

IMPACT REPORT 2020



Health
Research
Alliance

Working together to optimize investment in health research and training.

LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

15 years ago, HRA was newly incorporated as a 501(c)3 with just 5 members and the unified goal of advancing biomedical research. Today, HRA stands at 90+ organizations funding 18+ billion dollars in health research. It's grown from periodic, informal meetings to two formal Members Meetings each year that address a variety of topics crucial to increasing impact of research funding.



"Zooming" in 2020

Despite the challenges of 2020, HRA has not wavered in its mission. We held both Members Meetings virtually, with record attendance and participation. We rose to the challenge that everyone faced and provided timely insights and guidance as organizations transitioned their own meetings to virtual formats.

Motivated by our active membership, we are looking forward to the impact HRA will have in the years to come. We are developing new trainings, workshops, opportunities for collaboration, and a new strategic plan to better meet the needs of our membership.

Maryrose



Maryrose Franko, PhD
Executive Director



Annette Huetter
Director of Operations

TOP 10 RESOURCES FROM 2020

[Transitioning to Virtual Scientific Meetings](#)

[Running a Virtual Peer Review](#)

[Supporting Early Career Scientists Post-COVID](#)

[Using HRA Analyzer to Make Data-Driven Decisions](#)

[New DEI Working Group and Resources](#)

[Addressing Bias in Peer Review](#)

[Using Social Media to Advance Your Mission](#)

[Encouraging Open Science Behaviors](#)

[Registry and Biorepository Resources](#)

[Resources for Researchers](#)

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN

HRA IS AN INCLUSIVE AND DIVERSE COMMUNITY THAT PROVIDES A SAFE PLACE FOR SHARING FAILURES, TOOLS, AND SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES THAT ULTIMATELY HELP MEMBERS IMPROVE THEIR ORGANIZATIONS AND BUILD THEIR CAPACITY.

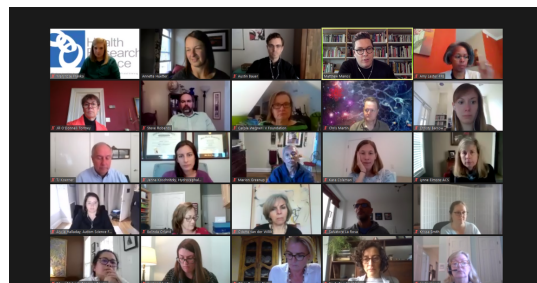


What used to be in-person meetings with cocktail hours turned in to zoom meetings with breakout rooms. Visit [HRA's website](#) to learn about everything HRA and HRA members have done throughout the year. There is far too much to highlight it all here!

"I APPRECIATE MY FELLOW HRA MEMBERS WHO ARE NOT ONLY COLLEAGUES BUT FRIENDS WHO SHARE MY PROFESSIONAL PASSIONS."

Close to 200 members attended the [Spring Meeting](#) virtually, which addressed issues like [RFA development](#), [patient engagement](#), and [impact evaluation](#) of grants programs presented by Jocelyn LeBlanc from the Association of Medical Research Charities. [Venture philanthropy](#) was also discussed with special guest Lisa Richter, co-founder of Aviva Capital.

The [Fall Meeting](#) addressed some of the most timely questions on members' minds - including responses to the [COVID-19 crisis](#) and [resiliency and sustainability in fundraising](#), Hannah Valantine, the NIH's first diversity officer, presented [opportunities to achieve diversity and inclusion](#) in biomedical research. HRA also hosted its first ever CEO roundtable with 50 organizations represented.

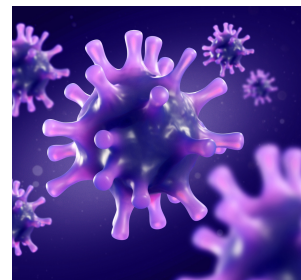


PROBLEM-SOLVING

HRA IS A POWERFUL SPACE FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, MENTORSHIP, AND PARTNERSHIP THAT ALLOWS ITS MEMBERS TO MAKE AN EVEN GREATER IMPACT BY SHARING RESOURCES AND COLLECTIVE WISDOM.

Flexibility and Responsiveness

HRA's flexibility enabled timely responses to the rapidly evolving challenges of 2020. To help members, HRA gathered and developed [resources](#), curated [funder responses](#) to the crisis, compiled [post-COVID-19 recommendations for supporting early career researchers](#), and guidelines for transitioning to [virtual meetings](#).



Diversity, equity, and inclusion has long been a focus of HRA. For example, [regional meeting](#) and [Member Meeting](#) sessions in 2018 were dedicated to diversifying the biomedical research workforce. 2020 brought the issue to the forefront again. This year, HRA created a [new working group](#) to address DEI, [hosted a session](#) during the Fall 2020 Members Meeting, and gathered a wealth of [resources](#) for member organizations. HRA also contracted with [BMe](#) to offer DEI training workshops in 2021.

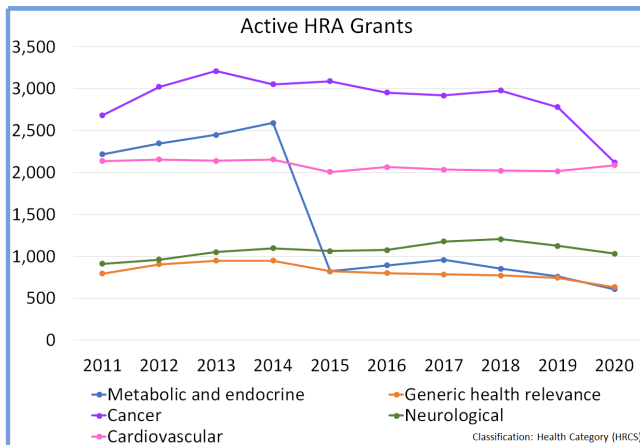
Response to the COVID-19 Crisis

- [Assessing the needs of grantees](#) - HRA compiled a list of questions and analyzed data from surveys members used early in the pandemic to assess the needs of their awardees. Other members used those questions in subsequent grantee surveys. A [meta-analysis of results](#) was presented at the Fall 2020 Meeting.
- [Reimagine Biomedical Research](#) - In partnership with PLOS, this Essay Challenge is designed to solicit bold ideas for systemic changes to how we support biomedical research. Essays due March 11, 2021.
- [Running a successful Virtual Peer Review](#) - Guidance and tips from HRA members experienced in running virtual peer review.

FORWARD-THINKING

HRA IS A HUB OF DATA, INFORMATION AND TOOLS TO VISUALIZE TRENDS THAT MEMBERS CAN LEVERAGE TO MAP THEIR NEXT BIG MOVE AS AN ORGANIZATION.

Making Data Available and Accessible



Available to all members, [HRA Analyzer](#) is a powerful database of grant data. It contains over 61,000 grants totaling \$18.7B from HRA members, over 450,000 NIH grants, and 31,000,000 publications. This searchable database allows members to analyze their own grant data, compare to others in the

same area, or benchmark against NIH funding. A 6-part [webinar series](#) will help you get started.

Strategic Plan

In 2020, HRA began the process of revising the strategic plan. The committee, with the help of many of you through surveys and conversation, will roll out a plan in 2021 that continues to build on the mission of accelerating the pace of scientific discovery and embodies the community-driven, problem-solving, and forward-thinking ethos of HRA.



HRA Pushes Open Science

- [Tools for funders](#) to Send Signals to Researchers that Open Behavior is Valued. Developed as part of work with the [NASEM Roundtable on Aligning Incentives for Open Science](#)
- [Open Science Task Force](#) and [Data Sharing Working Group](#) – host [webinars](#) and share [resources](#) to foster researchers’ open behavior.
- Partnering to foster “Open” with the [Center for Open Science](#), [PLOS](#), the [Open Research Funders Group](#), and the [ORCID US Community](#).

SAVE THE DATES

SPRING 2021 HRA MEMBERS MEETING

MARCH 22, 23 & 25, 2021

The spring HRA Members Meeting will be virtual, Hold your calendars for sessions on the afternoons (eastern time) of Monday March 22nd, Tuesday March 23rd and Thursday March 25th.

DEI Workshop with Certification

APRIL 20, 2021, 1-4PM ET

HRA has partnered with BMe Community to provide asset-framing training - helping HRA members to achieve their diversity goals.



FALL 2021 HRA MEMBERS MEETING

NOVEMBER 3 & 4, 2021

The fall Members Meeting is currently scheduled to be held in Toronto, sponsored by the PSI Foundation.

"I AM GRATEFUL TO HRA FOR CREATING A SPACE AND MECHANISM THAT FOSTERS INERATIONS AND RELATIONSHIP BUILDING BETWEEN PEER FUNDERS."

Looking forward to 2021...

1. DEI Training and Workshops for Members with Certification
2. Covid-19 Impact Survey
3. Reimagine Biomedical Research Essay Contest & Symposium
4. New Communications Affinity Group (including dedicated listserv)
5. Updated Strategic Plan
6. New Collaboration Platform for Members
7. Toolkit to Help Implement Open Policies

2005 → 2020



Member Organizations

5

93



Grant Funding

\$1M

\$1B



New Resources

1 Meeting

2 Member Meetings
10 Working Groups
15 Webinars
600+ Listserv Posts

"I APPRECIATE BEING PART OF A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO ARE SO PASSIONATE ABOUT SUPPORTING BIOMED RESEARCH AND ARE WORKING TOWARD MEANINGFUL AND IMPACTFUL WAYS OF IMPROVING THE FUNDING LANDSCAPE TO MAKE A LARGER IMPACT."