



April 30, 2025

RE: COGR Membership Renewal - Annual Dues for FY26

Dear COGR Primary Representatives,

As we approach COGR's next fiscal year (August 1, 2025 – July 31, 2026), we pause to reflect on the extraordinary resilience and leadership within the COGR community. Despite a turbulent political and regulatory environment, COGR's [229 member institutions](#) continue to drive innovation, improve lives, and contribute meaningfully to the health, strength, and prosperity of the nation.

COGR provides a unified voice for its member research universities and affiliated academic medical centers and research institutes. We work to strengthen the research partnership between the federal government and research institutions and further the frontiers of science, technology, and knowledge. We advocate for effective and efficient research policies and regulations that maximize and safeguard research investments and minimize administrative and cost burdens.

The strength of COGR lies in the engagement of its members, including COGR's [Board of Directors](#), members of COGR's [four standing committees](#), and working group volunteers. We have also been gratified by the increased engagement of representatives from COGR member institutions. In this fiscal year, the number of member representatives in the [COGR's Portal](#) for members has grown by 42%. Related, COGR's following on [LinkedIn](#) has grown by 1,500 followers, a 950% in the last 90 days. In addition, COGR has hosted its highest attended virtual meeting (February 2025, 700+) and webinar (COGR Forum I, March 2025, 980+) to date.

We also recognize the real and growing strain placed on institutions by recent federal policies—many of which disrupt the longstanding federal-academic research partnership and challenge institutional autonomy. In this climate, COGR's role as a convener, policy interpreter, and advocate is as vital as ever and grounded in the strength of our members and a shared commitment to advancing and safeguarding the academic research enterprise.

To sustain and expand this important work, COGR's membership dues for FY 26 will be \$12,500, a 4% (\$500) increase above FY 25. We are mindful of the financial pressures faced by research institutions—particularly in light of ongoing policy shifts and regulatory uncertainty. This modest adjustment, coupled with reoriented budget priorities, will strengthen COGR's ability to: increase its advocacy and litigation activities; sustain and expand new services for members; and extend the association's reach in support of our priorities.

Annual dues invoices will be available for member Primary Representatives and billing contacts to download in the COGR Portal on May 1. Payment is due on August 1, 2025.

In these uncertain times, COGR has remained focused and responsive – amplifying the collective voice of our members, creating opportunities to conduct outreach with federal agencies and policymakers, and providing timely analysis and guidance to help institutions navigate fast-changing, conflicting, or even erroneous new federal requirements.



COGR has taken many actions to support its members and to meet the unprecedented challenges facing academic research institutions. In recent months, COGR has:

- Launched the new “[COGR Forum](#)” series to discuss the latest developments, litigation, executive orders, and policy requirements.
- Proactively communicated to the [Administration](#) and [agency officials](#) ways to reduce red tape affecting research, including “[Actionable Ideas to Improve Government Efficiency Affecting the Performance of Research](#)”, which recommends 18 specific actions.
- Published the Framework for Navigating the 2025 Administration Transition: [Costing Points to Consider for Terminations and Suspensions](#).
- Created new resources for COGR members related to the [2025 Administration Transition](#), including an [Executive Order Tracker](#) and [litigation updates](#).
- Secured newly confirmed NIH Director, Dr. Jay Bhattacharya as our [keynote speaker](#) at the June COGR membership meeting.
- Jointly filed two [amicus briefs](#) on HHS/NIH Grant Terminations, and we anticipate filing additional briefs on pending research related lawsuits.
- Conducted and disseminated the [COGR Administration Transition Impact Survey](#).
- Engaged in a [multi-organization effort](#) to develop a new indirect costs funding model and developed [multiple new resources](#) to help explain F&A cost reimbursements.
- Responded to nearly 100 [media requests](#) since December 2024.

In addition to these recent actions, resources, and efforts, COGR continues to: host three annual membership meetings (two in-person, one virtual); convene virtual events throughout the year; release in-depth (30+ page) policy [updates](#) 6–8 times annually; respond to federal comment opportunities, publish white papers, policy summaries, and survey reports; and work closely with our higher education association partners on shared priorities. Please note that all staff at member institutions are eligible to enjoy [COGR Benefits of Membership](#).

All of this is made possible by membership dues. This collective commitment and financial support enable COGR not only to meet the moment but to position the association to address the challenges that lie ahead and help shape effective research policy.

Thank you for your institution’s membership and support of COGR at this critical time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Naomi Schrag". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Naomi" and last name "Schrag" clearly distinguishable.

Naomi Schrag
COGR Board Chair
Vice President for Research Compliance, Training and Policy
Columbia University

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Owens". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first initial "M." and last name "Owens" clearly distinguishable.

Matt Owens
President
COGR