February 22: The Academy signed onto a letter urging House and Senate Appropriations Committee leaders requesting at least $500 million in funding for the Agency for Healthcare and Research and Quality (AHRQ). The AHRQ supports research to improve health care quality, reduce costs, advance patient safety, decrease medical errors, and broaden access to essential services. Read the full [House and Senate] letters.

March 12: The Academy along with the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science (CANS) sent a letter to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) offering comments regarding the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health’s (NCCIH) new strategic plan for the fiscal years of 2021-2025. [Read more].

Now Accepting
Nominations for Academy Leadership Positions

Nominations will be accepted through Monday, April 19th.

HealthImpact’s VaxForce

- HealthImpact announced the launch of VaxForce, the volunteer workforce management system that matches health professionals and students with vaccination operations throughout California. By making qualified staff available to agencies in need of health professionals and students, VaxForce is
filling a critical need in the effort to get all Californians vaccinated. VaxForce’s volunteer workforce is comprised of licensed professionals as well as students in the fields of nursing, medicine, pharmacy, physician assistant, and dentistry who have reached out to offer their services. To sign up as a volunteer, please visit www.VaxForce.org. For vaccination agencies seeking workforce support, please send an email to VaxForce@healthimpact.org.

The George Washington University School of Nursing, Center for Health Policy and Media Engagement

- **Fellowship in Health Policy and Media**
  Applications are invited from individuals with a record of accomplishment in education, practice, leadership, or policy and a demonstrated interest in health policy. Each Fellow will develop and implement a project focusing on a specific policy area relevant to nursing. This unpaid, non-residential Fellowship is one year in length (7/1/2021-6/30/2022) but may be extended for up to one additional year. The Fellowship is open to health care professionals (e.g., nurses, social workers, pharmacists, dentists, psychologists, physicians, public health professionals), senior-level journalists, policy analysts and researchers. Applicants should demonstrate an interest in and commitment to health and understanding health policy at the federal, state or local levels.

National Institutes of Health’s *All of Us* Research Program

- **New Research Hub Webinar Series**
  The *All of Us* Research Hub stores health data from a diverse group of participants from across the US. The *Communities Driving Research: A Webinar Series* will explore the *All of Us* Research Hub, important program policies on the protection and use of participant data, and engagement efforts focused on ensuring a diverse community of researchers are ready to leverage this resource.

---

National Academy of Medicine (NAM)

- **Commentary: Communication and Transparency as a Means to Strengthening Workplace Culture During COVID-19**
  What individuals think, say, and do produces workplace culture. In health care, the COVID-19 pandemic has reshaped every aspect of this framework. Today, people think and talk through screens and do so in isolation. When clinical care delivery, operational processes, and work environments have all transformed so rapidly, the demands and stresses on our clinician workforce are bound to mount. This commentary goes into how leaders facilitate optimal communication among frontline teams.

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering & Medicine (NASEM)

- **Proceedings: Sex Differences in Brain Disorders**
  Accumulating evidence gathered over the past three decades has demonstrated a biological basis for differences between men and women with respect to clinical features and treatment responses to several neuropsychiatric, neurodevelopmental, and neurodegenerative disorders. Dramatic sex differences have also been identified in the brain transcriptomes of individuals with multiple brain disorders, including depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, and autism. The brain transcriptome includes all of the messenger RNA as well as the non-protein-coding RNA molecules expressed in brain tissue and thus represents gene activity. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine’s Forum on Neuroscience and Nervous System Disorders hosted a workshop, *Sex Differences in Brain Disorders: Emerging Transcriptomic Evidence and Implications for Therapeutic Development*, to bring together a broad spectrum of stakeholders to share cutting-edge emerging evidence, discuss challenges, and identify future opportunities and potential directions.
Select Publications: Critical Findings on COVID-19

In response to the global outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020, the National Academies has issued publications related to disease transmission, preventative measures, vaccinations, and more that can inform the public response to the pandemic. Critical Findings on COVID-19 includes summaries and highlights of many of our key publications on COVID-19, including consensus study reports, workshop and webinar proceedings, and rapid expert consultations.

ADMINISTRATION ACTIVITIES

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)

- News Release: To End HIV Epidemic, We Must Address Health Disparities
- News Release: Study Identifies Cardiovascular Risk Factors That May Lead to Pregnancy Problems for First-Time Moms
- News Release: NIH to Evaluate COVID-19 At-Home Testing System
- News Release: NIH Invests in Next Iteration of Public-Private Partnership to Advance Precision Medicine Research for Alzheimer’s Disease
- News Release: NIH Awards Grants to Support Bacteriophage Therapy Research
- News Release: Preterm Birth, Prolonged Labor Influenced by Progesterone Balance

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

- February 23: Pathway to Protection: Expanding Availability of COVID-19 Vaccines
- March 2: The Future of Telehealth: How COVID-19 is Changing the Delivery of Virtual Care
- March 10: The Path Forward: Restoring the Vital Mission of EPA
- March 17: Leading the Way Forward: Biden Administration Actions to Increase COVID-19 Vaccinations
- March 17: Averting a Crisis: Protecting Access to Health Care in the U.S. Territories

House Committee on Education & Labor
March 11: Clearing the Air: Science-Based Strategies to Protect Workers from COVID-19 Infections

House Committee on Ways & Means

- February 26: Health Subcommittee: The Path Forward on COVID-19 Immunizations

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions

- March 9: Examining Our COVID-19 Response: An Update from the Frontlines
- Mary Ann Fuchs, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, Vice President of Patient Care & System Chief Nurse Executive, Duke University Health System, provided testimony during the hearing.

Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

- February 24: Vaccines for Vets: Our Best Shot at Ending the COVID-19 Pandemic
- March 10: Military Toxic Exposures: The Human Consequences of War

Unsubscribe from these messages.