Continuing resolutions (CRs) are an all too common tool in the annual appropriations process. CRs avert a government shutdown and ensure the government continues to operate while Congress takes additional time to pass funding legislation after the start of a new fiscal year. However, they can also throw a wrench into the normal operations of government agencies and the grantees they fund.

1. CRs can reduce funding for research that is already underway.

CRs can put funding pressure on researchers.

When funding is reduced, even temporarily — during a CR — researchers must find ways to make up the difference to keep their research projects active. This can be particularly difficult for young researchers who do not have other sources of financial support.

2. CRs can put funding pressure on researchers.

3. CRs can delay the start of important new initiatives.

Large NIH initiatives, particularly, may be delayed given the uncertainty around eventual funding levels.

Reductions in research funding and delays of any kind impact discovery and innovation.

Strong, sustainable and predictable funding is critical to the NIH and the medical research it supports.