



Welcome to 2021! May the turning of the calendar and celebrating the Lunar New Year of the Ox on February 12 bring opportunities to connect with loved ones and begin new adventures.

RLA is pleased to share some of our own adventures that will move science forward in 2021, a congressional authorization that positively impacts small businesses, and a chance to see our President and CEO, Dr. Rose Li, at the virtual Montgomery County Women's Legislative Briefing at the end of the month.

RLA research on Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders

RLA's work on three research projects have contributed to policy-related understanding of the AAPI experience in the United States, particularly during COVID-19. The first of these projects was an original analysis of AAPI-related data from the national Understanding America Survey, presented by Dr. Rose Li at the NIA-funded COVID-19 Work in Progress conference organized by the University of Southern California.

In addition to developing our own analysis of the AAPI experience of COVID-19, RLA worked closely with the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders (PAC-AAPI) and the Executive Director and staff of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to develop the 2020 report *[Advancing Economic Empowerment for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders: A Call to Action](#)*. The report provides a roadmap for the Executive Branch to implement transformational solutions that ensure full AAPI participation in the U.S. economy in 2021 and beyond.

During the coming months, RLA will bring the two strands of our AAPI research together by working with PAC-AAPI Commissioners to conduct a national survey of up to 1,000 AAPI small business owners to gather data on how they have experienced COVID-19.

Four national strategic public health plans

Although public health news has been understandably consumed by COVID-19 in 2020, other major public health threats persist. RLA was honored to work with the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy (OIDP) to produce three ambitious national strategic plans to combat [HIV](#), [Viral Hepatitis](#), and [Sexually Transmitted Infections](#). RLA provided editing and design support for a fourth strategic plan on [Vaccines](#).

To produce these plans, RLA collected, analyzed, and synthesized epidemiologic data in coordination with public health subject matter experts, reviewed and selected data points derived from various national behavioral and epidemiologic databases and surveys to provide profiles of these infectious diseases, created common design themes and templates with a more modern feel, and orchestrated the document production process. Please visit the [case study](#) on our website for more details on our work.

HIV

VIRAL HEPATITIS

STI

VACCINES

National Strategic Plan
A Roadmap to End the Epidemic
for the United States | 2021-2025



National Strategic Plan
A Roadmap to Elimination
for the United States | 2021-2025



Sexually Transmitted Infections
National Strategic Plan
for the United States | 2021-2025



National Strategic Plan
for the United States | 2021-2025



Upcoming events

RLA's Virtual Conference and Writing Teams worked tirelessly through 2020 to support our clients as their meetings transformed from in-person gatherings to virtual events, and there are no signs of slowing in 2021! While we all look forward to the day when face-to-face meetings safely return, research, collaboration, and discussion can thrive even in virtual environments. Our team is coordinating or reporting on a diverse array of virtual events:

- Science of Behavior Change Capstone Conference: Celebrating Accomplishments and Looking to the Future Celebrating Accomplishments and Looking to the Future by the National Institutes of Health Common Fund
- Current Innovations in Probability-based Household Internet Panel Research by the USC Dornsife Center for Economic and Social Research
- The Science of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia for Social Scientists by the USC Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics
- Microphysiological Systems: Bridging Human and Animal Research by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
- Brain Connectivity Workshop Series by the BRAIN Initiative and the Department of Energy Office of Science
- Achieving Equity in the NIH Helping to End Addiction Long-term (HEAL) Initiative

Rose Li presenting at Women's Legislative Briefing

Dr. Rose Li will participate in the virtual Montgomery County Commission for Women's 41st Annual Women's Legislative Briefing on January 31. The [Women's Legislative Briefing](#) is the premier and longest-standing women's legislative event in the state of Maryland. Coordinated by the Montgomery County Commission for Women, the event assembles advocates, policymakers, and emerging leaders to empower, engage, and mobilize Marylanders around issues affecting women and girls throughout the state. RLA's CEO, Dr. Rose Li, will be a panelist at the January 31, 2021, event, sharing her experiences as a small business owner, Chair of the Maryland Commission on Aging, and Member of the Maryland Board of Education.

Congressional extension to 8(a) program participants

Congress has authorized a 1-year extension for firms such as RLA participating in the 8(a) business development program, due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. A certified 8(a) small business since 2014, RLA continues to leverage the opportunities of the program to grow our capabilities and abilities to support research organizations in moving science forward. RLA will remain eligible for 8(a) awards through October 2025. We appreciate the efforts by Congress and the U.S. Small Business Administration to help small firms overcome the multiple challenges posed by the pandemic.

We are growing!

RLA continues to welcome new team members to meet the needs of our clients. Current openings, most immediately for a science writer/analyst and executive assistant/analyst, are posted on our [website](#). We welcome referrals for Associates who you believe would be an asset to our mission.

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