# HEALTH RESEARCH ALLIANCE MEMBERS MEETING

October 6-7, 2022

**Hosted by the Simons Foundation**

All sessions will be held at the Simons Foundation (160 5th Ave, New York)

## October 6 | Thursday

### 9:00 - 10:00AM
**Breakfast and Networking**

### 10:00 - 10:45AM (45min)
**Welcome to the Members Meeting**
**Maryrose Franko, PhD**
Executive Director | Health Research Alliance

**Welcome to the Simons Foundation**
**David Spergel, PhD**
President | Simons Foundation

**Kelsey Martin, MD, PhD**
Director, SFARI | Director, Simons Foundation Neuroscience Collaborations

**Program Committee Co-Chairs**
**Diane Bovenkamp, PhD**
Vice President, Scientific Affairs | BrightFocus Foundation

**Stacy Cloud**
President | Donaghue Medical Research Foundation

**Joe Cotter**
Research Engagement Manager | American Cancer Society

### 10:45AM - 12:15PM (90min)
**Approaches to Streamline Research Impact Evaluation Through Online Tools**
How can organizations measure and understand the impact of their research programs? What can online tools offer to automate or streamline evaluation processes to provide insights into research investments? In this session, we hope to fill HRA Members’ toolboxes with options (including free and subscription-based tools) for nimble research impact analysis. From perspectives on how the NIH measures impact and develops publicly available tools, to using ORCID to track grantee outputs, to other ways in which HRA member organizations measure and assess impact, we will learn about evaluation and tools that can help members to automate or streamline their processes.

**Moderators**
**Orna Ehrlich, MPH**
Vice President, Strategic Impact | Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation

**Kevin Sia, PhD**
Program Officer for Medical Research | Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

**Presenters**
**George Santangelo, PhD**
Director, Office of Portfolio Analysis | Office of the Director | National Institutes of Health

**Gary McDowell, PhD**
CEO and Founder | Lightoller

**Jennifer Brummet, PhD**
Manager, Research | American Epilepsy Society

**Jennifer Mortensen, PhD**
Research Outcomes Manager | American Heart Association
Host Session: Best Practices in Implementing a Grants Management System

Grants management systems have evolved from platforms that simply manage, store and report on grant making data to solutions that grant management professionals and program staff can use to streamline workflows, analyze processes, and shed light on bottlenecks, gaps in funding and more.

In this session, the Simons Foundation will share their journey on implementing a new grants management system, SmartSimple, and their decision to make the leap from simply managing grants to streamlining processes and improving efficiencies in all phases of grants management. You will learn about their requirements gathering process and actions they took to reduce the burden on program staff and applicants; lessons learned from stakeholder testing; the evolution of ‘Minimum Viable Product’ (MVP); and, best of all, get a sneak peak into their new system, the Simons Award Manager (SAM).

Presenter
Kori Smith
Project Manager | Simons Foundation

Community Breakout Over Snacks

- Introduction to HRA’s Grants Administration Handbook

A Behind the Scenes View on Strategic Planning and Program Development

HRA members are a wealth of information about developing innovative and strategic funding programs to advance biomedical sciences. This session will highlight the behind the scenes of the strategic planning / development process for innovative new programs. Our speaker and panelists will explain how the need for new programs was identified, what led to the program’s inception, how program goals were set, and the lessons learned. The discussion will also include how success of the programs at addressing the original needs will be evaluated. Diverse program types will be covered, including a postdoctoral fellows program with an emphasis on fostering faculty committed to advancing diversity, excellence, and inclusion; an early career program with an emphasis on innovation; an internal biotech incubator; a national conference; and a centers of excellence program.

Moderator
Kevin Moses, PhD
Senior Program Director | W. M. Keck Foundation

Presenters
Leslie Vosshall, PhD
Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer | Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Elise Hoover, MPH
Senior Director of Research | PKD Foundation

Shandra Koler
Senior Program Officer | The Sontag Foundation

Sharon Hesterlee, PhD
Chief Research Officer | Muscular Dystrophy Association

Tina Ta, MS
Grants Officer | Health Resources in Action
8:30 - 10:30AM  Breakfast Service
(120min)

9:15 - 10:30AM  Community Breakouts Over Breakfast
(75min)
  - Venture Philanthropy
  - Joint Misconduct & Ethics and Research Workforce & Early Career

10:30AM - 12:00PM  Can Redacting Grant Applicant Identifiers (“Blinding”) Reduce Bias in Peer Review?
(90min)
As funding agencies, we have a responsibility to reduce bias in the peer review process to allow for equitable and inclusive allocation of grant funding. One potential mechanism for reducing institutional, gender, racial/ethnic, and career stage biases is the redaction of identifying personal information (blinding) during peer review. This session will feature speakers from HRA member institutions who have previously or are currently utilizing blinding in their peer review processes. This may include training applicants to blind their applications prior to submission, administratively anonymizing proposals after submission (manually or with the assistance of grants management software), or a combined approach. We will examine the benefits and challenges of these approaches, as well as look at how blinding at various stages of the peer review process (i.e. LOI, full application, final funding determination) impacts the overall reduction of bias.

Moderator
Rachel Cruthirds
Research Pre-Award Manager | American Heart Association

Presenters
Anne Hultgren, PhD
Executive Director | The Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation

Kristin Eldon Whylly, MSc
Senior Program Manager | Change Management Lead | Templeton World Charity Foundation

Stacy Cloud
President | Donaghue Medical Research Foundation

Adam Pieczonka, MBA
Executive Chair | 1907 Foundation

12:00 - 1:15PM  Community Breakout over Lunch
(75min)
  - DEI

1:15 - 2:30PM  Strategies to Increase Diversity and Representation in Research and Medical Careers
(75min)
The DEI session at the Spring 2022 HRA members meeting focused on programs that organizations and institutions have used to promote mentoring and career development of minority scholars in academia, government, and nonprofit organizations. We are following this up by looking at institutions that have implemented programs that have trained and advanced minority students and scholars at the high school/undergraduate, graduate/medical school, and postdoctoral/faculty level. This session will feature a speaker from academia that has created a benchmark program for training postdoctoral fellows to get faculty positions and representatives from two HRA member organizations. These speakers will talk about the steps needed to implement these programs, how their programs were funded, how many scholars have been supported, how many have advanced, best practices learned, and things that HRA member organizations should consider if they are seeking to not just provide funding for minority
researchers, but to also equip them with the tools to also excel and advance. The outputs may be something that is scalable to organizations of different sizes and will help member organizations understand what is needed to promote/enhance/strengthen their DEI programs and initiatives.

**Moderator**

**Eugene Manley, Jr, PhD**  
Director, STEM Workforce Initiatives | LUNGevity

**Presenters**

**Donathan Brown, PhD**  
Assistant Provost & Assistant Vice President | Associate Professor  
Division of Diversity and Inclusion | Office of Faculty Diversity and Recruitment  
Rochester Institute of Technology

**Sindy Escobar Alvarez, PhD**  
Medical Research Program Director | Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

**Natalie Holloway**  
Senior Program Manager, Professional Development | American Society of Clinical Oncology