

HEALTH RESEARCH ALLIANCE

2025 IMPACT REPORT

HEALTH RESEARCH ALLIANCE

A collaborative member organization of nonprofit research funders committed to maximizing the impact of biomedical research to improve human health.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear HRA Members,

2025 brought many challenges for our Health Research Alliance (HRA) community. With a change in the presidential administration in January 2025, many executive orders and potential policy shifts impacting biomedical research and nonprofit organizations, and the longest government shutdown in history, these challenges persisted throughout the year. HRA member organizations worked hard to communicate with grantees, maintain scientific integrity, advocate for rigorous biomedical research, and communicate the impact of their work.

Many of our members have turned to HRA over the past year for information and resources to help understand and respond to threats to scientific infrastructure, independence, and fairness. In response, HRA created and began implementing a federal policy response plan. Thanks to significant financial support from the Doris Duke Foundation, HRA has been able to offer member programming specific to these needs including a federal policy survey, monthly HRA Federal Policy Newsletters and Federal Policy Series webinars addressing topics such as navigating changes in science policy; federal policy impacts on diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts; immigration pathways for researchers; and science advocacy. In 2026, HRA will continue these efforts by standing up a Federal Policy Advisory Committee, creating a federal policy resource bank on our website, and helping to link our members to ongoing advocacy initiatives.

Despite these obstacles, the HRA community remains strong. We saw high levels of engagement with our member activities all year and even welcomed 14 new member organizations in 2025! It was inspiring to see our members brainstorming, problem solving, and sharing their experiences through our learning community activities, forums conversations, CEO roundtables, Members Meetings, and more.

Over the next year, we will continue to offer all our typical benefits and federal policy resources. We will also turn our attention to important projects that have been delayed due to the need to respond to timely events, such as a Members Survey and State of the Alliance presentation in the first half of 2026. I am thankful for each of you and the dedication you bring to your daily work and to the Health Research Alliance!

CHRISTINE RIORDAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



SHARED PASSION: 2025 LEARNING COMMUNITIES

HRA's Learning Communities meet virtually throughout the year to host open discussions, expert presentations, working sessions, and more. Members can join learning community webinars and activities at any time! Here is what our Learning Communities accomplished in 2025:



PROGRAM EVALUATION

2025 Accomplishments

- [Program Evaluation Open Mic](#)
- 3 members webinars: 1) [Assessing Long-Term Impacts of Funding](#), 2) [Connecting Grants to Research Advances and Patient Outcomes](#) and 3) [Introducing RAiD \(Research Activity Identifier\): A Persistent Identifier for Research Projects](#)

DIVERSITY EQUITY & INCLUSION

2025 Accomplishments

- Welcomed two new Community Co-Chairs: Andrea Casillas (Susan G. Komen) and Joanna Yang Yowler (Flinn Foundation)
- Launched joint survey with the Multi-Regional Clinical Trials Center of Harvard on representative clinical research for HRA members
- Webinar on *NASEM Report: Rethinking Race in Biomedical Research*
- Discussion forum on *Open Discussion of Federal Policy Impacts on DEI*

GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

2025 Accomplishments

- 7 grants admin open mic sessions on topics of HRA member interest
- Conducted a poll on GAC handbook usage and awareness
- Assisted with a significant update to the [Grants Administration Handbook](#)

THANK YOU TO OUR LEARNING COMMUNITY CO-CHAIRS!

2025 LEARNING COMMUNITIES

THERAPEUTIC DEVELOPMENT

2025 Accomplishments

- Welcomed new Co-Chair Kaitlin Davis (Additional Ventures)
- Hosted educational session - *Intellectual Property in Drug Discovery & Development*
- Hosted a joint webinar with the AI/LLM Community - *Non-Profit Innovation: Repurposed Drugs Meet AI*
- Led a Fall 2025 Members Meeting Session - *Not Just Funders: Nonprofits as Ecosystem Builders*
- Updated Therapeutic Development Toolkit of Toolkits resource

RESEARCH WORKFORCE & EARLY CAREER DEVELOPMENT

2025 Accomplishments

- Hosted 2 webinars including an open mic session and a session on *Evolving Biomedical Research Funding with the Current Times*
- Led an open mic session at the Fall 2025 Members Meeting
- Supported and disseminated rapid deployment of a community-informed survey assessing the impact of DOGE-related funding cuts on early-career investigators (led by the Autism Science Foundation)

REGISTRY & BIOREPOSITORY

2025 Accomplishments

- Partnered with the Open Science Community to plan and host a joint webinar on *Financial Program Sustainability in the Age of Open Science*
- Led an open mic session at the Spring 2025 Members Meeting
- Developed a comprehensive list of platform vendors utilized by HRA member registries, which was made accessible to HRA members and promoted through community communications

OPEN SCIENCE

2025 Accomplishments

- Welcomed two new Co-Chairs: Sara Jarvis (American Heart Association) and Anna Hatch (HHMI)
- Led two webinars - 1) *Open Science 201: Training Techniques for Awardees* and 2) *Open Science 202: Monitoring Open Science Compliance of Awardees*
- Co-hosted webinar with the Registry & Biorepository community: *Financial Program Sustainability in the Age of Open Science*

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND LARGE LEARNING MODELS

2025 Accomplishments

- Partnered with the Open Science Community to plan and host a joint webinar on *Financial Program Sustainability in the Age of Open Science*
- Hosted two webinars for HRA members: 1) *The Potential for AI in Discovery Science* and 2) *The NovaGen Research Fund*

RESPONDING TO THE MOMENT: HRA FEDERAL POLICY SERIES

In 2025, the Health Research Alliance responded to major changes in US federal policy toward science and nonprofits. Thanks to support from the Doris Duke Foundation, HRA began offering federal policy specific resources this year including a monthly Federal Policy Webinar Series, HRA Federal Policy Newsletter, and other resources.

FEDERAL POLICY WEBINARS

HRA's federal policy webinars provide members with education and resources on changes to the federal funding and biomedical research landscape including potential policy, procedural, and legal implications for nonprofit biomedical funders. They also strive to create a safe space for HRA members to discuss changes in federal funding and biomedical research; share experiences, perspectives, and best practices; and initiate actions to improve the impact of biomedical research.

2025 webinar topics have included: navigating changes in science policy; federal policy impacts on diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts; immigration pathways for researchers; and science advocacy.

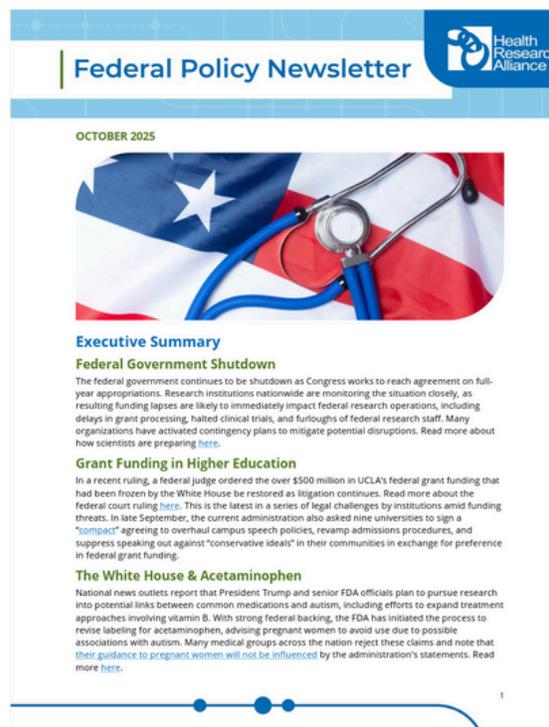
Thank you to our presenters and partners from:



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FEDERAL POLICY NEWSLETTERS

In September 2025, HRA launched a monthly Federal Policy Newsletter. Each edition serves as a central hub to find policy updates that impact your work, details on upcoming HRA events and community opportunities related to the federal policy environment, curated resources, and insights from across our network. Check out [previous issues here](#).

HRA FEDERAL BUDGET GUIDE

This [resource](#) outlines the US federal budget process (fiscal year: October 1–September 30) and its impact on nonprofit biomedical research funders and their grantee institutions.

HRA MEMBERS MEETINGS



FALL 2025 HYBRID MEETING

The Fall 2025 Health Research Alliance Members Meeting was held on November 19-20 in Alexandria, VA, hosted at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) offices.

Attendees experienced 1.5 days packed full of education, professional development, networking, and collaboration. HRA welcomed speakers from our membership organizations, University of Washington, National Organization of Rare Disorders, Maryland Innovation Initiative, Johns Hopkins University, Office of NIH History, Storytellers for Change, The Open Notebook, and Coalition for Aligning Science.

SPRING 2025 VIRTUAL MEETING

The HRA Spring 2025 Virtual Members Meeting took place March 10-13, 2025. Session topics included:

- Funder Initiatives to Foster Partnerships
- Preparing for Policy Shifts and Their Impact on Research Funding
- Professional Development in the Non-Profit Sphere
- The Translational Research Pipeline
- The Potential for AI in Discovery Science

We also held a Learning Community Open House where attendees could meet with each Learning Community to learn more about their initiatives and how they could get involved!



MEMBERS MEETING STATS

- 92 member organizations
- 173 spring attendees
- 218 fall attendees
- 30 HRA speakers
- 18 external speakers
- 8 educational opportunities
- 2 learning community sessions
- 2 PD workshops

2025 MEMBERS MEETING SPONSORS



DID YOU CHECK OUT THESE HRA RESOURCES IN 2025?

HRA aims to adjust the opportunities we provide to align with the needs of our membership community. Check out some of the program, activities, and resources we offered in 2025 and will continue to provide in 2026!

PEER CIRCLES

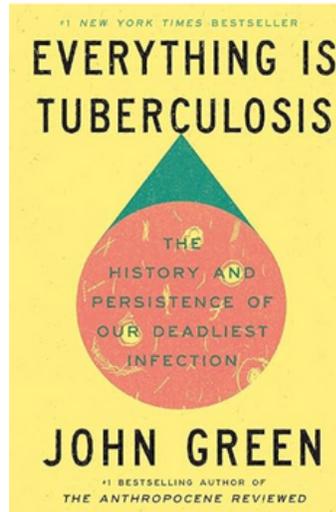
The Peer Circles program continued this year with the fifth cohort kicking off in Fall 2025. This cycle, HRA matched 41 individuals from 33 different member organizations into 7 peer groups based on career roles and interests. These small groups meet monthly over the course of six months to discuss shared interests, work challenges, and goals. See what are members are saying:

"It has been wonderful to connect with peers from other organizations, many of whom are going through very similar challenges, to share experiences and resources so that everyone can benefit from the collective knowledge. The group has been welcoming and open to everyone's questions and input – it's a safe space to share and learn."

Donna Manross, Senior Vice President, Volunteer Engagement at the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN)

Newly Updated Grants Administration Handbook

- Up-to-date content
- New graphics
- Easier navigation
- Links to hands-on resources
- New section on Career Development Plans
- Updated examples from HRA members



HRA BOOK CLUB

The HRA Book Club read Everything is Tuberculosis by John Green during Summer 2025. The book weaves the scientific and social history of the disease, and how it has shaped our world. Sign-ups for this year's Book Club will begin Spring 2026! All HRA members are welcome to join and help select our next book.

CEO ROUNDTABLES

HRA expanded CEO Roundtables this year from quarterly to monthly events due to high interest! At CEO Roundtables, senior leaders from HRA organizations (e.g., Chief Operating Officers, Executive Directors) join together to network and discuss the challenges of leading nonprofit biomedical funders into the future. Roundtables are member driven and cover strategic topics of interest such as human resource issues, compensation, health insurance options, legal concerns, and strategic planning.

COMING IN 2026

SAVE THE DATES: 2026 MEMBERS MEETINGS

The **Spring Members Meeting** will be all virtual. We will host multiple sessions during the **week of April 13, 2026**, spread out over several days to minimize online meeting fatigue.

The **Fall 2026 Members Meeting** will be on **October 14-15, 2026** in Irvine, California. It will be hybrid (in-person and live streamed virtually).



SELECT PRIORITIES FOR 2026

- Launching a Member Survey to collect perceptions of current programs and ideas for the future
- 2021 Strategic Plan close out
- Creation of a Federal Policy Advisory Committee
- Updating the usability and value of HRA Analyzer
- Development of 2027 Strategic Plan

THANK YOU SUPPORTERS!

We thank our member organizations that go beyond dues to support HRA programs. In 2025, we especially appreciated:





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SESSIONS

Including Learning Community calls, Members Meeting sessions, Federal Policy series, and webinars.

14

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome the new members that joined HRA in 2025: Additional Ventures, Cure Alzheimer's Fund, Cures Within Reach, International FOP Association, Larry L. Hillblom Foundation, Lewy Body Dementia Association, Linda and Mike Mussallem Foundation, McKnight Brain Research Foundation, Milken SPARC Program, National Alopecia Areata Foundation, P-Squared Philanthropies, Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation, Templeton World Charity Foundation, and Zabara Foundation.

2300+

ATTENDEES

Across Learning Community calls, HRA webinars, CEO Roundtables, Members Meetings, and Federal Policy series in 2025. Join us for an event in 2026!