



Autumn is nearly here! With the help of some chemistry, we'll soon be treated to those stunning reds, golden-yellows, and orange colors dripping off the trees: the shorter days and cooler temperatures trigger the leaves' green chlorophyll to break down, allowing other pigments to shine through, before the leaves are lost in preparation for winter.

Speaking of leaves, we chatted with one of our clients recently about the meaning of the leaf pictured in the RLA logo you see above. Some of you may recognize that it's an oak leaf, which has often been used as a symbol of wisdom (through its association with Zeus in Greek mythology) and of endurance (through the characteristics of the oak tree itself). We expect to continue to bring both of those qualities to the many exciting projects we have with new and long-standing clients.

## New research for a new season

Fall is a busy time. From the start of another pandemic school year to preparation for the holiday season, we all find ourselves with more to do—and RLA is no exception. Here's a bit of what we—and you!—have been up to.

- **Data Security.** RLA recently supported the [National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics' Privacy, Confidentiality, and Security Subcommittee Meeting](#), which examined the current state of cybersecurity in order to make health care data security recommendations to the HHS Secretary.
- **Parkinson's Disease.** RLA is proud of its work with FNIH's [Accelerating Medicines Partnership Parkinson's Disease \(AMP PD\)](#), which held its annual meeting on August 6-9. It has been exciting to see this partnership evolve over the past 3 years from the facilitation of data collection to analysis.
- **Pain.** For the [NIH Pain Consortium](#), which facilitates important interdisciplinary research, RLA recently hosted a [webinar](#) featuring speakers, panel discussions, and poster sessions for early career investigators.
- **Mapping the Brain.** RLA helped showcase new research from the [NIH BRAIN Initiative](#), which recently partnered with the Department of Energy Office of Science to co-host a [workshop](#) series that assembled experts on state-of-the-art technologies to assess opportunities and challenges in generating complete atlases of brain connectivity.

## RLA wins new work

RLA is pleased to announce the award of a 5-year \$5.6M contract with the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to provide technical, analytical, and logistical support services to its Office of Extramural Research, Education and Priority Populations (OEREP). We previously worked as a subcontractor from 2011 to 2016 to produce summary statements for OEREP's review meetings. Dr. Rose Li notes, "We are delighted once again to have the opportunity to support AHRQ in its important mission of making health care safer and more accessible, equitable, and affordable."

We have expanded our support to the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health (OASH). RLA's team will coordinate meetings and provide scientific writing services for a variety of Federal Advisory Councils, offices, and other divisions within OASH under this 5-year contract.

As a minority- and woman-owned business, RLA values diversity, equity, and inclusion. We are proud to work with the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) on an article about increasing diversity in STEM through the [NIDA Undergraduate Student Summer Research Internship Program](#).

Under a recently awarded contract to provide programmatic and evaluation support to the National Institute of General Medical Sciences and the Common Fund Diversity Program Consortium, RLA is also facilitating a working group of experts to determine best practices to measure diversity and inclusion work going forward.

## A note to our federal clients

The Micro-Purchase Threshold is \$10K and the Simplified Acquisition Threshold is \$250K in 2021! RLA accepts government credit cards.

The end of the federal fiscal year is less than 30 days away, and funds may be available for obligation before they expire on September 30. RLA can act nimbly to help our research-focused clients invest in programs that move science forward. As an 8(a), EDWOSB, SDB, and WOSB, we work with agencies to apply [maximum value and scientific expertise](#) to meet set-aside goals. We can provide quick and responsive proposals, quotes, and price estimates for set-asides, direct awards, or through any of our available vehicles, including our GSA Schedule 47QRAA19D00D7.

## RLA sponsors Engineering Tomorrow's Careers camps

[Engineering Tomorrow's Careers \(ETC\) Camp](#) is a summer program for aspiring women in STEM run by the Society of Women Engineers at the College of Engineering at UW-Madison. Participants engaged in activities with RLA leaders in the industry who encouraged them to pursue their interest in STEM fields. RLA Science Writers Bethany Stokes and Caroline Sferrazza found it rewarding and inspiring to discuss the importance and principles of science communications with women who will likely one day be our peers within the STEM community.

## RLA remembers Dr. Miriam Kelty



RLA mourns the passing of Dr. Miriam Kelty on June 6, 2021. She is the archetype of someone whose career in science has made an impact on many lives. We remember her for her contributions to the National Institute on Aging and in the area of bioethics, and as an advocate for women scientists and professionals. Her wise counsel will be sorely missed.

## We are growing

RLA continues to welcome new team members to meet the needs of our clients. We recently convened outdoors at Cabin John Park for our Fall Hike & Picnic to celebrate the season and catch up with one another in person. Current openings are posted on our [website](#). We welcome partner or client referrals for Associates you believe would be an asset to our mission.

## RLA on Twitter

Follow RLA on Twitter! We tweet about health and science-related topics that inspire us—and we hope they inspire you, too. Please like, retweet, and let us know what science is catching your attention today! Follow us [here](#).

