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A note from our CEO Rose Li

This year, RLA has been celebrating 15 years of helping to move science forward. We are committed to making RLA an employer of choice and will add new benefits in 2019.



Escaping a Game of Rooms in March



RLA Family BBQ in August

We are delighted to welcome three new members to our team:



*Michelle Bryce
Business/Accounting Manager*



*Lucas Smalldon
Science Writer*



*Gregory Richards
Project Assistant*

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Danyelle Winchester (RLA employee working as a Health Specialist in the NIH Office of Strategic Coordination) is a co-recipient of the 2018 NIH Director's Award to the H3Africa Stage II Team, for "exceptional leadership and dedication in implementing Stage II of the Human Heredity and Health in Africa program."

We are also pleased to announce that Project Assistant Valery Leng recently earned CompTIA Security+ certification.

Recent projects

National Institute on Aging (NIA) Office of Communications and Public Liaison

Recognizing the persistent shortage of volunteer participants for clinical research on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, NIA launched an effort to develop a [national recruitment strategy](#) that would unite relevant stakeholders in implementing practical solutions. NIA convened a steering committee and topical working groups to draft initial concepts, on which NIA sought broad public input. RLA supported NIA by analyzing and integrating the public input with the initial working group drafts into a single cohesive document: "[Together We Make the Difference: National Strategy for Recruitment and Participation in Alzheimer's and Related Dementias Clinical Research](#)." We also developed a stakeholder engagement plan to facilitate coordination among key stakeholders seeking to translate the Strategy into action.

Heart Valve Voice

[Heart Valve Voice US](#), a patient advocacy organization dedicated to improving health for people living with heart valve disease, received a grant from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to convene a Stakeholder Advisory board to develop research questions that, if answered, would improve the lives of heart valve disease patients, survivors, and caregivers. RLA supported Heart Valve Voice by preparing background materials, recording brainstorming sessions, and developing a summary report. Over a period of 2 months, RLA integrated suggestions that arose from three Board meetings and an online survey of nearly 100 stakeholders into the [final report](#) that Heart Valve Voice submitted to PCORI.

U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

RLA provided evaluation services for two events held on May 16 by DOT: (1) Small Business Opportunities Day and (2) [National Asian American & Pacific Islander \(AAPI\) Heritage Month Celebration](#). RLA assisted DOT with outreach to AAPI business and community leaders, developed and analyzed post-event customer satisfaction survey responses, and prepared an interim report with descriptive statistics and suggestions for improving future meetings. In September, RLA was awarded a separate contract to augment DOT staffing with program analysis support.

National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS)

As part of our 5-year contract to provide comprehensive meeting support to NCVHS, RLA redesigned the [NCVHS website](#) to make the committee's work products more easily accessible and compliant with the Section 508 Amendment to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. In addition, in August, RLA produced a [report](#) that summarized the discussions and findings of an NCVHS-convened expert roundtable on health terminologies.

13th Annual NIH Pain Consortium Symposium on Advances in Pain Research

This year's Symposium offered researchers and health care providers a chance to learn about recent advances in pain research, clarify priorities for ongoing efforts, and discuss opportunities to improve knowledge and treatment of pain. RLA produced the [meeting report](#).

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