



The closing of the year is a time of reflection and renewal. We celebrate with family and friends, share memories and traditions, and take stock of the past 12 months while imagining what lies ahead in the new year.

RLA is pleased to share our own reflections on a productive year and resolutions to move science forward in the new year and beyond. From memorializing the National HIV/AIDS Strategy to supporting new initiatives to address health disparities within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), we are excited by the continued progress these efforts will drive.

Honoring the legacy of Dr. Francis Collins



Dr. Francis Collins recently [announced](#) his retirement from the top job at NIH, closing a groundbreaking tenure marked by accomplishments that will resonate for decades to come. While serving under three consecutive administrations, Dr. Collins built coalitions across the public and private sectors to help move science forward with collaborations such as the Accelerating Medicines Partnership® (AMP). AMP's public- and private-sector scientists inaugurated new approaches to difficult-to-treat diseases, beginning with Alzheimer's, diabetes, and autoimmune disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis and lupus. Along the way, RLA has helped to facilitate this important work by providing science writing support, which we continue to do as AMP expands to address other challenging diseases.

Dr. Collins' AMP model set the stage for science's rapid response to the COVID-19 pandemic through the launch of the Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines (ACTIV) partnership. Public and private collaborators, drawn together under the umbrella of the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH), moved quickly from setting up master protocols for therapeutic and vaccine trials to launching clinical trials and delivering life-saving medical advances to the public. As with AMP, RLA has supported this critical work by delivering ACTIV's meeting notes and reports, totaling more than 450 in 2021 alone.

[Reflecting on his legacy](#) on a recent podcast, Dr. Collins highlighted unique opportunities to initiate large-scale collaborations such as AMP and ACTIV. "As NIH director, you have this convening power," Collins observed. "You can look across the whole landscape of biomedical research and identify areas that are ready for something big to happen, but that isn't going to happen spontaneously without some encouragement and pulling people together from different disciplines... That has been an amazing experience." We are honored to have played a role in these efforts.

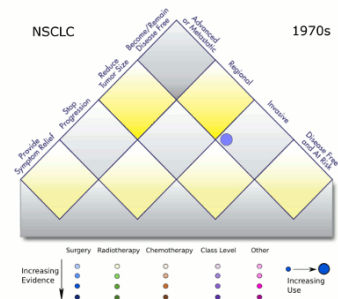
Celebrating successes and ready for new endeavors

Nature may slow down in the colder months, but between the holidays and wrapping up the remainder of the year, RLA has been busier than ever! Here's a sampling of projects that have occupied us during the last few months of 2021 and will continue to flourish in 2022:

- Renewal of a 5-year contract to provide the NIH Office of Strategic Coordination with professional and logistical support.
- Support for the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Division of Epidemiology, Services, and Prevention Research Data Safety and Monitoring Boards.
- Meeting and logistical support for the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Office of Research Integrity and Office of Minority Health.
- Logistics and communications support for meetings sponsored by the National Institute on Aging (NIA), the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.
- Coordination of NIA data monitoring committees for the Health and Retirement Study, Understanding America Study, National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health, and the National Health and Aging Trends Study.
- Providing executive secretariat services to the NIA Council quinquennial review of the Division of Aging Biology.
- Logistics and writing support for NIDA's Office of Diversity and Health Disparities, including drafting two journal articles slated for publication in 2022.

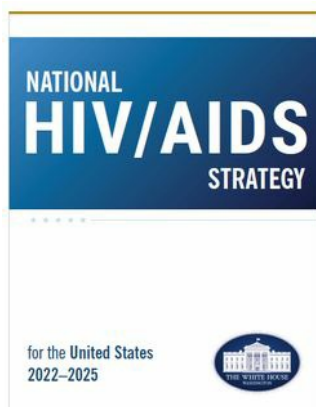
Lasting contributions to advance cancer treatment and care

Since 2012, RLA has collaborated with Lilly Oncology to promote strategic improvements in scientific progress against cancer. Through this collaboration, RLA developed and launched the **Continuous Innovation Indicators (CII)**, an online platform that records, visualizes, and measures progress in the treatment of 12 cancer types over time. The CII's unique representation of historical published clinical data allows users to identify long-term trends, high-impact advances, and unmet needs, thus informing discussions about advancements in oncology innovation. RLA has generated several **reports, presentations, policy memos, and peer-reviewed publications**, including a proof-of-concept **paper** on homomorphic encryption to support personalized medicine in oncology that was selected by the International Medical Informatics Association as one of the three best papers in clinical research informatics published in 2019.



As RLA reflects on projects such as the CII, we aspire to follow Dr. Collins's example by finding more opportunities to create connections across disparate knowledge bases that can initiate and sustain future innovations.

Refining the national strategy to end the HIV epidemic



This year, RLA worked with the Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy and the White House Office of National AIDS Policy to develop an updated **National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS)** for 2022–2025. President Biden released the NHAS on December 1, 2021, to mark World AIDS Day with a reaffirmation of the Strategy's vision to prevent new HIV infections and ensure that all persons with HIV live free of stigma and discrimination and have access to high-quality care and treatment.

This important undertaking was brought to fruition in no small part due to RLA's Nancy Tuveson, who worked diligently on the planning, logistics, design, and editing of the NHAS. Navigating tight timelines, complex interagency clearance processes, and accessibility requirements, Nancy delivered the precision and

insight our clients have come to value in RLA. We close this year by applauding her outstanding work and looking forward to the NHAS improving the lives of persons with HIV and effecting progress toward ending the HIV epidemic once and for all.

Transforming healthy aging with innovative collaborations

RLA is excited to begin 2022 with an important step forward in its role as the Coordinating Center of the NIA a2 Collective. Comprising three Artificial Intelligence and Technology Collaboratories for Aging Research (AITCs), the a2 Collective represents a \$65 million investment by NIA to broadly harness innovative potential to accelerate applications of AI technology to improve the health and care of aging Americans. As the a2 Coordinating Center, RLA will harmonize the efforts of [HopkinsAITC](#), [MassAITC](#), and [PennAITech](#), fueling collaboration and fostering advances in AI-supported technology.



The a2 Collective's approach reimagines the parameters of scientific collaboration to focus the collective energy and expertise of industry, academia, health care, and venture capitalists on helping Americans live longer, healthier lives. That ambitious move beyond traditional barriers begins in January 4, with the launch of the a2 Pilot Awards Competition, which will match a2 Collective funding and AITC mentorship with promising AI pilot programs with the potential to improve the lives of older Americans, including those with dementia. For competition details and to apply, visit the [a2 website](#).

"We are excited to be part of the a2 Collective and especially hope to engage traditionally underrepresented pilot project applicants who are spearheading research and development in the transformative fields of AI, technology, and aging."

Dr. Rose Li, Principal Investigator, a2 Coordinating Center

Growing our team

See our latest [job opening](#). We are seeking a Special Assistant to the Associate Director to support a federal client in a wide range of projects and activities. Strong candidates will have experience in the following areas:

- Working effectively in hybrid and remote environments.
- Coordinating meetings or managing events for federal government agencies or organizations.
- Communicating with stakeholders at all levels of an organization and with external vendors.

RLA on LinkedIn



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

rla@roseliassociates.com | www.roseliassociates.com | (301) 530-5011