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For 20 years, RLA has been supporting clients, strengthening partnerships, and helping to launch new initiatives that will move science forward for decades to come. We're thrilled to continue to provide science management support for one of our very first clients, the National Institute on Aging (NIA), under a recently awarded 5-year contract, and are just as eager to collaborate with new clients, including the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the newly formed Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Long COVID Research and Practice.

Foundations for future growth

We have been privileged to support our clients as they have made mission-critical program advancements and strides in building infrastructure that will result in future returns in service to the American public—and drive scientific advances with the potential to improve health worldwide. RLA's recent and ongoing efforts include:

- [Coordinating the NIA Artificial Intelligence and Technology Collaboratories \(AITC\) for Aging Research program](#). The program was referenced in a Sept. 6 [New York Times](#) opinion piece about the prime opportunity to shape innovative technologies to serve the needs of older adults. Join us for the [second annual a2 National Symposium](#) March 19-20 in Philadelphia to learn more about NIA investments to empower innovation in AI/tech + aging!
- Soliciting and analyzing stakeholder input about the revision of research misconduct regulation last updated in 2005. Our team looks forward to providing the HHS Office of Research Integrity (ORI) with writing and evaluation support in drafting the updates, training research integrity officers in administering the new regulation, and assisting research institutions in understanding the changes once the regulation is implemented. RLA will also provide logistics support for ORI committee members attending the eighth World Conference on Research Integrity, to be held in June 2024 in Athens, Greece.
- Coordinating events to commemorate 75th anniversaries of two NIH institutes. The National Institute of Mental Health kicked off its celebration of [75 years of work](#) transforming the understanding and treatment of mental illness with its Evolution of Mental Health Research symposium, while the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) continued to [celebrate the past and chart the future](#) of dental, oral, and craniofacial research with a symposium for NICDR-supported trainees from all career stages.
- Providing the NIH Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH) with a broad range of communications, outreach, and logistics support as part of the Booz Allen Hamilton team. We are excited to support ORWH's strategic priorities—which include ensuring women and minorities are appropriately represented in NIH-supported research studies—and to communicate the importance of these efforts to the NIH community and public.

Cell by cell: new structures for patient safety

RLA is honored to provide critical support to the HHS Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy (OIDP) to establish the United States as a global leader in advancing safe, equitable care for patients receiving transfusions. RLA's Division of Scientific Research and Analysis is engaged in foundational work supporting prospective efforts to establish a national red blood cell (RBC) antibody exchange that would provide access to real-time transfused patient data. RLA recently provided OIDP with a report detailing national and international efforts to develop RBC patient data and electronic health record exchanges, with the goal of reducing or eliminating risks of blood incompatibility that can result in poor, and potentially fatal, health outcomes for patients. If successful, the U.S. national RBC exchange would be only the second stood up worldwide, after the Netherlands established the first national program in 2007.

Building local strength to weather global challenges

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) Office of Climate Change and Health Equity (OCCHE), established in 2021, represents a powerful federal effort to build climate resilience in vulnerable communities in the face of this emerging global challenge. RLA recently supported OASH and partners in holding a federal summit in Washington, D.C., to raise awareness about climate change, develop cross-industry connections, identify opportunities for collaboration, and leverage existing programs and resources to address climate disaster and environmental justice. From helping to engage stakeholders and convene key partners to enhancing climate resilience resources that empower communities, RLA is proud to support OCCHE's work to reduce vulnerability to climate hazards and advance health equity.

RLA's growing team



RLA is pleased to welcome **Carrine Todman-Lewis, DBA, MTA, CMP, CGMP, CVEP**, as Director of Multimedia and Event Production. Dr. Todman-Lewis brings a rich background that bridges operational know-how with an intellectual approach. She earned her Master of Tourism Administration, Event and Meeting Management, from the George Washington University School of Business and completed her Doctor of Business Administration at Walden University. Her dissertation, *Strategies for Crisis Preparedness of Tourist Destinations*, has logged more than 4,600 downloads and she brings more than 15 years of hands-on event planning experience. As a former RLA meeting planner, she's well-versed in our commitment to exceptional client service and looks forward to contributing to an ecosystem where we can do our best work, anticipating client needs and consistently performing above and beyond expectations.

As RLA's work—and client base—continues to expand, we are excited to share that we are hiring for several positions. See our current [job openings](#) for opportunities to join our team as a Senior Scientific Research Manager, Science Writer, or Meeting Planner/Coordinator.

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