

Louis J. Kraus, MD

The Woman's Board Professor of Child Psychiatry

Advancement of Medicine

I have continued to work with civil rights organizations, such as the American Civil Liberties Union and others in different states, as an expert in addressing constitutional violations and civil rights violations for children and adolescents who are incarcerated. I have continued to lecture on this topic, as well. I

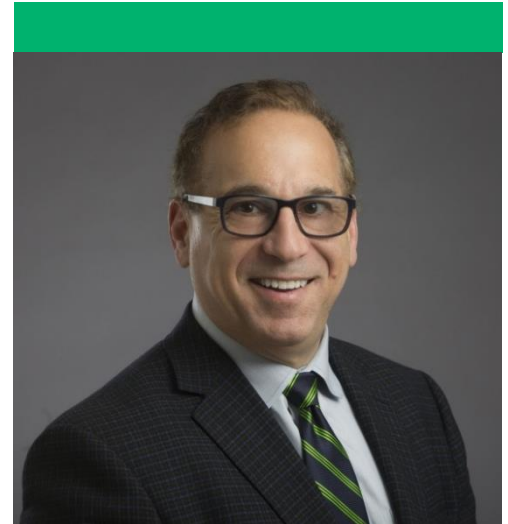
continued to lecture and supervise our fellows and residents in a consistent fashion. Funding has allowed me to participate in a variety of unfunded educational endeavors, including taking fellows to different schools so they can learn more about school assessments and children with special needs and how they are cared for. I have continued representing Rush in the news, radio, television, and print locally and nationally.

I have continued to present locally at Easter Seals, community mental health centers and high schools. Our fellows rotate at Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School, a therapeutic day school where I have worked for years. Each year, I present with the school's medical director. I continue to attend national conferences and just stepped down from major committees at the American Psychiatric Association. I have continued advocacy work for children, including in Washington, D.C.

The funds from my endowment have helped significantly in giving me the time for administrative interventions and expanding the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, particularly under staffing constraints. The division now includes the Autism Assessment, Research, Treatment and Services, or AARTS, Center; the Rush NeuroBehavioral Center, or RNBC; two outpatient child and adolescent program locations; and the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship.

Grants

I am the principal investigator on the Institute of Education Sciences grant "Validation of a Spanish-language social reasoning assessment for Spanish-speaking English language learners" through





December 2026 and was a co-investigator on another Institute of Education Sciences grant “Web-based assessment of social-emotional skills in middle school” through June 2024.

Four grants are presently under review for federal or private funding.

The AARTS Center has 11 ongoing grants, including seven federal or public and four private or philanthropic.

The RNBC is expanding its social-emotional research portfolio to include sleep research. This is reflected in a series of new grant proposals the center recently submitted and in its analysis of a recently concluded pilot longitudinal study. That study evaluated the impact of early school start times on early elementary students. Our sleep-related research has been conducted closely with departmental colleague **Stephanie Crowley, PhD**, a leader in adolescent sleep science.

The research team at RNBC is also actively involved in community partnership research opportunities with Heart of the City. This organization provides youth development services, along with high-quality soccer training for all levels, with an emphasis on providing out-of-school activities for families from marginalized communities. RNBC advises on the delivery of social-emotional learning in Heart of the City’s programs and may soon expand to include research on their athletes and concussions, and elite athletes and sleep. The research team will also partner with Rondout School District 72 on upcoming sleep initiatives in academic year 2025-2026 and will continue to engage the district in upcoming research projects.

Publication Highlights

- Paulman, B., Andrews, S., Russo-Ponsaran, N., & Crowley, S. (2025). An exploration into relationships between children's sleep quality, parental stress, and children's executive functioning in an early school-aged cohort. Individual poster to be presented at the 2025 American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology Annual Conference. Chicago, IL.
- Russo, J., Russo-Ponsaran, N., Lee, R., Martinez, F., Smith, D., & McKown, C. (2025). Increasing access to high-quality soccer and social-emotional out-of-school-time programming and the benefits of research partnerships. Individual Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Biannual Conference 2025. Minneapolis, MN.



- McNair, M.L., Mondejar, V., Libsack, E.J., Mordekai, N.H., McKown, C., Russo-Ponsaran, N.M., Lerner, M.D. (2024). Examining the process and impact of social problem solving in autistic children. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*. Epub ahead of print.
- McKown, C., Russo-Ponsaran, N.M. Wronski, M., & Karls, A. (2025, provisionally accepted). Psychometric properties of a social and emotional competence assessment for middle school students. *Social and Emotional Learning: Research, Practice, and Policy*.
- Karls, A., Wronski, M., Russo-Ponsaran, N.M., Van Valkenburg, S., & McKown, C. (2025, under revision). Measuring SEL takes time: Cost analysis of a web-based assessment. Submitted to *Journal of Psychoeducational Assessment*.
- McKown, C., Kharitonova, M., Raoul, A., Villiger, J., Robertson, K., & Doerner, J. (2025, under review). Impact of Second Step out-of-school time program on youth well-being.

The Year Ahead: 2025 and Beyond

The Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry is my number one priority. We are currently hiring several positions, which has added stress to the team. My goal is to improve this and assist where I can. Our fellowship continues to have an exceptional national reputation that we want to grow and develop. This year, we matched with our top two ranked candidates. We are working on posters for the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry annual meeting and several international meetings. My work beyond the AARTS Center and other components of the division focuses on civil rights issues, particularly systemic justice for youth. This includes addressing deplorable conditions and the issues of using solitary confinement in youth populations. I also lend my expertise to numerous national organizations and plan on continuing this work.

With Gratitude

In the almost 23 years I have been at Rush, the Woman's Board's endowment has been incredibly helpful to all I have done. Without this support, my work could not have been accomplished, and our Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry would not be nearly as successful. I want to thank all of you so very much.