

THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

RESEARCH UPDATE

GW Faculty Senate

Robert H. Miller
Interim Vice President for Research

January 16, 2026



Overview

- A Year of Impactful Scholarship
- Sponsored Research Metrics
- A Rapidly Evolving Federal Landscape
- Strengthening GW's Research Enterprise

GW's Strategic Framework Aims to Grow Research

GW's strategic framework will guide decision-making, shape priorities and inspire GW's collective progress.

➤ [Interdisciplinary Research Ecosystem Working Group](#)

- Defining and growing the essential characteristics and components of a thriving interdisciplinary research ecosystem.

➤ [AI Mapping Initiative](#)

- Exploring AI implementation in research, education and operations and the associated opportunities and risks.



A Year of Impactful Scholarship



[Protecting Privacy to Prevent Authoritarianism](#)



[Stone Tool Use in Early Humans](#)



[The New Space Race](#)



[The Particle Whisperers](#)



[Rewriting Cancer's Script](#)



[AI Perceptions and Receptivity](#)

A Year of Faculty Excellence



National Academy of Medicine
*Andrea A. Anderson (SMHS) &
Wanda K. Nicholson (GWSPH)*



**Presidential Early Career Awards
for Scientists and Engineers**
Saniya LeBlanc (SEAS)

85

**Highly prestigious awards,
fellowships and memberships**

Held by GW faculty during AY 2024

Source: Academic Analytics



NSF CAREER Awardees
*Lien-Yung "Nyima" Kao (CCAS), Jimmy Saw (CCAS),
Yun Shen (SEAS) & Zhengtian Xu (SEAS)*



Fulbright Awardees
*Catherine Cox (SON), Kimberly Rush (Study Abroad),
Jessica McCaughey (UWP) & Aleksandar Jeremic (CCAS)*



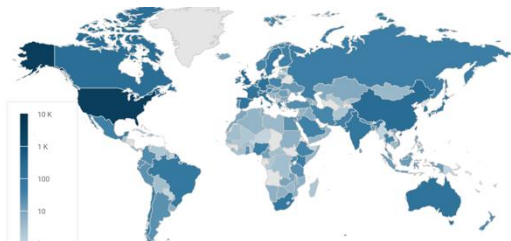
ALA Stonewall Book Award
Annie Liontas (CCAS)

A Year of Prolific Publishing

4,200+

Publications in 2025, including 3,000+ peer-reviewed articles

Source: SCOPUS

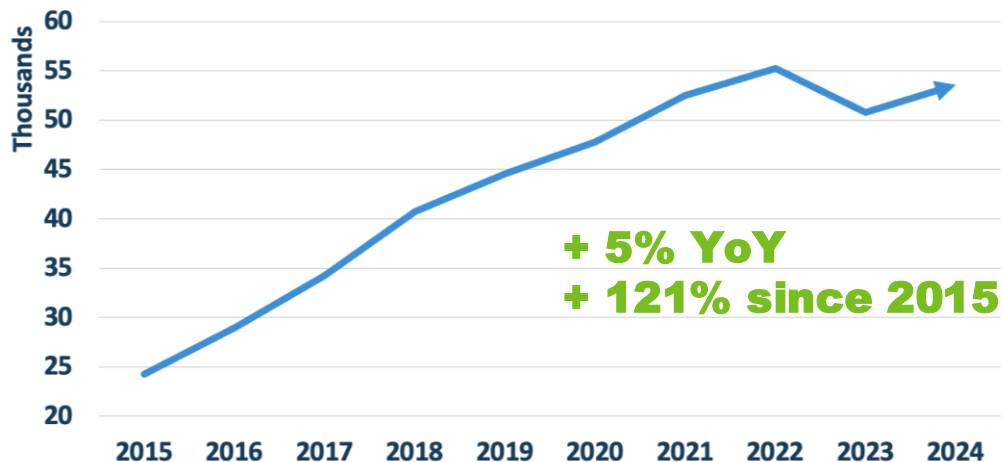


175+

Countries or territories of international co-authors on GW publications

Source: SCOPUS and Dimensions

Average Citations [2015-2024]



Average total citations accrued to articles published in each of the preceding ten years. Source: Academic Analytics

Outpacing Peers in Book-Length Scholarship

50+

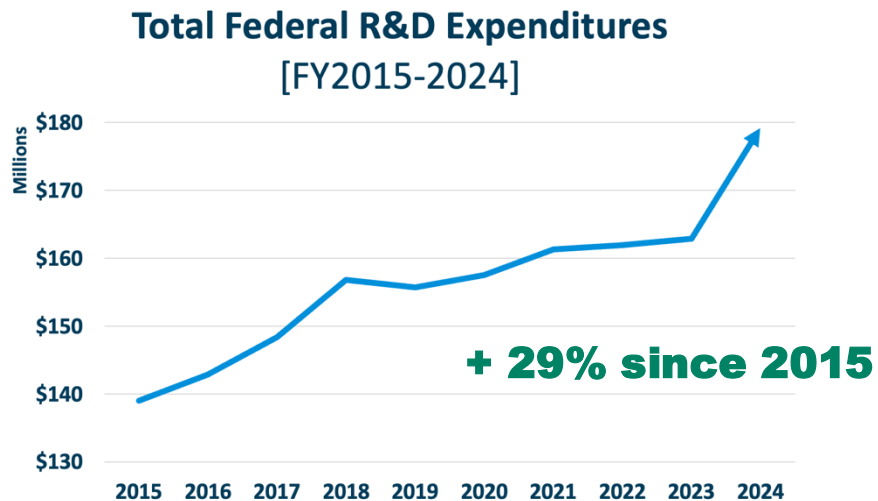
**GW-Authored Books
in 2025**

Source: Academic Analytics



*Subject headings (Book Industry Standards and Communications Codes) of
GW-authored books published in 2025. Source: Academic Analytics*

Growing Federal Research Expenditures



As submitted to the annual National Science Foundation Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) Survey

#1

in the nation's capital

Highest total federal R&D expenditures of colleges and universities in the District

Source: FY24 NSF HERD Survey

#27

in social sciences

Among 400+ ranked institutions in total federal R&D expenditures

Source: FY24 NSF HERD Survey

A Diverse Portfolio of Sponsored Awards



Renewal of DC Cohort: A Longitudinal Study of People Living with HIV/AIDS in DC

Sponsor: National Institutes of Health



Multiracial Democracy Project *Sponsor: The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation*



Nursing Workforce Development in Rural MD, VA and WV *Sponsor: Health Resources and Services Administration*



Global Network Dedicated to Maternal, Fetal, and Infant Health *Sponsor: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*



Human-AI Teaming Across Hierarchies *Sponsor: US Army Research Laboratory*



SMS Texting to Improve Colorectal Cancer Screening *Sponsor: National Institutes of Health*

Growing Collaborations with Industry Partners

Industry-sponsored research **diversifies funding sources, speeds the time between discovery and real-world impact, and expands experiential opportunities for students and trainees.**

170

Active Industry-Sponsored Projects
(FY23-25)

\$23.1M

Industry-Sponsored Research Expenditures
(FY23-25)

10

GW Schools & Units with Industry-Sponsored Awards
(FY23-25)

Projects leverage expertise in **medicine, public health, biostatistics, business, international affairs, engineering, physical sciences, social sciences, education** and more.

Accelerating Innovation from the Lab to Market

Top 100

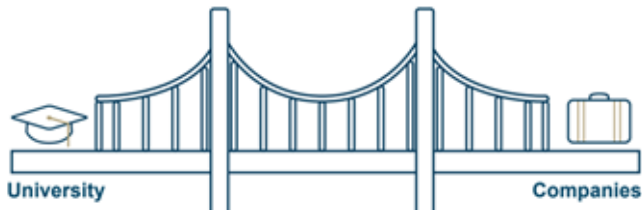
U.S. institutions granted utility patents

[Source: National Academy of Inventors, 2024]

Top 100

Ranking in startups formed and
gross licensing income

[Source: Association of University Technology Managers, FY24]



FY 2025

53

Inventions Disclosed

19

US Patents Issued

8

Licensing Deals

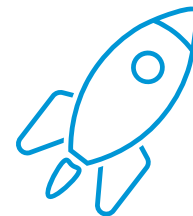
Impact Through Entrepreneurship and New Ventures

350+

New ventures created
[Since 2010]

\$1.8B+

Follow-on Funding for GW-led
Startups
[Since 2010]



544

Participants in New Venture
Competition, representing
all GW schools
[2025]

\$100K+

New Venture
Competition Prizes
[2025]



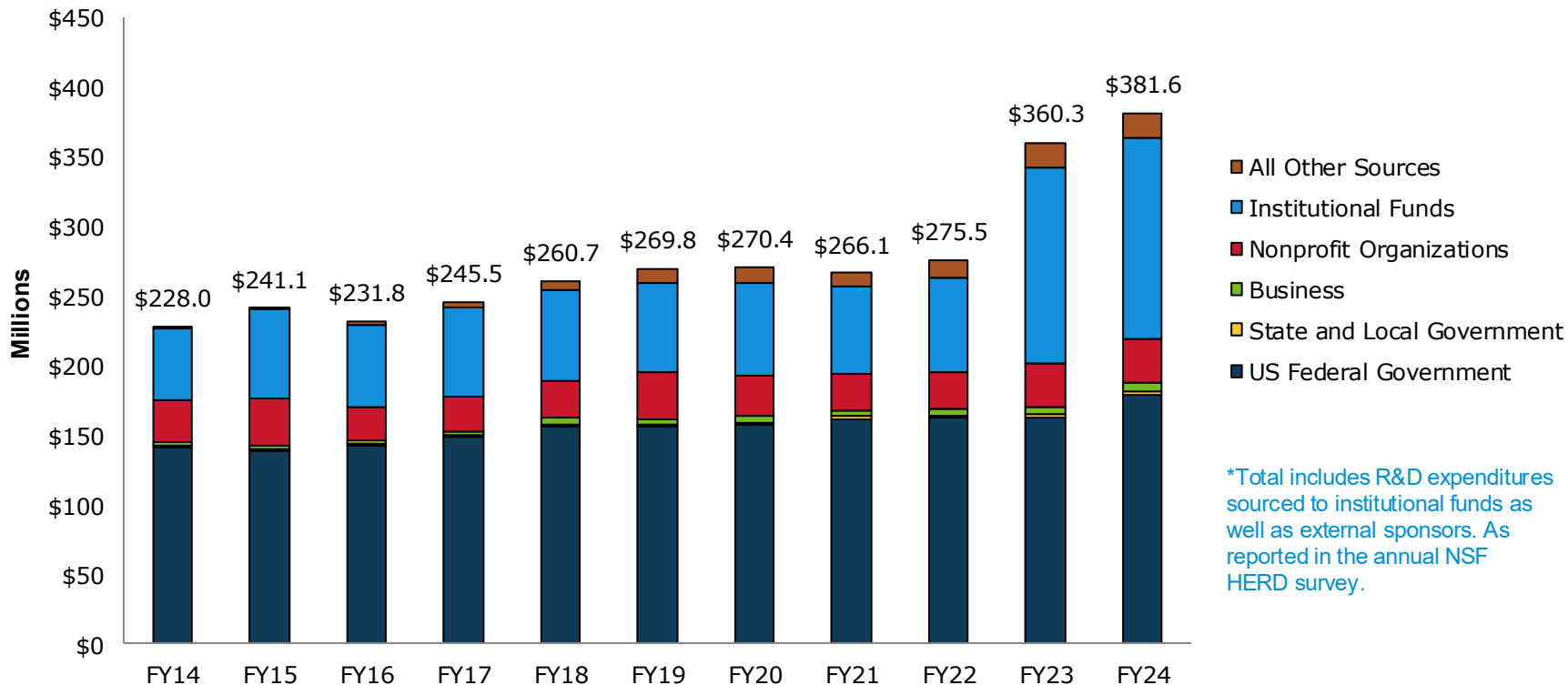
GW Joins AAAS as Institutional Member

In 2025, GW joined the **American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)** as a founding institutional member.

- AAAS mission includes science diplomacy, public engagement, evidence-based policymaking, the ethical conduct of research and STEM education.
- GW faculty, postdocs, students and staff now have free access to AAAS tools and resources.
- go.gwu.edu/aaas

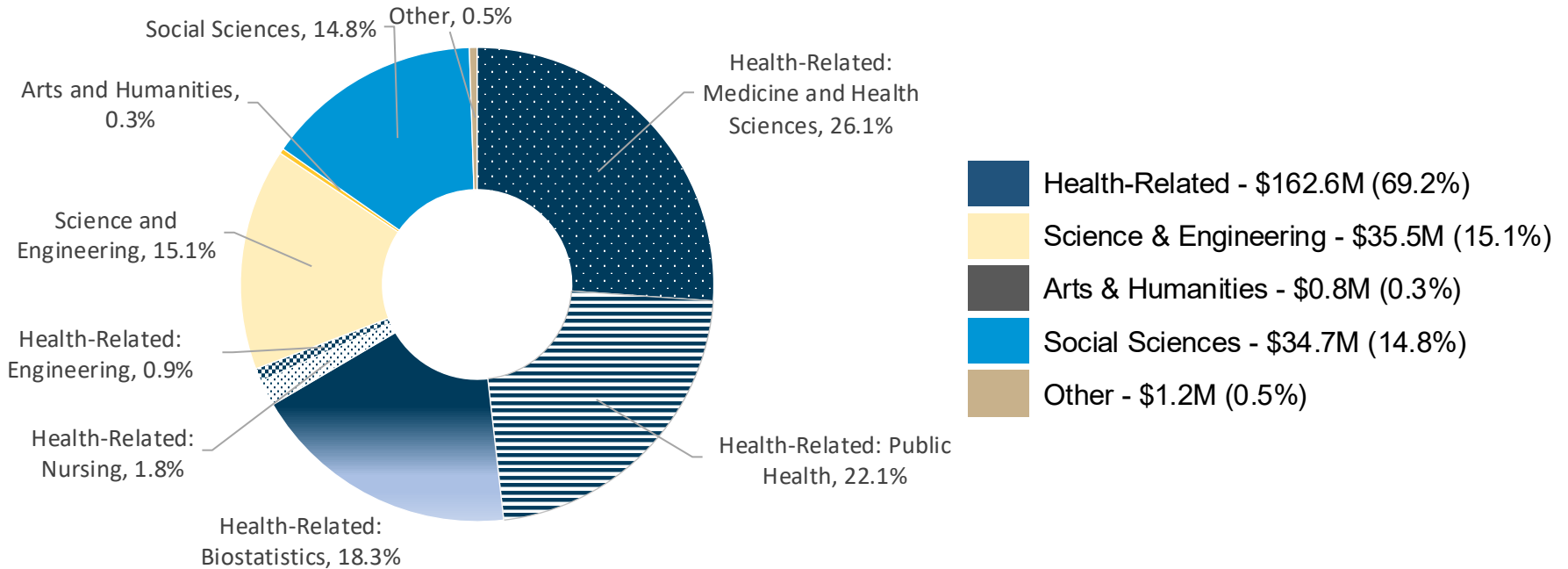


Total* R&D Expenditures by Source (FY14-24)



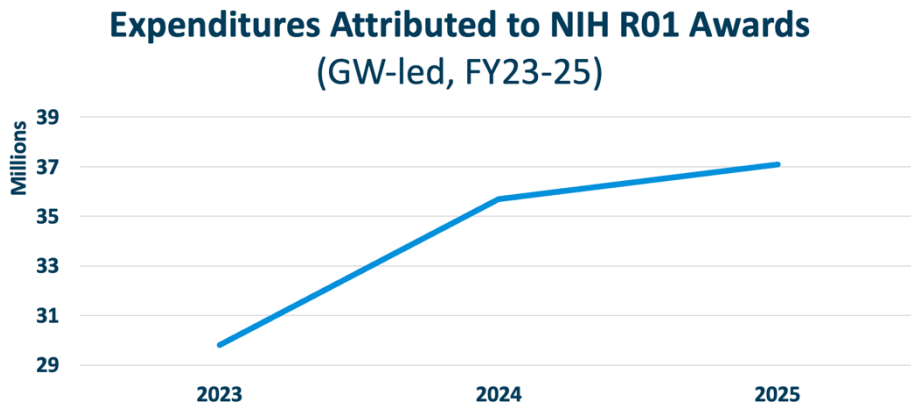
*Total includes R&D expenditures sourced to institutional funds as well as external sponsors. As reported in the annual NSF HERD survey.

Types of Sponsored Research (FY25) / \$234.9 Million



NIH R01 Awards: Success, Independence, and Impact

National Institute of Health R01 grants signify an investigator's ability to lead a substantial, long-term project with potential for high impact.



88

Active NIH R01 awards with a GW Lead (FY25)

\$37M

Research expenditures attributed to R01 awards with a GW Lead (FY25)

R01 investigators from SMHS, GWSPH, CCAS, SEAS, SON, BSC & GWNIC

GW Trends in Sponsored Research Expenditures

	Year to Year FY 24–FY 25			Year to Date Jul–Dec 2025		
	FY24	FY25	% Change	FY26 YTD	% Change YoY	To 3 Yr Avg
Total Expenditures	\$224.0M	\$234.9M	+ 4.9%	\$112.2M	- 2.4%	+ 1.6%
Federal Expenditures	\$183.7M	\$193.2M	+ 5.2%	\$90.7M	- 4.2%	0.0%
IDCs	\$45.3M	\$45.7M	+ 1.0%	\$21.6M	- 2.9%	+ 0.8%

- FY26 sponsored research expenditures are tracking slightly lower than the same period in FY25, however FY26 expenditures are up compared to the rolling three-year average.

Enhancements to Research Administration Support

Realigned sponsored research support

- Research administration Pods became [Research Support Teams \(RSTs\)](#) with an integrated reporting structure to *both* school designee and OVPR leadership.

Modernized policy

- Updated GW's [Allegations of Research Misconduct Policy](#)—outlining GW's process in accordance with federal regulations, sponsor requirements, and ethical standards.

Upgrading systems and technologies

- Launched iLab software to streamline scheduling and invoicing in shared research facilities.

Research Development Support

- Research enhancement consultants assisted 40 faculty-led projects, resulting in nearly \$3M in new funding so far
- 29 new projects received FY26 intramural funding
- Partnered on popular **faculty writing retreats** with University Writing Program and Institute for Socioeconomic Opportunity
- Convened or collaborated on seven **grant writing workshops** with more than 400 attendees overall



Enhancing the Human Research Protection Program

- **Reliance agreements:** Office of Human Research (OHR) staff now process reliance documentation concurrently with Institutional Review Board (IRB) reviews, reducing the activation time for new multi-site research.
- **External IRBs:** Testing a **redesigned institutional review process for GW researchers who request to rely on external IRBs.**
- **Compliant collaboration:** Developing new workflows and agreement templates for extending GW IRB's oversight to external individual investigators.
- **Outreach:** Increased classroom presentations on human research ethics and IRB procedures. These sessions are provided upon request.

Cross-Functional Collaboration to Advance Research

Cyberinfrastructure and research data management

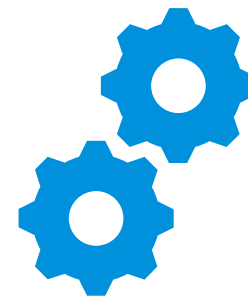
- [Cross-functional task force](#) is surveying researchers to evaluate current digital research data management support, challenges, and needs.

Hiring on research projects

- Collaborating with HRMD on “Research Ready” focus. New HR Director for research joined GW in 2025.

Managing enterprise-wide risk

- [University-wide compliance network](#) assesses and manages inherent risk of conducting research in complex regulatory environment.



Strengthening GW's Culture of Innovation

Innovator's Academy

- A [revamped extra-curricular program](#) designed to equip attendees with the skills, mindset, and confidence to navigate the Innovator's Journey.

Inaugural Dual Use Cohort of NSF I-Corps Program

- A [specialized I-Corps Short Course](#)—supporting teams exploring both commercial and federal pathways—is building partnerships across the region's defense and innovation ecosystem.

Food Innovation Track in New Venture Competition (NVC)

- New in 2026, a [new competition track for NVC participants](#), in partnership with the GW Global Food Institute.

Growing International Reach and Impact

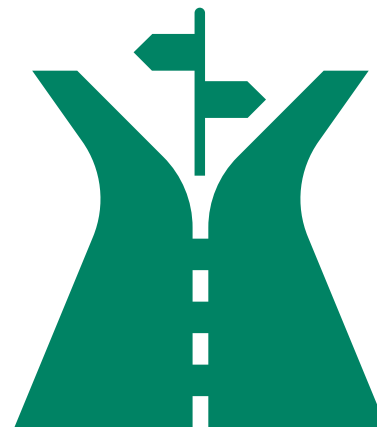
Expanding networks and exploring opportunities for research collaborations around the world.

- Deepening partnership with **National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) Global Initiatives.**
- [Global entrepreneurship programming](#) offered by the GW Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

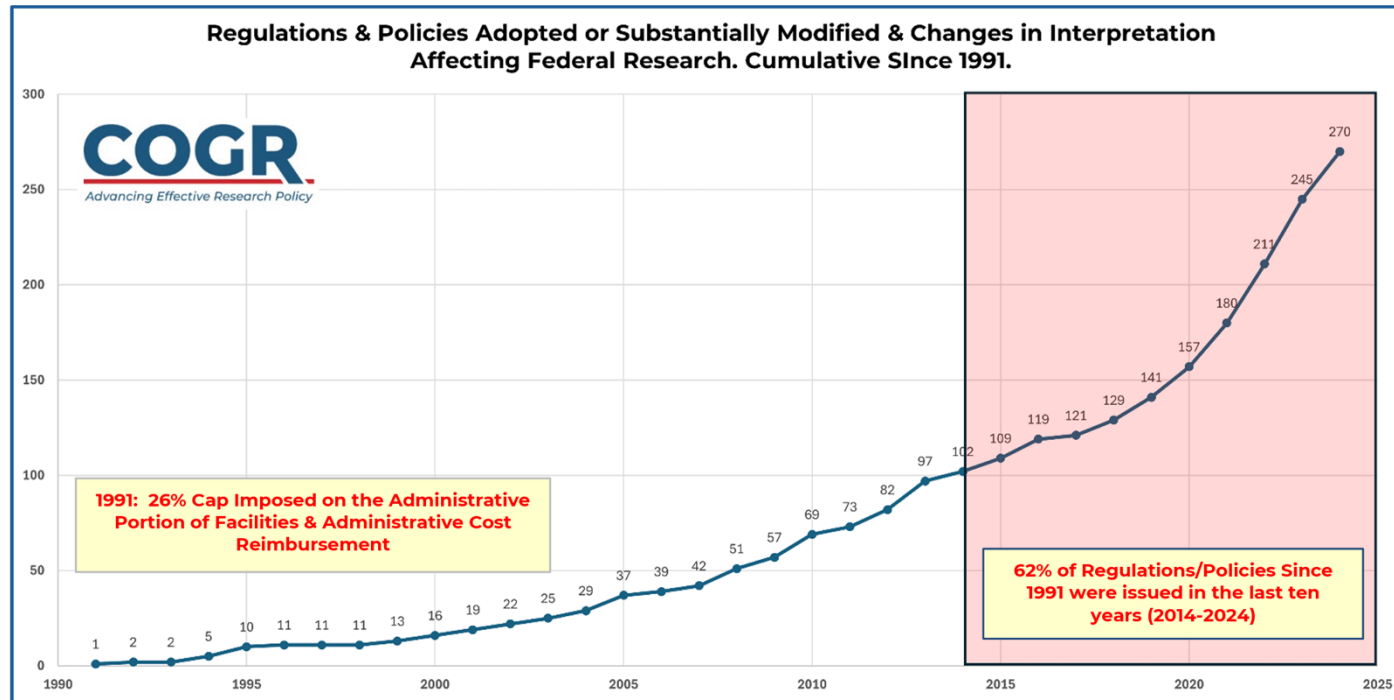


Adapting to a Rapidly Evolving Federal Landscape

- Federal award terminations
- Updated terms and conditions for sponsored awards
- Additional justification requests on spending
- Restructuring of foreign subawards
- Prohibition on substantive use of AI in proposals
- Yearly cap on submissions from an individual PI
- Government-wide focus on research security and intellectual property



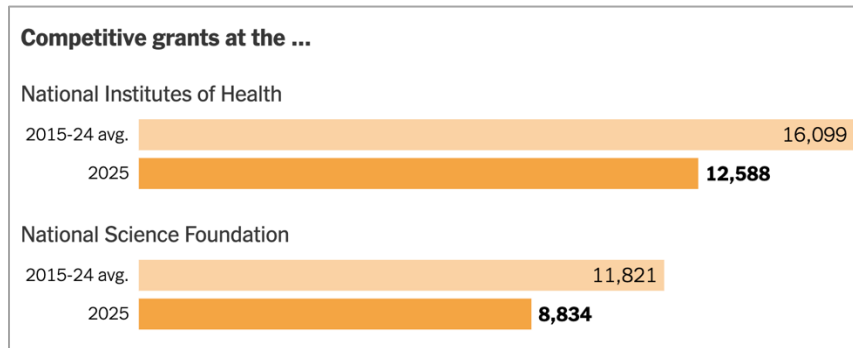
Cumulative Changes in Federal Research Requirements



Source: [Changes in Federal Research Requirements Since 1991](#), Council on Governmental Relations (COGR), January 2025

Federal Funding Landscape

- NIH and NSF awarding fewer but larger grants
- A shift towards [forward/multiyear funding model](#) could result in fewer successful proposals
- FY26 appropriations for science and technology programs unresolved
- Indirects - ongoing litigation and reform efforts



Source: [The U.S. Is Funding Fewer Grants in Every Area of Science and Medicine](#), *The New York Times*, December 2, 2025

Strengthening GW's Research Enterprise

- Stabilize research administration with an emphasis on shared services and compliance
- Align OVPR with other academic and administrative units
- Support faculty in grant writing and diversifying their funding portfolios
- Engage creatively with industry partners
- Increase visibility and external recognition of faculty excellence
- Forge international partnerships
- Promote core and shared facilities for external use



Second Annual InnovationFest

- GW's Inaugural [InnovationFest](#) (May 2025) was a university-wide showcase and celebration of impactful research, scholarship, creativity and entrepreneurship.
- Featured GW research posters, performances, panels, demonstrations, art, book signings and inventions—on the center court in the Smith Center.
- **Save the Date!**
Thursday, April 30, 2026; 10am-2pm
Charles E. Smith Center
- 2026 theme is AI Across the Disciplines



Upcoming Research & Innovation Events

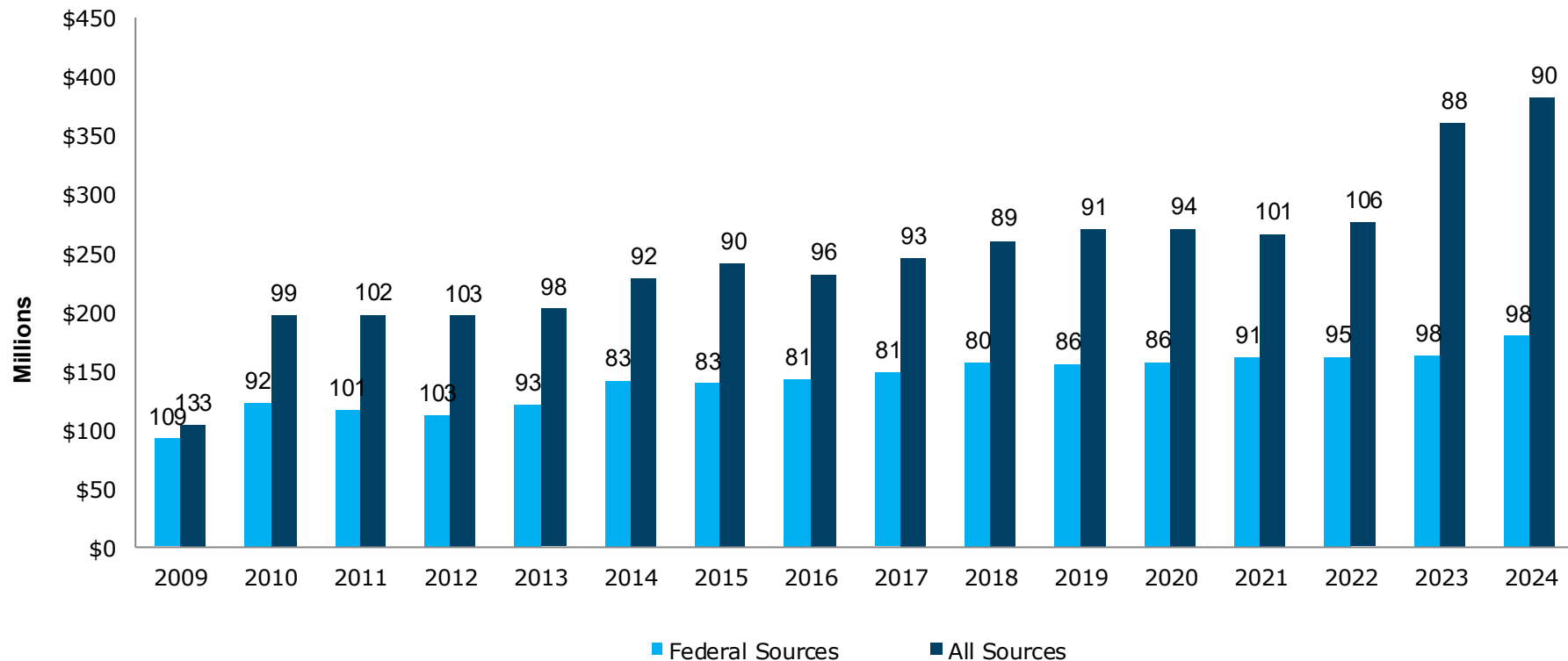
- [GW @ AAAS Annual Meeting](#)
February 12-14, 2026 (Phoenix, AZ)
- **School-based Research Showcase Events**
Various dates throughout April 2026
- **TCO Innovation Competition**
Wednesday, April 15, 2026
- [GW New Venture Competition](#)
Thursday, April 23, 2026
- [InnovationFest \(University-wide\)](#)
Thursday, April 30, 2026
- **DC Science Writers Professional Development Day**
Saturday, May 9, 2026



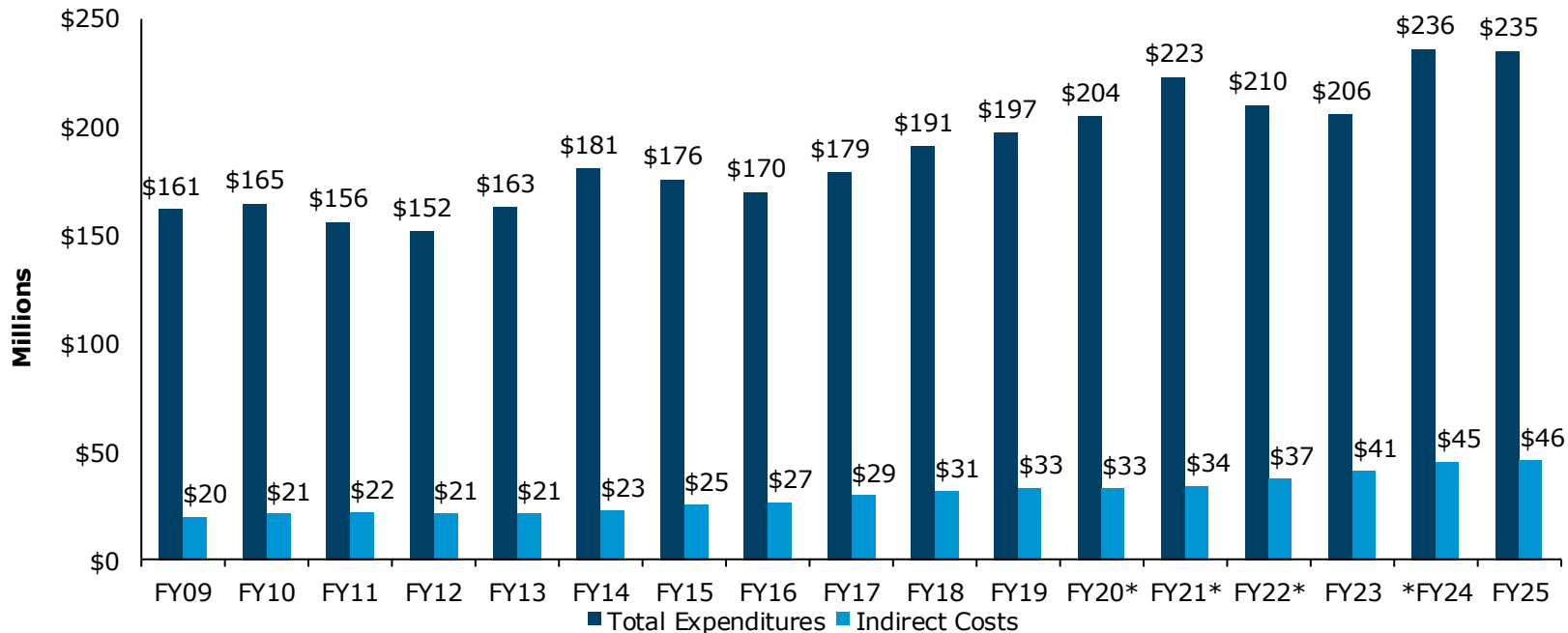
THANK YOU!

APPENDIX

Research Expenditures with HERD Ranking (FY09-24)



Year-End Total Expenditures & Indirects (FY09-25)



*Total expenditures include \$8.8M in CARES Act funding in FY20; \$27.3M in FY21; \$12.8M in FY22; \$3M in FY23; and \$11.7M in FY24. CARES Act funding is not included in NSF HERD survey data.

Impact of Executive Orders

Externally-Funded Award Terminations (as of December 22, 2025)

	Total	Direct Awards	Subawards
Award Terminations	62	35	27

- Terminations span 10 schools and units
- \$7.2M loss in current period, \$10.5M loss in out years
- 17 appeals filed in close consultation with PIs and legal counsel

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