



Summer is here! Spending more time with the family, soaking up the sun on the beach, firing up the grill—and doing it all to the tune of cicada Brood X, which sounds eerily like the evil chorus to a Disney movie, don't you think? For many, it is a beloved season.

RLA is pleased to share some of our own adventures that will *move science forward* this season. We established a new Center for Scientific Research, expanding our capabilities and engaging in sponsored research projects. RLA is also showcasing our commitment to fields that we're passionate about, as our own President & CEO, Dr. Rose Li, assumes increasing responsibilities to realize education reform in Maryland. Like the many growing things in our summer landscape, RLA is growing, too!

## New services and capabilities

The cicadas aren't the only thing expanding this season, but RLA's expansion is a tad more strategic than predator satiation. RLA recently established the **Center for Scientific Research**, a unit within the company focused on research projects and scientific program management. All current and future RLA research grants will sit within this Center, which has a dedicated Program Coordinator.

We are also pleased to highlight our Conference Logistics Team and Technical Support Team as two branches within our expanded Multimedia & Event Production Division. Our Science Writing & Communications Division houses our writing, analysis, and design teams, with all Division and Center members providing cross-functional support to one another as needed.

RLA continues to partner with our clients by conducting research, analyzing datasets, developing technical communications, and coordinating workshops.

## Notable events

We haven't branched out into entomology conferences yet, but RLA's Virtual Conference and Writing Teams have been busy at work supporting or preparing to support meetings in a wide variety of exciting fields. These include the following:

- [New Hampshire Childhood Cancer Conference](#) in collaboration with Dartmouth College
- National Institutes of Health Common Fund [High-Risk, High-Reward Research Symposium](#)
- National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) [Second Annual HEAL Initiative Investigator Meeting](#)
- NINDS [Curing Coma Virtual Symposium](#)
- National Institute on Aging [Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Workshop](#)
- [IMPACT Collaboratory Annual Meeting](#)
- NINDS [Health Disparities and Inequities in Neurological Disorders \(HEADWAY\) Workshop](#)

We look forward to supporting upcoming events that will take place in person or leveraging new technologies in a hybrid format!

## Rose Li appointed to Accountability and Implementation Board

The Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) was established by the Maryland General Assembly as an independent unit of state government, charged with developing a comprehensive implementation plan for the education reforms contained in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, stating that he has great confidence in her dedication to public service, [appointed Dr. Rose Li](#) to a 5-year term as a member of the AIB Nominating Committee, with responsibility for recommending members for appointment by the Governor to the AIB.



Her appointment follows service on the Maryland State Board of Education since 2016. Read the press release [here](#).

## Showcasing our passion for the health and wellbeing of older adults



Dr. Rose Li [testified](#) on March 5 before the Maryland Health and Human Services Subcommittee in her role as chair of the Maryland State Commission on Aging to express her support for the innovative programs at the Maryland Department of Aging and to advocate for increases in funding, highlighting in particular the Communities for Life program, which is a newly established program that partners with nonprofits to provide services to help seniors in the community stay in their homes.

Rose has worked with the National Institute on Aging in several capacities since 1992, and she shares a deep commitment to supporting genetic, biological, behavioral, social, and economic research on aging to meet the challenges and needs of older adults.

## Expanding the scope of our diversity work

RLA is proud to highlight our work with the National Institute on Drug Abuse Office of Diversity and Health Disparities (ODHD), which recently awarded RLA a 5-year contract to provide logistics and conference support. RLA supports ODHD's Diversity Scholars Network and is delighted to help advance its mission.

## Highlighting and growing our team

In recognition of his individual efforts, RLA Associate David Dzmashvili has been awarded a Burning Bear Award for helping the Operations Team in the NIH Office of Strategic Coordination in a time of need. Despite an increased workload following the departure of a team member, Dave volunteered to take on additional responsibilities. He ensured that the programs were well supported even as he continued learning about new tasks for his own assignments. Our client notes, "It's that sort of effort and generosity that keeps our office working as well as it does."

RLA continues to welcome new team members to meet the needs of our clients. Recent additions include our Multimedia & Event Production Division Director, Science Writers, Program Coordinators, and Technical Meeting Managers. Current openings are posted on our [website](#). We welcome partner or client referrals for Associates who can be an asset to our mission to move science forward.