

What a strange summer. We hope that you are all finding ways to recover from Zoom fatigue, stay cool in the August heat, and maybe even enjoy travel, staycations, or just hobbies at home. Of course, August heat means that the end of the federal fiscal year is near. As we look toward the fall, RLA is excited to introduce new team members, highlight our support of COVID-19 research, and bring our clients new ideas for meeting and collaborating as we work together to move science forward.

Rapid response virtual conferences

RLA is pleased to offer <u>rapid-response virtual conferencing</u> <u>services</u> in support of research organizations seeking to move science forward.

We have coordinated and managed dozens of virtual meetings since Spring 2020, when in-person gatherings were restricted. Highlights include supporting a 3-day <u>NIA Virtual Summit for Dementia Care</u>, spanning several weeks to avoid screen burnout, and featuring a <u>virtual Twitter poster session</u>. This summit offered 26 presentations and averaged more than 500 viewers per installment. In August and September we will support workshops, advisory councils, and a Vaccine Confidence meeting with internationally notable speakers and presenters.



Support for the FNIH ACTIV project

RLA isn't just helping researchers work through the pandemic. We are also supporting the researchers who are working to *end* it.

Since April 2020, RLA has supported the <u>Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions</u> <u>and Vaccines</u> (ACTIV) project launched by the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH). ACTIV brings together global leaders in biomedical research to orchestrate a pandemic response framework and to expedite testing of the highest-potential therapeutics.

RLA has provided science writing support to ACTIV's leadership and nearly 15 fast-moving Working Groups responsible for mobilizing national trial infrastructure. Working on 24-hour turnarounds, we have delivered more than 140 high-level meeting syntheses to facilitate the effort's communication and decision-making.

We are grateful to be able to play a small part in assisting the many researchers across the country who have devoted themselves to eliminating the threat of COVID-19.

A note to our federal clients

The Micro-Purchase Threshold is \$25K and the Simplified Acquisition Threshold is \$750K in

2020! RLA accepts government credit cards.

The end of the federal fiscal year is less than 60 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 <u>maximum value and scientific expertise</u> 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.

New team members

RLA has welcomed many new members to our staff in 2020 and invite you to learn more about them on our **website**.

- Terrence Calhoun, Director, Conference Services
- Dana Carluccio, Director, Science Writing and Communication
- Lorene Eberhardt, Director, Operations
- CeCe Chen-LeBauer, Business Manager
- Linda Parker, Business Development Manager
- Elena Verba, Office Manager
- David Dzamashvilli, Associate
- Grace Maa, Accounting Associate
- Caroline Sferrazza, Associate
- Kim Williamson, Associate
- Derek Smith, Project Analyst/Assistant

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STAY CONNECTED:

