March 24: The Academy signed onto a letter with other healthcare organizations to President Joe Biden asking him to champion the Research Investment to Spark the Economy (RISE) Act (H.R.869/S.289) and request and support full funding for the initiatives it would create in any relevant proposal that advances. Read the letter.

March 25: The Academy signed onto letters to House and Senate Appropriations leaders asking for $50 million in funding to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) in fiscal year 2022 to conduct public health research into firearm morbidity and mortality prevention. Read the House and Senate letters.

April 9: The Academy and the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science (CANS) offered comments to the National Institutes of Health regarding ways to strengthen racial equity, diversity, and inclusion in the biomedical research workforce and to expand research to eliminate health inequities. Read more.

Fellow Highlights:

On April 13, Congresswoman and Academy Fellow Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX-30), recognized and honored the life of Living Legend Bernardine Lacey, EdD, RN, FAAN, in the Congressional Record.

On April 14, Academy Fellow Christopher R. Friese, PhD, RN, AOCN, FAAN, co-authored a publication in JAMA Psychiatry, "Association of US Nurse and Physician Occupation With Risk of Suicide." Listen to Dr. Friese explain the findings that suicide among female nurses is double that of the general female population.

On April 20, Academy Fellow Therese S. Rischmond, PhD, RN, FAAN and Elinore J. Kaufman published an article in The Hill, "Why Biden’s gun policy doesn’t go far enough."
National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)

- **Call for Applications**
  
  NINR is seeking applications from outstanding nurse scientist candidates for the position of Director of the Division of Extramural Science Programs (DESP) to provide visionary leadership for nursing research. Applications received by **May 21, 2021** will be prioritized for consideration. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)

- **Call for Proposals**

  *Pioneering Ideas: Exploring the Future to Build a Culture of Health* seeks proposals that are primed to influence health equity in the future. RWJF is seeking ideas that address any of these four areas of focus: Future of Evidence; Future of Social Interaction; Future of Food; Future of Work. RWJF also welcomes ideas that fall outside of the four focus areas, but which offer unique approaches to advancing health equity and progress toward a Culture of Health. Proposals will be accepted throughout the year on a rolling admission.

National Academy of Medicine (NAM)

- **Webinar: The Future of Nursing 2020-2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity**

  On **Tuesday, May 11, 2021, at 3:00 pm ET**, NAM will host a webinar to discuss findings and recommendations from The Future of Nursing 2020-2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity.

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering & Medicine (NASEM)

- **Consensus Study Report:** *Sexually Transmitted Infections: Adopting a Sexual Health Paradigm*

  One in five people in the United States had a sexually transmitted infection (STI) on any given day in 2018, totaling nearly 68 million estimated infections. STIs are often asymptomatic (especially in women) and are therefore often undiagnosed and unreported. Yet untreated STIs can have severe health consequences, including chronic pelvic pain, infertility, miscarriage or newborn death, and increased risk of HIV infection, genital and oral cancers, neurological and rheumatological effects. A NASEM committee reviewed the current state of STIs in the United States, and provides advice on future public health programs, policy, and research.

- **Proceedings:** *Fostering Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Neuroscience Training: Proceedings of a Workshop—in Brief*

  Participants of a January workshop tackled the broad topic of inclusion and diversity in neuroscience training to include discussions on racial equity (expanding on themes from the first workshop in the series), supporting a global workforce, institutional and geographic diversity, unique challenges for women in science, understanding how the goals of inclusion intersect with the goals around changing the culture of science. The workshop series aims to illuminate critical issues and catalyze a reconsideration of how neuroscience training could be designed to meet current and future workforce needs across multiple sectors.
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- The CDC updated their guidelines for people who have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19.
- Please continue to check the website created by the CDC to provide day-to-day updates on the coronavirus pandemic in the United States.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- Graduates of comprehensive preschool program less likely to be obese in adulthood, NIH-funded study finds
- African Americans who smoke seem at higher risk of coronary heart disease
- NIH, DC government form partnership to reduce sleep-related infant deaths
- Moderate daily caffeine intake during pregnancy may lead to smaller birth size
- Younger age of first cannabis use or prescription drug misuse is associated with faster development of substance use disorders
- CDC and NIH bring COVID-19 self-testing to residents in two locales
- NIH clinical trial evaluating Moderna COVID-19 variant vaccine begins
- Drug testing approach uncovers effective combination for treating small cell lung cancer
- Study links structural brain changes to behavioral problems in children who snore
- NIH trial of anti-CD14 antibody to treat COVID-19 respiratory disease begins

Congressional Hearings

Based on previous positions taken by the Academy, the following scan is meant for informational purposes and does not directly translate to Academy endorsement. Links provided allow you to watch the recordings and read witness testimony.

House Committee on Energy & Commerce

- March 23: Building on the ACA: Legislation to Expand Health Coverage and Lower Costs
- April 14: An Epidemic Within a Pandemic: Understanding Substance Use and Misuse in America

House Committee on Education & Labor

- March 17: Rising to the Challenge: The Future of Higher Education Post COVID-19
- March 22: Ending the Cycle: Examining Ways to Prevent Domestic Violence and Promote Healthy Communities
- April 15: Meeting the Moment: Improving Access to Behavioral and Mental Health Care

House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs
• March 18: Beyond Deborah Sampson: Improving Healthcare for America's Women Veterans in the 117th Congress
• March 23: VA Compensation and Pension Exams During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Path Forward
• March 24: The Pandemic and VA’s Medical Supply Chain: Evaluating the Year-Long Response and Modernization
• March 14: Strategic Review: Evaluating Concerns About the Ongoing Implementation of the Electronic Health Record Modernization Program

House Committee on Ways & Means

• March 25: Examining Private Equity's Expanded Role in the U.S. Health Care System
• April 21: In Their Own Words: Paid Leave, Child Care, and an Economy That Failed Women

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions

• March 18: Examining Our COVID-19 Response: An Update from Federal Officials
• March 23: Why Does the US Pay the Highest Prices in the World for Prescription Drugs?
• March 25: Examining Our COVID-19 Response: Improving Health Equity and Outcomes by Addressing Health Disparities

Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

• March 24: Coping during COVID: Veterans' Mental Health and Implementation of the Hannon Act

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