanding how complex biological systems function and for ensuring that new drugs and treatments are safe and effective before reaching human patients. From vaccines to cancer therapies to insulin, research involving animals has played a key role in nearly every major medical advance of the past century.

“We all want better and faster ways to bring lifesaving treatments to patients,” NABR President Matthew R. Bailey said. “But no AI model or simulation has yet demonstrated the ability to fully replicate all the unknowns about many full biological systems. That’s why humane animal research remains indispensable.”

We support innovation and the responsible integration of scientifically validated approaches, such as artificial intelligence, organ-on-chip systems and cell-based assays — when appropriate. These adjuncts can enhance research and help reduce animals in research, but they are not yet capable of fully replicating all the intricacies of living systems.

“AI is incredible and promises to speed up many aspects of research. However, one of the problems with AI is that it largely depends on pulling from existing data,” Mr. Bailey said. “The unknown variables could present the biggest risk to patients. So, it will be interesting to see where AI is validated as a replacement to a whole biological organism and where it isn’t.”

The FDA Modernization Act 2.0, passed in 2022, allows for the use of non-animal test methods where feasible, but it does not remove the need for animal

testing. Animal models are still essential for evaluating safety and efficacy.

The industry stands ready to work with the FDA to ensure that patient safety remains a key priority alongside innovation.

NABR remains committed to the ethical and responsible conduct of research involving animals, following the internationally recognized principles of replacement, reduction and refinement. As scientific knowledge evolves, so too should scientific practices — but decisions that impact public health must remain grounded in science, not politics.

So far NABR's statement has been picked up by: [Reuters](#), [the Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society \(RAPS\)' Regulatory Focus™](#), [STAT](#), [Fierce Biotech](#), [The Epoch Times](#), [Fox News](#), [Life Science Sweden](#), [The Daily Guardian](#), [Hindustan Times](#), [The Telegraph India](#), and [The Times of India](#).

In response to NABR's statement, the animal rights group Rise for Animals released their own [statement targeting NABR](#) and the animal research industry as a whole.

Top Senate Appropriators Plan Upcoming Hearings on Biomedical Research

Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) and Vice Chair Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) recently announced a two-part series of hearings focusing on biomedical research. The series titled "Biomedical Research: Keeping America's Edge in Innovation" aims to highlight the importance of the U.S. biomedical research enterprise and steps the government must take to ensure the U.S. remains the global leader in this field. The hearing will take place on April 30, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. in the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 101. Additional details will be available closer to the hearing date.

A link to view the hearing on April 30 can be found [here](#).

Senate Appropriators Announce FY26 Guidance and Deadlines for Submission

Last week, Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) and Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), chair and vice chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, released [guidance](#) on the FY26 appropriations process for programmatic, bill/report language, and Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) requests. This announcement comes weeks after House Appropriations Committee Chair Tom Cole (R-OK) released [guidance](#) to formally begin the House of Representatives FY26 appropriations process.

During a normal appropriations process, the House and Senate draft and pass 12 appropriations bills to fund the federal government for the respective fiscal year. Historically, some of these bills have contained language that could impact animal research. Each year, NABR along with other science organizations submit language to appropriators highlighting the importance of the continued access and use of animal models in biomedical research.

Please reach out to info@nabr.org, if you or your institution have any questions regarding the FY26 appropriations process.

Senate FY26 appropriations hearings are expected to begin after Congress returns from recess later this month.

More information on the guidance is available [here](#).

Update on HHS List of Terminated Grants at National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Last month, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released information on terminated grants at NIH. This comes as the administration moves forward with plans to “cut wasteful spending.” Information on the terminated grants includes specifics on the awarding office, grant number,

recipient name, date terminated, total grant amount for the budget period, anticipated amount canceled as a result of the termination, and grant title.

The grants that have been cancelled at NIH can be accessed here: [HHS Grants Terminated](#).

The New York Academy of Sciences has just released a Global Researcher Sentiment Snapshot for 2025. Please follow this [link](#) to share how recent changes to U.S. federal aid for scientific research may impact you.

[NASEM Study: Improving the Regulatory Efficiency and Reducing Administrative Workload to Strengthen Competitiveness and Productivity of U.S. Research](#)

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's committee on Improving the Regulatory Efficiency and Reducing Administrative Workload to Strengthen Competitiveness and Productivity of U.S. Research is developing a consensus study to review and prioritize federal actions that could improve regulatory efficiency and potentially reduce costs in the academic research environment, particularly for academic researchers.

The committee plans to release a report within six months with a list of priorities for the federal government to consider. This is a welcomed study as researchers continue to spend too much of their time on administrative tasks instead of federally funded research itself.

BACKGROUND: In a 2022 Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) Faculty Workload Survey, researchers reported that in 2018, administrative tasks consumed around 44.3% of the time they allocated to work on federally funded research. Good stewardship of federal funds entails compliance and reporting, but excessive regulatory requirements are burdensome. Congress sought to reduce the problem of regulatory excess with respect to animal research

oversight requirements through a provision included in the 21st Century Cures Act, which is current law.

Additional information can be found [here](#).

NABR Applauds Science Organizations' Letters to Support Research Funding

NABR is proud to have joined 510 organizations in a [letter](#) authored by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) on behalf of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research in support for robust funding at the NIH for FY26. This initiative is critical as a [preliminary budget proposal](#) recommends slashing the HHS's overall discretionary funding to roughly \$80.4 billion, down from the \$116.8 billion enacted in the FY25 budget.

NABR is happy to champion research funding through the Friends of VA Medical Care and Health Research (FOVA). The request for robust funding, authored by the National Association of Veterans' Research and Education Foundations (NAVREF), is critical for ensuring continued support for the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research program, construction, and IT infrastructure.

Yesterday, the American Brain Coalition sent a [letter](#) to appropriators in Congress expressing support for the NIH Brain Research Through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative program. The request asked for restored funding of \$680 million for the BRAIN Initiative in FY26.

In addition, Americans for Medical Progress (AMP) organized two letters to Capitol Hill urging Congress to provide [robust funding for animal research](#) and a [letter](#) supporting the continuation of vital animal research at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

NABR applauds advocacy on behalf of scientific research and looks forward to continuing to support these efforts.

Sen. Ernst Introduces Bills Aimed at Federally Funded Research Abroad

On Tax Day, April 15, 2025, Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA) introduced two bills aimed at providing transparency for taxpayer funded research abroad. These bills are the Accountability in Foreign Animal Research (AFAR) Act and the Tracking Receipts to Adversarial Countries for Knowledge of Spending (TRACKS) Act. Both bills are supported and lobbied by the White Coat Waste Project ([WCW](#)).

The [AFAR Act](#) would:

- prohibits the use of taxpayer dollars to support animal experimentation in the laboratories of adversarial nations.
 - Nations of concern are determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultation with the Secretary of State, and Secretary of Defense for purposes of this Act.

Additional information is available [here](#).

The [TRACKS Act](#) would:

- track taxpayer dollars sent to adversarial countries and foreign entities of concern, and for other purposes.

Additional information is available [here](#).

STATE

Colorado Passes Research Dog and Cat Adoption/Reporting Bill

Recently, the Colorado House and Senate passed an animal research adoption bill ([SB085](#)), which requires health-related research facilities to offer dogs and cats in biomedical research studies for adoption before euthanasia unless euthanasia is required for research, health, or safety reasons.

In addition, this bill requires health-related research facilities that work with dogs and cats in animal research to submit an annual report to the Colorado Department of Agriculture to include the total number of dogs and cats:

- Transferred to an animal shelter or pet animal rescue for the purpose of adoption
- Adopted out through an internal adoption program

-The facilities must also report the name and address of each animal shelter or animal rescue to which the health-related research facility transferred a dog or cat for the purpose of adoption.

-A health-related research facility with an internal adoption program shall not report any personal identifying information about an individual internal adopter.

This bill was amended to remove a previous provision requiring health-related research facilities to disclose the number of dogs and cats housed for research at their facility.

The bill now awaits Gov. Jared Polis' signature to become law.

Bills like this one are becoming all too common around the country due to an aggressive lobbying push at the state level by Humane World for Animals (formerly the Humane Society of the United States).

ANIMAL RIGHTS

FBR President Defends Canine Research in The Washington Post

FBR President Matthew R. Bailey defended the critical role of research with dogs in advancing both human and animal health in a [Washington Post letter to the editor published online](#). The letter appeared in the print edition on Tuesday, April 15.

Jane Goodall and Marc Bekoff called for a moratorium on federal funding for research with dogs in a recent op-ed. FBR's letter sets the record straight,

highlighting how studies with dogs have led to lifesaving treatments — including those for cancer, diabetes and heart disease — not just for humans, but for pets as well.

As Bailey points out in his letter, research with dogs is not a thing of the past. It continues to yield essential research insights from human and canine comparative oncology to comparative pharmacology.

"When considering the ethical implications of conducting research with dogs, we should also consider the ethical implications of depriving millions of animal and human patients of treatments if a moratorium on canine research is put in place. **Instead of painting a target on the backs of scientists who work with dogs to advance knowledge and treatments, we should understand and respect the necessity of their work for the sake of human and animal health,"** Mr. Bailey wrote.

[!\[\]\(5ebcf382a6ee952d6c5b8b948415801e_img.jpg\) Read the letter and show your support for animal research by sharing it on social media.](#)

Thank you for standing with us to support science and medical advances.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the Date - NABR Webinar: “Should Ethics Be Included in the Next Guide? The Pros, the Cons, and Why Members of the Research Community Must Make Your Voices Heard”

Please join us on May 6, 2025, at 12:30 p.m. EDT for the originally announced April webinar. Jerrold Tannenbaum will be returning with a presentation titled:

“Should Ethics Be Included in the Next *Guide*? The Pros, the Cons, and Why Members of the Research Community Must Make Your Voices Heard.”

The process of writing the next edition of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* is advancing slowly but surely. A critically important, and fraught, question the authors of the next edition will face is whether, or to what extent, to include *ethical* principles or rules for investigators, IACUCs, veterinarians, and animal care staff. This presentation explains why the future success of animal research may depend on how this question is answered. The presentation also argues that a satisfactory answer will not be achieved unless members of the research community make your voices heard.

The discussion will review the treatment of ethics in the current *Guide* and will identify strengths and flaws in this treatment. Arguments for and against including certain kinds of ethical principles in the next edition will be considered. Among the challenges to inclusion of ethical principles are the fact that ethical principles and positions involve value judgments about which there can be disagreement and controversy, that the statute pursuant to which the *Guide* is applied to IACUCs was not intended to allow IACUCs to engage in ethical assessment of research, that IACUCs do not have special expertise about ethical issues, that different IACUCs could well disagree about whether certain kinds of animal research or particular experiments or experimental techniques are ethically acceptable, and that attempts to resolve such disagreements in the *Guide* – and enforcement of such solutions by OLAW or other government or private bodies that require adherence to the *Guide* – could hinder or threaten important research. So-called “harm-benefit analysis” and research involving nonhuman primates will be among examples used to illustrate these challenges.

The presentation will suggest how the next edition of the *Guide* could address these potential problems while paying appropriate attention to ethics.



NABR | 1909 K Street, NW, Suite 300 | Washington, DC 20006 |
Tel 202.857.0540 | Fax 202.659.1902 | info@nabr.org