

CURRICULUM VITAE

NICOLE M. RUSSO-PONSARAN, PhD

September 2025

nicole_russo@rush.edu

EDUCATION

Doctorate of Philosophy, *Northwestern University*, Evanston, IL 09/01-04/08
Northwestern University Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program; Department of
Communication Sciences and Disorders
Dissertation Topic: *A Key to Social Communication Deficits in Autism: Neural Processing of
Sound and Speech Intonation*
Advisor: Nina Kraus, PhD, Auditory Neuroscience Laboratory

Bachelor of Science, *Loyola University Chicago*, Chicago, IL 09/96-05/00
Biology with Honors Distinction and the Honors Degree, Cum Laude

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Mid-career Faculty Development Bootcamp 2024
Chicago Women's Leadership Summit 2020
Executive coaching sessions (Jan Tratnik) 2014, 2017,
2018
Decision Making for Leaders: GCMHERC Workshop 2014
Selected for competitive AAMC Early Career Women Faculty Professional
Development Seminar 2013

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor, *Rush University Medical Center*, Chicago, IL 05/19-
Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences; Rush NeuroBehavioral Center

Assistant Professor, *Rush University Medical Center*, Chicago, IL 06/08-03/19
Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences (previously Behavioral Sciences);
Rush NeuroBehavioral Center

Instructor, *Rush University Medical Center*, Chicago, IL 04/08-06/08
Department of Pediatrics; Department of Behavioral Sciences; Rush
NeuroBehavioral Center

CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE

Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule-2, Booster Training Oct 2012
Chicago, IL
Trainer : Valeria Nanclares-Nogués, PsyD

Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (short course) Skokie, IL Trainer: Roger Thomson, PhD	Feb 2011
Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule, Certified Research Reliable Chicago, IL Trainer : Valeria Nanclares-Nogués, PsyD	Jan 2011
Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised, Certified Research Reliable Chicago, IL Trainer : Valeria Nanclares-Nogués, PsyD	Dec 2010
Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule for Research Training Chicago, IL Trainer : Valeria Nanclares-Nogués, PsyD	June 2008
Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule Clinical Training Chicago, IL Trainer : Valeria Nanclares-Nogués, PsyD	May 2008
Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised Research Training Evanston, IL Trainer : Valeria Nanclares-Nogués, PsyD	Dec 2007
Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised Training for Clinicians Evanston, IL Trainer : Valeria Nanclares-Nogués, PsyD	Nov 2007
Community-Engaged Research Seminar Series, <i>Institute for Translational Medicine</i> Chicago, IL Instructors: Patrick Corrigan, PsyD & Lindsay Sheehan PhD, CRC, LCPC	2023

HONORS AND AWARDS

Selected for Sleep Research Society Membership	11/24-
3 rd Place Winner of the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning Design Challenge for innovative direct assessment of social-emotional competence	2018
RUMC Mentoring Program Mentee of the Year	2015
Selected for Rush Research Forum, Research Mentoring Panel Presentation	2013
Recipient of Rush Scientific Leadership Council/Research Mentoring Program Stipend for Research Productivity	2013
Conquer Fragile X Young Investigators Award	2012
Recipient of Rush Research Mentoring Program Stipend for Research Productivity	2012
International Meeting for Autism Research Graduate Student Travel Grant	2008
Northwestern University Graduate School Conference Travel Grant	2006
National Institutes of Health Graduate Student Research Festival Presentation	2006

Award

Northwestern Institute for Complex Organization Student Presentation Award	2006
Graduate Student Travel Award for the Association for Research in Otolaryngology Annual Meeting	2003
University Fellowship, Northwestern University	2001-2008
Biology Department Honors Distinction, Loyola University Chicago	2000
Honors Degree, Loyola University Chicago	2000
Dean's List, Loyola University Chicago	1996-2000

PROFESSIONAL/SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

Communication Committee Member, Sleep Research Society	06/25-
Sleep Research Society (Member)	11/24-
Bilingualism Matters Chicago (Member, Former Co-Chair)	08/20-
Association for Psychological Science (Member)	03/21-
Collaborator Network for Social and Emotional Competence Assessment (Member)	10/16-
Rush Research Mentoring Program (Mentee; Junior Mentor)	01/10-
Society for Research in Child Development (Early Career Member)	03/09-
International Society for Autism Research (Full Member)	03/09-
Society for Neuroscience (Student Member)	10/01-12/06
Tri-Beta Biology Honor Society (Member)	09/99-05/00
Loyola University Chicago Honors Program	08/96-05/00
Loyola University Chicago Honor Student Association	08/96-05/00

ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

<i>Rush/UIC CF2 Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Lecture Series</i>	2023
<i>Spanish language social-emotional measures for Spanish-speaking youth.</i>	
Rush University Medical Center's Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship program, Chicago IL	

TEACHING ACADEMY

<i>Self-awareness and social awareness for effective problem solving.</i>	2021
Rush University Medical Center Teaching Academy series, Chicago, IL	

GRAND ROUNDS

<i>Impact of early school start times on learners</i>	2024
Woman's Board Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Grand Rounds at Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL	
<i>Understanding social-emotional learning skills in children with and without clinical diagnoses.</i>	2015
Department of Pediatrics at Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL	
<i>Children's social-emotional learning – What it is, why it is important and how we measure it.</i>	2013
Grand Rounds, Department of Behavioral Sciences at Rush	

University Medical Center, Chicago, IL

GUEST LECTURER

Northwestern University

05/01/13

Course: Autism Spectrum Disorders (CSD 382)

Lecture Title: Social functioning in autism

Evanston, IL

Professor: Molly Losh, PhD

Northwestern University

04/26/12

Course: Autism: Clinical, neuropsychological, and genetic perspectives (CSD 551)

Lecture Title: Linking clinical characteristics to neurocognition

Evanston, IL

Professor: Molly Losh, PhD

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Northwestern University

Spring 2003

Course: Learning and Memory (BIO 326)

Evanston, IL

Supervisor: Catherine Woolley, PhD

Northwestern University

Winter 2003

Course: Central Nervous System Physiology

Evanston, IL

Supervisor: Mark Segraves, PhD

MENTOR (Abbreviated list from 50+ mentees)

1. Clinical Psychology post-doctoral fellow, Lindsey Evans, PhD

2025-

Project Title: TBD

Role: Informal research mentor/Research supervisor

End product: TBD

2. Clinical Psychology post-doctoral fellow, Cali Joyce, PsyD

2024-

Project Title: Pilot investigation into the relationship between sleep and diagnosis

Role: Informal research mentor/Research supervisor

End product: TBD

3. Clinical Psychology post-doctoral fellow, Briana Paulman, PhD

2023-2025

Project Title: n/a

Role: Informal research mentor/Research supervisor

End product: Presentation at the 2025 American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology Annual Conference

4. Clinical Psychology post-doctoral fellow, Sydney Andrews, PsyD

2023-2025

Project Title: n/a

Role: Informal research mentor/Research supervisor

End product: Presentation at the 2025 American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology Annual Conference

5. Doctor of Clinical Psychology student, Mikayla Pollard, MA 2022-2024
Project Title: Independent Study
Role: Faculty research advisor
End product: Presentation at the Midwestern Psychological Association and co-authorship on talk and poster given at the 12th Biennial Pediatric Sleep Medicine Conference
6. Doctor of Clinical Psychology student, Raquel Rosenberg 2022-2024
Project Title: n/a
Role: Faculty research advisor
End product: Presentation at the Midwestern Psychological Association and co-authorship on talk and poster given at the 12th Biennial Pediatric Sleep Medicine Conference
7. Medical student, Sarah Basharkah 2022-2023
Project Title: n/a
Role: Informal mentor
8. Doctor of Clinical Psychology student, Nicole Summers 2021-2022
Project Title: Emotional responses to simulated social situations in autistic and non-autistic youth
Role: Faculty research advisor
End product: Presentation for International Meeting for Autism Research
9. Doctor of Clinical Psychology student, Matthew Phillips 2019-2020
Project Title: n/a
Role: Informal mentor
10. Doctor of Clinical Psychology student, Peter Durham 2019
Project Title: n/a
Role: Informal mentor
11. Doctor of Clinical Psychology student, Ilana Reife 2016-2017
Project Title: n/a
Role: Informal mentor
End product: Publication in Autism Research
12. Doctor of Psychology student, Chandni Singh 2014-2015
Project Title: Learning, Cognition, and Anxiety in Fragile X Syndrome
Role: Informal mentor
End product: Trained on the PARS
13. Medical student, Wilson Ching 2013-2014
Project Title: Assessment of Social-Emotional Learning Tool on Fragile X Syndrome
Role: Project-specific advisor
End product: Poster presentation at Rush Research Forum

14. Medical student, Jessica Yesensky 2010-2012
Dean's Summer Fellowship
Project Title: The Pediatric Anxiety Rating Scale (PARS) in Behavioral
Assessment of Patients with Fragile X Syndrome
Role: Faculty research advisor
End product: Publication in American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

1. Doctoral candidate, Clinical Psychology, Morgan McNair, MA 2023-2024
Laboratory: Social Competence and Treatment Lab (Lerner) ***Stony Brook University, NY***
Role: Dissertation committee member

2. Doctoral candidate, Nursing, Krista L. Christianson 2018-2019
Project Title: Development of a simulation-based instrument to measure social/
emotional intelligence among nurse anesthetists
Role: Dissertation committee member

CONSULTING

Christ University, Bangalore, India 06/25-
Project: PhD Candidate Ms. Ashbel Sanesh's study of the impact of animated
Indian folktales on children's social learning and critical thinking
Role: Assessment, education technology and social information processing expert

Project: Refinement and Validation of a Large-Scale Panel Survey of 07/23-
Students' Social-Emotional Learning in Grades 4 through 12 in the COVID Era
Funding Source: Institute of Education Sciences
Role: Consultant

Project: Measuring Prosocial Behavior in Schools through a Virtual Reality 07/21-06/25
Game: vSchool
Funding Source: Institute of Education Sciences
Role: Advisory board member

Project: ACES-2: Development and Validation of the Revised Academic 07/20-06/24
Competence Evaluation Scales
Funding Source: Institute of Education Sciences
Role: Expert review panelist

University of British Columbia, Canada 01/17-06/20
Project: Neuroscience and Social and Emotional Learning Study
Funding Source: n/a
Role: Consultant on the use of VESIP

University of VA, VA 08/14-10/20
Project: The Compassionate Schools Project
Funding Source: Multiple foundations and private philanthropy
Role: Consultant on the use of VESIP as a measure of compassionate character in

elementary school children using a 21st century health and wellness curriculum

University of CA, Berkeley, CA 02/15-04/17

Project: Evaluation of Playworks Enrichment program

Funding Source: n/a

Role: Consultant on the use of VESIP as an outcome measure for evaluation of Playworks' program

Quad Preparatory School, NY 11/15-06/16

Project: n/a

Funding Source: n/a

Role: Consultant on the use of VESIP as an outcome measure for the Social Intervention project

Contact: Matthew Lerner, PhD (*Stony Brook University, NY*) 03/14-

Project: Electrophysiological Correlates of Social-Emotional Learning in ASD

Funding Source: Slifka / Ritvo Innovation in Autism Research Awards

Role: Consultant on the design protocol for using SELweb as a behavioral component for an EEG study with children with autism spectrum disorder

LEADERSHIP SERVICE/LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Co-Chair, *Bilingualism Matters Chicago* 09/21-10/23

Chicago branch affiliate of Bilingualism Matters International

Executive Committee, *Bilingualism Matters Chicago* 09/20-09/21

Rush University Medical Center affiliate

Co-Facilitator, *North Suburban Autism Professionals* 08/19-06/23

Skokie, IL

Co-Founder, *North Suburban Autism Professionals* 08/19

Skokie, IL

Research Director, *Rush NeuroBehavioral Center, Rush University* 08/15-

Medical Center

Skokie, IL/Northbrook, IL

Junior Mentor, *Rush Research Mentoring Program, Rush University* 08/15-

Medical Center

Chicago, IL

Acting Research Director, *Rush NeuroBehavioral Center, Rush* 08/14-08/15

University Medical Center

Skokie, IL

Associate Research Director, *Rush NeuroBehavioral Center, Rush University Medical Center* 05/12-08/14
Skokie, IL

Vice President, *Loyola University Chicago Honor Student Association, Loyola University Chicago* 05/99-05/00
Chicago, IL

Executive Board Member, *AMSA Pre-medical Chapter, Loyola University Chicago* 09/99-05/00
Chicago, IL

Vice President, *American Medical Student Association (AMSA) Pre-medical Chapter, Loyola University Chicago* 08/98-05/99
Chicago, IL

Fundraising Committee Chair, *AMSA Pre-medical Chapter, Loyola University Chicago* 08/98-05/99
Chicago, IL

Co-Founder, AMSA Pre-medical Chapter, *Loyola University Chicago*, 08/98
Chicago, IL

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Mundelein National Night Out	2025
Vernon Hills Park District	2025-current
Volunteer, Feed My Starving Children	2024, 2025
Mundelein Parks and Recreation District	2023-current
Heart of the City Sports, Lake County, IL	2023
Coordinator/Rush NeuroBehavioral Center Adopt-A-Family Annual Drive	2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017

COMMITTEE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Faculty Promotions Committee, *Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Rush University Medical Center* Chicago, IL 09/23-
Role: Member

Research Committee, *Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Rush University Medical Center* Chicago, IL 05/18-
Role: Member

Culture and Climate Committee, *Rush NeuroBehavioral Center, Rush University Medical Center*, Skokie, IL 11/17-06/19
Role: Chair

Advisory/Leadership Committee, Department of Behavioral Sciences, Rush University Medical Center Chicago, IL	07/17-
Role: Member	
Employee Recognition Committee, Rush NeuroBehavioral Center, Rush University Medical Center, Skokie, IL	09/12-06/16
Role: Member	
Executive Committee, Rush NeuroBehavioral Center, Rush University Medical Center, Skokie, IL	01/12-06/16
Role: Associate Research Director/Member	
2011 Rush Research Mentoring Program Retreat Planning Committee, Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL	10/11
Role: Member	
Faculty Development Advisory Committee, Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL	12/10-01/14
Role: Junior Faculty Committee Member	
Didactics' Committee, Rush NeuroBehavioral Center, Rush University Medical Center, Skokie, IL	07/10-06/15
Role: Co-coordinator	
Northwestern University Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program Student Steering Committee, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL	10/01-12/06
Role: Member	
AMSA Women's Health Committee, Loyola University Chicago Chicago, IL	08/98-05/99
Role: Member	

SCIENTIFIC AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

EDITOR FOR PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

Frontiers in Psychology	2021
Co-Editor, Issue on Emotion Processing in Autism Spectrum Disorder	

REVIEWER FOR FUNDING AGENCIES

NIH Autism Data Science Initiative (ADSI) – Ad hoc reviewer	2025
Science Foundation Ireland – Ad hoc reviewer	2021-2022
PTEN Research – Ad hoc reviewer	2020
Institute of Education Sciences' National Center for Special Education Research (NCSER) – Standing panel reviewer (4-year term)	2019-2022
Rush University Medical Center, Rush University Mentoring Program Cohn Scholarship – Ad hoc reviewer	2018-2019, 2021
Institute of Education Sciences' NCSER – Ad hoc reviewer	2018

REVIEWER FOR PROFESSIONAL JOURNALS

Ad hoc manuscript reviewer for manuscripts submitted to the following journals (alphabetical):

<i>Ammons Scientific</i>	2013-
<i>Audiology and Neuro-Otology</i>	2004
<i>Audiology Research</i>	2011
<i>Autism Research</i>	2013-
<i>Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health</i>	2023-
<i>Clinical Neurophysiology</i>	2004-
<i>Developmental Neurorehabilitation</i>	2017-
<i>Ear and Hearing</i>	2004
<i>Frontiers in Education</i>	2023-
<i>Frontiers in Pediatrics</i>	2020-
<i>Frontiers in Psychology</i>	2021-
<i>Genes</i>	2020-
<i>Heliyon</i>	2020-
<i>International Journal of Audiology</i>	2015-
<i>International Journal of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology</i>	2011
<i>Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders</i>	2009-
<i>Journal of Communication Disorders</i>	2023
<i>Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment</i>	2016-
<i>Journal of Nonverbal Behavior</i>	2022-
<i>Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research</i>	2020-
<i>Molecular Autism</i>	2020-
<i>Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews</i>	2010
<i>Research in Developmental Disabilities</i>	2015-
<i>Social Development</i>	2020-
<i>Social and Emotional Learning: Research, Practice, and Policy</i>	2023-
<i>Springer Scientific Reports</i>	2023-

REVIEWER FOR CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Ad hoc abstract reviewer for Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness	2021
Spring Conference	
Volunteer abstract reviewer for International Meeting for Autism Research	2012-2014, 2018

COPYRIGHT AUTHORSHIPS

Virtual Environment for Social Information Processing (VESIP)	2021
SELweb	2016

PRESENTATIONS

INVITED WEBINARS

1. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.** (2024, November). Social-emotional learning and assessment of multilingual learners and youth with learning differences. Invited lecture presented virtually to the Student-Led Graduate Association, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.

2. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Karls, A., & McKown, C. (2021, June) *VESIP. 8th Annual ED Games Expo*, Virtual.
3. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Karls, A., & McKown, C. (2021, June) *Spanish VESIP. 8th Annual ED Games Expo*, Virtual.

INVITED TALKS

International

1. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.** & McKown, C. (2016, May). *Practical assessment of social emotional skills*. In J. Gest (Moderator), Online assessment of SEL skills. Invited presentation at the Eleventh International PATHS Conference – PATHS Innovation & Implementation: A Working Conference, Chicago, IL.

National

2. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.** (2019, January). *EdTech: The Buzz, the Promise, the Evidence, and the Future*. Invited plenary speaker at the Institute of Education Sciences' 2019 Principal Investigators Meeting.
3. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.** & Karls, A.* (2018, January). *Virtual environment for social information processing*. Invited presentation at the 5th Annual Ed Games Expo, Washington, D.C. *AK presented on behalf of NRP
4. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.** (2017, December). *Virtual environment for social information processing*. Invited e-poster presentation at the U.S. Department of Education/National Center for Education Statistics/4th annual National Assessment for Education Progress (NAEP) Innovations Symposium, Washington, D.C.
5. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.** (2016, December). *Virtual environment for social information processing*. Invited presentation at the White House's Convening on Better, Fewer, and Fairer Assessments' Innovative Assessment Tech Jam, Washington, D.C.
6. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.** (2016, December). *Virtual environment for social information processing*. Invited presentation at the 4th Annual Ed Games Expo, Washington, D.C.
7. **Russo, N. M.** (2011, March). *Biological changes in auditory function following training in children with autism spectrum disorders*. Invited presentation at the 2011 Visionary Conference, San Diego, CA.

Regional

8. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.** (2024, August). *Coaching the Whole Athlete*. Invited lecture presented at Heart of the City Coaches' Training, Waukegan, IL.
9. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.** (2024, April). *Social-emotional learning and out-of-school time programming*. Invited lecture presented at Heart of the City, Waukegan, IL.

10. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.** (2018, April). *Rigorous measurement of SEL skills in school-aged children*. Invited break-out session at 2018 Annual Conference Social Emotional Learning, Chicago, IL.
11. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.** (2017, June). *The importance of social-emotional learning for gifted children*. Invited lecture at Northwestern University's Center for Talent and Development Conference for the Future Family, Evanston, IL.
12. **Russo-Ponsaran, N. M.** (2016, October). *Understanding social-emotional learning in children with and without ASD: Measurement and mechanisms*. Invited lecture at Clearbrook, Arlington Heights, IL.
13. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.** (2016, July). *Understanding social-emotional learning in children with and without ASD: Measurement and mechanisms*. Invited lecture at Amita Health, Hoffman Estates, IL.
14. **Russo, N.M., Kraus, N.** (2005, March). *Auditory brainstem responses*. Invited lecture at Resurrection Hospital, Park Ridge, IL.

Institutional

15. **Russo-Ponsaran, NM.** (2022, November). *Validation of a Spanish- Language Social Reasoning Assessment for Spanish-Speaking English Language Learners*. Invited presentation for the Trio Recruitment Innovation Office, Institute for Translational Medicine/Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL.
16. **Russo-Ponsaran, NM.** (2022, November). *Validation of a Spanish-language Social Reasoning Assessment for Spanish-speaking English Language Learners*. Invited presentation for the Community Advisory Research Council Meeting, Chicago, IL.
17. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.** (2021, April). *Focus on social and emotional health & well-being of all children*. Invited lecture for the Rush University Medical Center Meet the Expert series, Chicago, IL.
18. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.** (2017, January). *Neural processing of speech sounds and social-emotional learning in children*. Invited presentation at Ear Day, Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL.
19. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.** (2016, September). *Introduction to the speech-evoked auditory brainstem response: Exploratory research on its potential relationship to social-emotional learning skills*. Invited lecture for the Rush University Medical Center Meet the Expert series, Chicago, IL.
20. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.** (2015, April). *Social-emotional learning innovations for children with and without neurobehavioral disorders*. Invited lecture for the Rush University Medical Center Meet the Expert series, Chicago, IL.

21. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.** (2013, September) *When research and business collide: Lessons learned from a researcher on an SBIR grant*. Invited lecture for the Rush University Medical Center Meet the Expert series, Chicago, IL.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

International

1. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Yesensky, J., Hessel, D., & Berry-Kravis, E.M. (2012, July). *Feasibility, reproducibility, and clinical validity of the Pediatric Anxiety Rating Scale, Revised (PARS-R) in fragile X syndrome*. Oral presentation delivered at the 13th International Fragile X Conference, Miami, FL.
2. **Russo, N.**, Berry-Kravis, E., McKown, C., & Lipton M. (2010, May). *Variants in the social-emotional phenotype of children with autism and children with fragile X syndrome*. Oral presentation session delivered at the International Meeting for Autism Research, Philadelphia, PA.

National

3. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Crowley, S.J., Van Valkenburg, S., Adams, J., Karls, A., Pollard, M., Rosenberg, R. (2023, November). *Impact of early school start times on early elementary students' sleep behavior*. Oral presentation given at the 12th Biennial Pediatric Sleep Medicine Conference, Hilton Head Island, SC.
4. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.**, Karls, A., Sotelo Martinez, D., Wainer, A., & Barrueco, S. (2023, September). *Partnering with the community to identify strategies for recruitment of Spanish-speaking students*. Paper presented at Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE), Arlington, VA.
5. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, & Barrueco, S. (2023, May) *English Learners: Methodological Considerations*. Panel discussion presented at the IES 2023 Annual Principal Investigators' Meeting.
6. McKown, C.*, and **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.*** (2023, February). *SELweb MS: A web-Based social-emotional assessment for middle schoolers*. Paper presented at the National Association of School Psychologists 2023 Annual Convention. Denver, CO. *Co-Presenting authors.
7. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.**, Karls, A., & McKown, C. (2021, May). *Preliminary investigation into the assessment of social information processing skills in Spanish-speaking English language learner students*. Flash talk presented at the 2021 APS Virtual Convention.
8. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.** & McKown, C.* (2018, February). In P. LeBuffe (Chair), *Alternative Approaches to Assessing Social and Emotional Competence*. Symposium presentation for the NASP 2018 Annual Convention, Chicago, IL. *CM presented on behalf of NRP
9. Thomas, J.* & **Russo-Ponsaran*, N.M.** (2013, June). *VESIP: A social skills assessment tool for children*. Oral presentation delivered at the 9th Annual Games for Health Conference, Boston, MA. *Co-presented

Institutional

10. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Johnson, J., Russo, J., & McKown, C. (2013, April). *Innovation of a virtual environment for assessing social information processing skills in children*. Oral presentation delivered at the 30th Annual Rush University Forum for Research and Clinical Investigation, Research Mentoring Panel, Chicago, IL.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

International

1. Karls, A., Lerner, M.D., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, McKown, C., Kang, E., & Sommer, S.L. (2019, May). *Web-based measure of SEL skills associated with parent-reported social behavior in youth with autism spectrum disorders*. Poster session presented at the International Society for Autism Research 2019 Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.
2. McKown, C.*, Allen, A., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.***, & Johnson, J.K. (2013, April). *Reliability and validity of direct assessments of social and emotional comprehension*. Poster session presented at the Biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Seattle, WA. *Co-presented
3. McKown, C.*, Johnson, J.K., & **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.*** (2013, April). *Development and consequences of children's social self-efficacy accuracy ratings*. Poster session presented at the Biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Seattle, WA. *Co-presented
4. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, McKown, C., Johnson, J., Allen, A., & Knudsen, K. (2012, May). *Usability and likability of the virtual environment for social information processing (VESIP™) for children with and without autism spectrum disorders*. Poster session presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, Toronto, Canada.
5. **Russo, N. M.***, Evans-Smith, B.*, Johnson, J., & McKown, C. (2011, May). *Efficacy of a facial affect recognition training tool for children with autism spectrum disorders*. Poster session presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, San Diego, CA.*Co-presented
6. **Russo, N.**, McKown, C., & Lipton, M. (2009, May). *Affect recognition skills across four nonverbal channels in children with autism spectrum disorders and their typically-developing peers*. Poster session presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, Chicago, IL.
7. McKown, C.*, **Russo, N.***, & Lipton M. (2009, May). *Joint effects of nonverbal accuracy and nonverbal processing speed on social functioning among children with autism spectrum disorders and their typically-developing peers*. Poster session presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, Chicago, IL. *Co-presented
8. **Russo, N. M.**, Trommer, B. L., Skoe, E. E., Nicol, T. G., Zecker, S. G., Bradlow, A. R., Hornickel, J. M., & Kraus, N. (2008, May). *Brainstem transcription of speech in autism spectrum disorders*. Poster session presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, London, UK.

National

9. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Crowley, S.J., Van Valkenburg, S., Adams, J., Karls, A., Pollard, M., Rosenberg, R. (2023, November). *Impact of early school start times on early elementary students' sleep behavior*. Poster session presented at the 12th Biennial Pediatric Sleep Medicine Conference, Hilton Head Island, SC.
10. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, McKown, C., Karls, A., Smith, E., & Folsom-Kovarik, J. (2020, March). *Psychometric Properties of VESIP, a Social Information Processing Simulation Assessment for Children*. Poster session presented at the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE) Annual Meeting, Arlington, VA. (Cancelled due to COVID-19)
11. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Karls, A., Nicol, T., & Kraus, N. (2019, October). *Replication of neural processing of pitch in youth without clinical diagnoses*. Poster session presented at the 2019 Society for Neuroscience meeting, Chicago, IL.
12. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, McKown, C., Smith, E., Karls, A., & Wu, I. (2018, January). *Reliability and validity of VESIPTM, a social information processing assessment tool for upper elementary and middle school children*. Poster and demonstration session presented at the 2018 Institute of Educational Sciences Principal Investigators' Meeting, Arlington, VA.
13. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, McKown, C., Johnson, J., Russo, J., Crossman, J., Tucker, E., Coig, J. (2013, October). *Improved assessment of social information processing skills in children with and without autism*. Poster session presented at the 60th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Orlando, FL.
14. **Russo, N. M.**, Larson, C., & Kraus, N. (2007, February). *Auditory feedback affects vocal production in autistic children*. Poster session presented at the Association for Research in Otolaryngology Winter Meeting, Denver, CO.
15. Wong, P. C. M.*, Skoe, E., **Russo, N. M.***, Dees, T., & Kraus, N. (2007, February). *Musical experience shapes human brainstem encoding of linguistic pitch patterns*. Poster session presented at the Association for Research in Otolaryngology Winter Meeting, Denver, CO.
*Co-presented
16. **Russo, N. M.**, Skoe, E., Bradlow, A., Zecker, S., Trommer, B., & Kraus, N. (2006, October). *The integrity of the auditory brainstem in autism*. Poster session presented at the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia.
17. **Russo, N. M.**, Nicol, T., Hayes, E., Zecker, S., & Kraus, N. (2003, November) *Auditory training can improve neural timing in the auditory brainstem*. Poster session presented at the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
18. **Russo, N. M.**, Musacchia, G., Nicol, T., Zecker, S., & Kraus, N. (2003, February). *Encoding of speech sounds in quiet and background noise in the brainstem: Normal and learning impaired children*. Poster session presented at the Association for Research in Otolaryngology Winter Meeting, Daytona Beach, FL.

Institutional

19. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, McKown, C., Karls, A., Nicol, T., Dawar, R., Ali, A., & Kraus, N. (2016, August). *Relationships between speech-evoked auditory brainstem responses, pragmatic language and social reasoning skills in children*. Poster session presented at the Rush Mentoring Program 2nd Annual Symposium, Chicago, IL.
20. **Russo, N.**, Berry-Kravis, E., McKown, C., & Lipton, M. (2010, April). *Social information processing deficits in girls with fragile X syndrome*. Poster session presented at the 27th Annual Rush University Forum for Research and Clinical Investigation, Chicago, IL.

FUNDING HISTORY OF PEER-REVIEWED GRANTS

PENDING SUPPORT

Pending Award, 1R34HL185980-01 (Russo-Ponsaran)

Title: Parent training to improve child sleep during the kindergarten transition

Role: Principal Investigator

Funding Agency: National Institute of Heart, Lung, and Blood

Funding Mechanism: R34

Direct Cost: \$450,000

Total Award: \$711,000

Funding Period: 04/01/2026-03/31/2029

Pending Award, 1R01HL178677-01A1 (Russo-Ponsaran)

Title: Early elementary school start time: Impact on sleep, health, and learning

Role: Principal Investigator

Funding Agency: National Institute of Heart, Lung, and Blood

Funding Mechanism: R01 (revised)

Direct Cost: \$2,487,251

Total Award: \$3,929,857

Funding Period: 12/01/2025-11/30/2030

Impact Score: 31

Percentile: 7th

CURRENT SUPPORT

Grant ID: R305A200463 (Russo-Ponsaran)

Title: Validation of a Spanish-language social reasoning assessment for Spanish-speaking English Language Learners

Role: Principal Investigator

Funding Agency: Institute of Education Sciences

Funding Mechanism: Measurement

Direct Cost: \$949,076

Total Award: 1,399,302

Funding Period: 07/01/2020-06/30/2024 (No Cost Extension through 12/31/2026)

Grant ID: 388079 (Soorya)

Title: Rush-Chicagoland SPARK

Role: Co-Investigator

Funding Agency: Simons Foundation

Funding Mechanism: SPARK Clinical Site Network
Total Award: \$450,000
Funding Period: 04/1/2016-02/28/2025

COMPLETED SUPPORT

Grant ID: R305A200220 (McKown)
Title: Web-based assessment of social-emotional skills in middle school
Role: Co-Investigator
Funding Agency: Institute of Education Sciences
Funding Mechanism: Measurement
Direct Cost: \$890,703
Total Award: \$1,398,404
Funding Period: 7/01/2020-06/30/2024 (no cost extension through 06/30/2025)

Grant ID: S423A200114
Title: Social and emotional learning study groups+ for educators of students with emotional and behavioral disorders (EBD) (Benner/McKown)
Role: Co-Investigator
Funding Mechanism: Supporting Effective Education Development (SEED)
Funding Agency: US Department of Education
Total Award: \$4.8M (\$599,426 Rush subaward)
Funding Period: 10/01/2020-09/30/2023

Title: Illinois Aware (ISBE)
Role: Program evaluation subcontractor
Funding Agency: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
Funding Mechanism: Project Aware
Total Award: \$1.8M (\$270K Rush contract annually)
Funding Period: 10/01/2020-03/01/2023

Grant ID: R305A160053 (McKown)
Title: Web-Based assessment of social-emotional comprehension and execution in grades four to six
Role: Co-Investigator, Project Director
Funding Agency: Institute of Education Sciences
Funding Mechanism: Measurement (Goal 5)
Total Award: \$ \$1,399,997
Funding Period: 07/1/2016-06/30/2020 (no cost extension through 06/30/2022)

Title: Becoming Ethical People: A Study of character development among students in EL education schools (Rimm-Kaufman)
Role: Consultant
Funding Agency: Templeton Foundation
Funding Mechanism: n/a
Direct Cost: \$629, 944 (\$12,000 contract)
Funding Period: 10/01/2018-09/30/2021

Grant ID: R305A150189 (Russo-Ponsaran)

Title: VESIP: Virtual Environment for Social Information Processing: Assessment tool for upper elementary and middle school children

Role: Principal Investigator

Funding Agency: Institute of Education Sciences

Funding Mechanism: Measurement (Goal 5)

Total Award: \$1,599,986 + supplemental award

Funding Period: 07/01/2015-06/30/2019 (2nd no cost extension through 06/30/2021)

Grant ID: n/a (Russo-Ponsaran)

Title: Creating a Spanish language version of VESIP

Role: Principal Investigator

Funding Agency: Woman's Board of Rush University Medical Center

Total Award: \$69,206

Funding Period: 06/05/2017-06/30/2018

Grant ID: N/A (Russo-Ponsaran)

Title: Auditory brainstem response and social information processing

Role: Principal Investigator

Funding Agency: Rush Translational Sciences Consortium

Funding Mechanism: Schweppe Foundation and Armour bequest

Total Award: \$49,330

Funding Period: 09/01/2015-07/31/2016 (no cost extension through 10/31/2017)

Grant ID: n/a (Russo-Ponsaran)

Title: Supporting social assessment in Playworks

Role: Principal Investigator

Funding Agency: Woman's Board of Rush University Medical Center

Total Award: \$10,000

Funding Period: 06/15/2015-06/30/2016

Grant ID: n/a (Russo-Ponsaran)

Title: NeuroBehavioral laboratory start up

Role: Principal Investigator

Funding Agency: The Children's Foundation

Funding Mechanism: n/a

Total Award: \$27,500

Funding Period: 06/01/2015-05/31/2017

Grant ID: 381283NR (Russo-Ponsaran/Lerner)

Title: A Web-based tool to assess social cognition in ASD

Role: Co-Principal Investigator

Funding Agency: Simons Foundation

Funding Mechanism: Explorer Award

Total Award: \$59,981 (\$27,261 Rush)

Funding Period: 11/01/2015-10/31/2016 (no cost extension through 05/31/2017)

Grant ID: R305A110143 (McKown)

Title: A Toolkit for identifying and assessing socially rejected children

Role: Co-Investigator, Project Director
Funding Agency: Institute of Education Sciences
Funding Mechanism: Measurement (Goal 5)
Total Award: \$ \$2,325,731
Funding Period: 07/01/2011-06/30/2015 (no cost extension through 06/30/2016)

Grant ID: SBIR H133S110048 (Soar Technology, Inc.)
Title: Virtual Environment for Social Information Processing (VESIP) Phase II
Role: Lead Scientific Consultant/Site Principal Investigator
Funding Agency: U.S. Department of Education OSERS/National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR)
Funding Mechanism: Small Business Innovative Research, Phase II
Direct Cost: \$164,704 subcontract
Funding Period: 10/1/2011-09/30/2013 (no cost extension through 03/31/2014)

Grant ID: n/a (Russo-Ponsaran/Evans-Smith)
Title: Emotion recognition training for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders
Role: Co-Principal Investigator (Evans-Smith, co-PI)
Funding Mechanism: Private Donation
Funding Agency: Searle Foundation
Direct Cost: \$160,000
Funding Period: 09/01/2011-06/30/2013

Grant ID: n/a (Russo-Ponsaran)
Title: Usability and likeability of the Virtual Environment for Social Information Processing with children
Role: Principal Investigator
Funding Agency: Rush Translational Sciences Consortium, Rush University Medical Center
Funding Mechanism: Pilot Grant
Direct Cost: \$25,000
Funding Period: 07/01/2011-06/30/2012 (no cost extension through 06/30/2013)

Grant ID: SBIR H133S100019 (Soar Technology, Inc.) Phase I
Title: Virtual Environment for Social Information Processing
Role: Lead Scientific Consultant/Site Principal Investigator
Funding Agency: U.S. Department of Education OSERS/NIDRR
Funding Mechanism: Phase I SBIR
Direct Cost: \$74,964 (\$3,000 subcontract)
Funding Period: 10/01/2010-04/01/2011

OTHER SCIENTIFIC AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

Autism Rater

1. A randomized, double-blind, 12-week, parallel-group, placebo-controlled, study of the efficacy and safety of RO4917523 in patients with fragile X syndrome. (Study NP27936B)

2. A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, pharmacokinetic, safety and tolerability, and exploratory efficacy and pharmacodynamic effects study of RO4917523 in adult patients with fragile X syndrome. (Study NP22578)
3. A double-blind, placebo-controlled proof of concept study of acamprosate in youth with fragile X Syndrome

Research Department Journal Club, *Rush NeuroBehavioral Center* 2013-2015
Skokie, IL
Role: Facilitator

Rush Research Forum 2013, 2015
Chicago, IL
Role: Sigma XI Poster Judge

Department of Pediatric Neurology, *Evanston Northwestern Healthcare* 01/05-04/08
Evanston, IL
Role: Observer/Volunteer
Supervisor: Barbara Trommer, M.D.

2002 Scientific Meeting for the Chicago Chapter of the *Society for Neuroscience* 02/02
Chicago, IL
Role: Student Volunteer

Center for Health and Fitness, *Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago* 09/98-12/99
Chicago, IL
Role: Volunteer
Supervisor: Katie Basile

BIBLIOGRAPHY

IN PROGRESS

1. Karls, A., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Wronski, M., & McKown, C. (2025). Measuring SEL takes time: Cost analysis of a web-based assessment.
2. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.***, Van Valkenburg, S.*, McKown, C., & Karls, A. (2025). The Importance of measuring lexile levels in assessment development.

PUBLISHED

INVITED CHAPTERS

1. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Karls, A., & McKown, C. (2022). Chapter 8: Novel technology-based SEL assessments. In J. Burrus, M. Brenneman, & S. Rikoon (Eds.). *Assessing competencies for social and emotional learning: Conceptualization, Development, and Applications*.

OP ED

2. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Barrueco, S., & Winiarski, D. (2023, June). SEL assessment doesn't translate. *Language Magazine*, online.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

3. McKown, C., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.**, Wronski, M., & Karls, A. (2025). Psychometric properties of a social and emotional competence assessment for middle school students. *Social and Emotional Learning: Research, Practice, and Policy*, 6, 100128. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sel.2025.100128>
4. 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. <http://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-024-06261-1>
5. Davidson, D., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, van Rest, M.M., & Scarpa, A. (2023). Editorial: Emotion processing in autism spectrum disorders. *Frontiers in Psychology* 14. doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2023.1141824.
6. McKown, C., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, & Karls, A. (2023). Psychometric properties of a web-based assessment of student social and emotional competence for the late elementary grades. *Social Development* 32, 73-97. doi.org/10.1111/sode.12641.
7. McKown, C., Kharitonova, M., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, & Aksu-Dunya, B. (2021). Psychometric properties of a shortened form of SELweb EE, a web-based assessment of children's social-emotional comprehension. *Assessment*. doi: 10.1177/10731911211046044.
8. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.**, McKown, C., Karls, A., & Wu, I. (2021). Psychometric properties of Virtual Environment for Social Information Processing (VESIP), a social information processing simulation assessment for children. *Social Development* 30(3), 615– 640. doi: 10.1111/sode.12512.
9. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Lerner, M.D., McKown, C., Weber, R.J., Karls, A., Kang, E., & Sommer, S.L. (2019). Web-based assessment of social-emotional skills in school-aged youth with autism spectrum disorder. *Autism Research*, 12, 1260-1271. doi: 10.1002/aur.2123.
10. Fombonne E, Green Snyder L, Daniels A, Feliciano P, Chung W. (2020) Psychiatric and medical profiles of autistic adults in the SPARK cohort. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 50(10):3679-3698. doi: 10.1007/s10803-020-04414-6.
11. Fombonne E, Goin-Kochel RP, O'Roak BJ. (2020). Beliefs in vaccine as causes of autism among SPARK cohort caregivers. *Vaccine*, 38(7):1794-1803. doi: 10.1016/j.vaccine.2019.12.026.
12. Feliciano P, Zhou X, Astrovskaya I, Turner TN, Wang T, Brueggeman L, Barnard R, Hsieh A, Snyder LG, Muzny DM, Sabo A, Gibbs RA, Eichler EE, O'Roak BJ, Michaelson JJ, Volfovsky N, Shen Y, Chung WK. (2019). Exome sequencing of 457 autism families recruited online provides evidence for autism risk genes. *NPJ Genomic Medicine*, 4:19. doi: 10.1038/s41525-019-0093-8.

13. Feliciano, P., Daniels, A. M., Green Snyder, L., Beaumont, A., Camba, A., Esler, A., . . . Chung, W. K. (2018). SPARK: A US cohort of 50,000 families to accelerate autism research. *Neuron*, 97, 488-493. doi:10.1016/j.neuron.2018.01.015.
14. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, McKown, C., Johnson, J., Russo, J., Crossman, J., & Reife, I. (2018). Virtual Environment for Social Information Processing: Assessment of children with and without autism spectrum disorders. *Autism Research*, 11, 305-317. doi: 10.1002/aur.1889.
15. Russo, J., McKown, C., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Johnson, J., and Allen, A. (2017). Reliability and validity of a Spanish language assessment of children's social-emotional learning skills. *Psychological Assessment*. [Epub ahead of print]. doi: 10.1037/pas0000508.
16. McKown, C., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Johnson, J., Russo, J., & Allen, A.A. (2016). Web-based assessment of children's social-emotional comprehension. *Journal of Psychoeducational Assessment*, 34, 322-338. doi: 10.1177/0734282915604564.
17. McKown, C., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Allen, A., Johnson, J., & Warren-Khot, H. (2016). Social-emotional factors and academic outcomes among elementary-aged children. *Infant and Child Development*, 25, 119–136. doi: 10.1002/icd.1926.
18. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Evans-Smith, B., Johnson, J., Russo, J., & McKown, C. (2016). Efficacy of a facial emotion training program for children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders. *Journal of Nonverbal Behavior*, 40, 13–38. doi: 10.1007/s10919-015-0217-5.
19. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, McKown, C., Johnson, J., Allen, A., Evans-Smith, B., & Fogg, L. (2015). Social-emotional correlates of early stage social information processing skills in children with and without autism spectrum disorder. *Autism Research*, online. doi: 10.1002/aur.1463.
20. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Evans-Smith, B., Johnson, J.K., & McKown, C. (2014). Feasibility and effectiveness of a facial emotion recognition and expression training paradigm for school-aged children with autism spectrum disorders. *Journal of Mental Health Research in Intellectual Disabilities*, 7, 169-190. doi: 10.1080/19315864.2013.793440.
21. **Russo-Ponsaran, N. M.**, Berry-Kravis, E., McKown, C., & Lipton, M. (2014). A pilot study of social information processing skills in girls with fragile X syndrome. *Journal of Mental Health Research in Intellectual Disabilities*, 7, 143-168. doi: 10.1080/19315864.2013.791358.
22. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Yesensky, J., Hessel, D., & Berry-Kravis, E. (2014). Feasibility, reproducibility, and clinical validity of the Pediatric Anxiety Rating Scale-Revised in fragile X syndrome. *American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, 119, 1-16. doi: 10.1352/1944-7558-119.1.1.

23. McKown, C., Allen, A., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, & Johnson, J.K. (2013). Direct assessment of children's social-emotional comprehension. *Psychological Assessment*, 25, 1154-66. doi: 10.1037/a0033435.
24. **Russo, N. M.***, Hornickel, J.*, Nicol, T., Zecker, S., & Kraus, N. (2010). Biological changes in auditory function following training in children with autism spectrum disorders. *Behavioral and Brain Functions*, 6. doi: 10.1186/1744-9081-6-60. *equal contributions
25. Liu, H., **Russo, N.**, & Larson, C. (2010). Age-related differences in vocal responses to pitch feedback perturbations: A preliminary study. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 127, 1042-46. doi: 10.1121/1.3273880.
26. McKown, C., Gumbiner, L. M., **Russo, N. M.**, & Lipton, M. E. (2009). Social-emotional learning skill, self-regulation, and social competence in typically-developing and clinic-referred children. *Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology*, 38, 858-871. doi:10.1080/15374410903258934.
27. **Russo, N.**, Zecker, S., Trommer, B., Chen, J., & Kraus, N. (2009). Effects of background noise on cortical encoding of speech in autism spectrum disorders. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 39, 1185-96. doi: 10.1007/s10803-009-0737-0.
28. **Russo, N.**, Nicol, T., Trommer, B., Zecker, S., & Kraus, N. (2009). Brainstem transcription of speech is disrupted in children with autism spectrum disorders. *Developmental Science*, 12, 557-67. doi: 10.1111/j.1467-7687.2008.00790.x.
29. **Russo, N. M.**, Skoe, E., Trommer, B., Nicol, T., Zecker, S., Bradlow, A., & Kraus, N. (2008) Deficient brainstem encoding of pitch in children with autism spectrum disorders. *Clinical Neurophysiology*, 119, 1720-1731. doi: 10.1016/j.clinph.2008.01.108.
30. **Russo N. M.**, Larson, C., & Kraus, N. (2008). Audio-vocal system regulation in children with autism spectrum disorders. *Experimental Brain Research*, 188, 111-24. doi: 10.1007/s00221-008-1348-2.
31. Wong, P. C. M., Skoe, E.*; **Russo N. M.***, Dees, T., & Kraus N. (2007). Musical experience shapes human brainstem encoding of linguistic pitch patterns. *Nature Neuroscience*, 10, 420-422. doi:10.1038/nn1872. *Equal contribution
32. Song, J. H., Banai, K., **Russo, N. M.**, & Kraus, N. (2006). On the relationship between speech and nonspeech evoked auditory brainstem responses. *Audiology and Neurotology*, 11, 233-241. doi:10.1159/000093058.
33. **Russo, N. M.**, Nicol, T.G., Zecker, S. G., Hayes, E. A., & Kraus, N. (2005). Auditory training improves neural timing in the human brainstem. *Behavioural Brain Research*, 156, 95-103. doi:10.1016/j.bbr.2004.05.012.
34. **Russo, N.**, Nicol, T., Musacchia, G., & Kraus, N. (2004). Brainstem responses to speech syllables. *Clinical Neurophysiology*, 115, 2021-2030. doi:10.1016/j.clinph.2004.04.003.

35. Tuchman, N. C., Wahtera, K. A., Wetzel, R. G., **Russo, N. M.**, Kilbane, G. M., Sasso, L. M., & Teeri, J. A. (2003). Nutritional quality of leaf detritus altered by elevated atmospheric CO₂: Effects on development of mosquito larvae. *Freshwater Biology*, 48, 1432-1439. doi: 10.1046/j.1365-2427.2003.01102.x.

PEER-REVIEWED ABSTRACTS

Accepted

1. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Adams, J., & Crowley, S.C. (2025). Early school start times in kindergarten differentially impact sleep in young night owls. Oral presentation to be given at the 13th Biennial Pediatric Sleep Medicine Conference, Hilton Head Island, SC.
2. 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 presented at the 2025 American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology Annual Conference. Chicago, IL.
3. 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.
4. Pollard, M.*, Rosenberg, R.*, Van Valkenburg, S., Adam, J., & **Russo-Ponsaran, N.** (2024, February). *Moderating the relationship between parental stress and child behavior*. Poster presentation at the Midwestern Psychological Association 2024 Meeting. Chicago, IL. (*co-primary authors)
5. Van Valkenburg, S., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.**, Wronski, M., Karls, A., Parker, N., & McKown, C. (2024, April). *Lexile levels in school-based social-emotional assessment development*. Poster presentation at the Midwestern Psychological Association 2024 Meeting. Chicago, IL.
6. Karls, A., Wronski, M., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Van Valkenburg, S., & McKown, C. (2024, February). *Specifying the invisible costs of SEL assessment*. Paper presented at the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) 2024 Annual Convention. New Orleans, LA.
7. McKown, C., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Wronski, M., & Karls, A. (2024, February). *Social and emotional competence assessment in the middle school grades*. Paper presented at the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) 2024 Annual Convention. New Orleans, LA.
8. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Crowley, S.J., Van Valkenburg, S., Adams, J., Karls, A., Pollard, M., Rosenberg, R. (2023, November). *Impact of early school start times on early elementary students' sleep behavior*. Oral and poster presentations given at the 12th Biennial Pediatric Sleep Medicine Conference, Hilton Head Island, SC.
9. Sotelo-Martinez, D., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Wainer, A., Karls, A., & Barrueco, S. (2023, September). *Qualitative examination of VESIP-Spanish (Virtual Environment for Social Information Processing-Spanish), a Spanish social reasoning assessment*. Poster presented at Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE), Arlington, VA.

10. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.**, Karls, A., Sotelo Martinez, D., Wainer, A., & Barrueco, S. (2023, September). *Partnering with the community to identify strategies for recruitment of Spanish-speaking students*. Paper presented at Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE), Arlington, VA.
11. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, & Barrueco, S. (2023, May). *English learners: Methodological considerations*. Panel discussion presented at the IES 2023 Annual Principal Investigators' Meeting.
12. McKown, C.*, and **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.*** (2023, February). *SELweb MS: A web-based social-emotional assessment for middle schoolers*. Paper presented at the National Association of School Psychologists 2023 Annual Convention. Denver, CO. *Co-presenting authors.
13. Summers, N., Karls, A., & **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.** (2022, May). *Emotional responses to simulated social situations in autistic and non-autistic youth*. Poster session presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research 2022 Annual Meeting, Austin, TX.
14. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.**, *Karls, A. & McKown, C. (2022, April). *Novel technology-based SEL assessments*. In Burrus, J. (Session chair), *Assessing Competencies for Social and Emotional Learning: Conceptualization, Development, and Applications*. Symposium session presented at the 2022 Annual Meeting for the American Education Research Association, San Diego, CA. *Presenting author.
15. Karls, A., Fogg, L. & **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.** (2022, February). *Comparison of Student Social Reasoning and Teacher-Reported Social Difficulties*. Poster session presented at the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) 2022 Annual Convention, Boston, MA.
16. Wronski, M., Karls, A., Katsiaficas, D., Winiarski, D., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.**, & McKown, C. (2021, September). *Conducting focus groups to develop a middle school social-emotional learning assessment*. In-the-pipeline poster presented at the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness Annual Conference.
17. McKown, C., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.**, and Karls, A. (2021, September). *Web-based assessment of social and emotional competence for the late elementary grades*. Paper presented at the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness Annual Conference.
18. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.**, Karls, A., & McKown, C. (2021, May). *Preliminary investigation into the assessment of social information processing skills in Spanish-speaking English language learner students*. Flash talk presented at the 2021 APS Virtual Convention.
19. McNair, M. L., Libsack, L.J., Mondejar, V., Mordekai, N., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.**, Lerner, M.D. (2021, May). *To be Good or to be Right: Effects of Social Problem Solving Competence and Congruency on Social Functioning in ASD*. Poster presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, Virtual.

20. McNair, M., Mondejar, V., Mordekai, N., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.**, & Lerner, M. (2021, April). *Social Skills Challenges, Hurt Feelings, and Social Problem-Solving Goals in Children with ASD*. Flash talk paper presented at the Society for Research on Child Development, Virtual.
21. McNair, M.L., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.**, McKown, C., & Lerner, M. (2020, May). *The Problem-solvers: Moderating effects of social cognition on the relation between identifying and solving social problems in youth with ASD*. Poster presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, Seattle, WA.
22. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.**, McKown, K., Karls, A., Smith, E., & Folsom-Kovarik, J. (2020, March). *Psychometric Properties of VESIP, a Social Information Processing Simulation Assessment for Children*. Poster presented at the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness Annual Meeting, Arlington, VA. (Cancelled due to COVID-19)
23. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Karls, A., Nicol, T., & Kraus, N. (2019, October). *Replication of the neural processing of pitch in youth without clinical diagnoses*. Poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
24. Karls, A., Lerner, M.D., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, McKown, C., Kang, E. & Sommer, S.L. (2019, May). *Web-based measure of SEL skills associated with parent-reported social behavior in youth with autism spectrum disorders*. Poster presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, Montreal, Canada.
25. Karls, A., Wu, Y., McKown, C., & **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.** (2018, June). *Measuring social reasoning in middle and upper elementary students*. Workshop presentation delivered at the Music City SEL Conference, Nashville, TN.
26. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.** & McKown, C. (2018, February). In P. LeBuffe (Chair), *Alternative Approaches to Assessing Social and Emotional Competence*. Presentation for the NASP 2018 Annual Convention, Chicago, IL.
27. Weber, R.J., Kang, E., Trimber, E., Karls, A., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.**, McKown, C., & Lerner, M.D. (2017, May). *Web-based tool to assess social cognition in youth with ASD: Reliability and criterion validity*. Poster at the International Meeting for Autism Research, San Francisco, CA.
28. Weber, R.J., Kang, E., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.**, McKown, C., & Lerner, M.D. (2017, April). *Validation of a web-based tool to assess social cognition in youth with ASD*. Poster at the Biennial Meeting of Society for Research in Child Development, Austin, TX.
29. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.**, Shapiro, V.B., Accomazzo, S., & Kim, B.K.E. (2017, April). *Combining Direct assessment and behavior rating scale approaches: Examining the relationship between VESIP and DESSA scores*. In V.B. Shapiro (Chair) & C. McKown (Discussant), *Measuring social emotional competence in school settings: Exploring assessment using multiple raters and multiple methods*. Presentation for the Society for Research on Child Development Conference, Austin, TX.

30. Shapiro, V.B., Accomazzo, S., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.** & Kim, B.K.E. (2017, April). *Comparing the direct assessment of social-emotional comprehension to the indirect assessment of social-emotional competence*. In J.J. Taylor (Discussant), SEL Assessment: Bias, (dis)agreement, and the great direct assessment versus behavior rating scale debate. Presentation for the American Education Research Association Conference, San Antonio, TX.
31. McKown, C. & **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.** (2017, March). *A web-based system for measuring social emotional skills in kindergarten to third grade*. In Social and emotional learning in educational settings: Next generation measurement of social-emotional learning. Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness, Washington, DC.
32. McKown, C., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, & Johnson, J. (2016, March). *Measuring social-emotional skills to advance science and practice*. In C. Domitrovich (Chair), Social and emotional learning interventions in educational settings & international perspectives on educational effectiveness measuring social and emotional skills and development. Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness, Washington, DC.
33. Russo, J., McKown, C., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.**, & Johnson, J. (2015, March) Reliability and Validity of an adapted Spanish language social-emotional assessment. Poster session presented at the Biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Philadelphia, PA.
34. McKown, C., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Allen, A.W., Johnson, J.K., & Russo, J. (2014, September). *The role of assessment in promoting children's health social-emotional development*. In C. McKown (Chair), Measuring healthy elementary classroom environments: Emotional, behavioral, and relational perspectives. Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness, Washington, DC.
35. McKown, C., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Allen, A.W., Johnson, J.K., & Russo, J. (2014, April). *Assessing skills used in children's social interaction*. In B. Ladd & B. French (Chairs), Coaching children to collaborate effectively with classmates. Invited paper for presidential symposium presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.
36. Chubinskaya, S., Sacriste, S., Catrambone, C., Cs-Szabo, G., Friese, T., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.**, Sandi, G., & Tessler, K. (2014, July). *Teaching academy program: Facts and analysis*. Paper presented at the 2014 GFA Professional Development Conference, Boston, MA.
37. Chubinskaya, S., Sacriste, S., Catrambone, C., Cs-Szabo, G., Friese, T., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.**, Sandi, G., & Tessler, K. (2014, July). *The office of faculty affairs: Where to start and what to face. Three years review*. Paper presented at the 2014 GFA Professional Development Conference, Boston, MA.
38. Russo, J. Evans-Smith, B., & **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.** (2014, May). *Facial emotion recognition and expression deficits in children with ASD and the effects of training*. Poster session presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, Atlanta, GA.

39. Johnson, J., Evans-Smith, B., & **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.** (2014, May). *The impact of participant characteristics on the effectiveness of facial emotion training in children with autism spectrum disorders*. Poster session presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, Atlanta, GA.
40. Evans-Smith, B., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.**, Russo, J., Johnson, J., & McKown, C. (2014, May). *Efficacy of a facial emotion training program for children and teens with ASD*. Poster session presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, Atlanta, GA.
41. Ching, W., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Berry-Kravis, E., & McKown, C. (2014, April). *Assessment of SELweb for use in Fragile X Syndrome*. Poster session presented at the 31st Annual Rush University Forum for Research and Clinical Investigation, Chicago, IL.
42. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, McKown, C., Johnson, J., Russo, J., Crossman, J., Tucker, E., Coig, J. (2013, October). *Improved assessment of social information processing skills in children with and without autism*. Poster session presented at the 60th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Orlando, FL.
43. Hill, C., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Russo, J., Johnson, J., Hesmond, K., & McKown, C. (2013, October). *The role of social emotional learning in children's social competence*. Poster session presented at the 60th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Orlando, FL.
44. Thomas, J. & **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.** (2013, June). *VESIP: A social skills assessment tool for children*. Oral presentation delivered at the 9th Annual Games for Health Conference, Boston, MA.
45. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Johnson, J., Russo, J., & McKown, C. (2013, April). *Innovation of a virtual environment for assessing social information processing skills in children*. Oral presentation delivered at the 30th Annual Rush University Forum for Research and Clinical Investigation, Research Mentoring Panel, Chicago, IL.
46. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, McKown, C., Johnson, J.K., Allen, A., & Evans-Smith, B. (2013, May). *Social information processing skills in relation to emotion recognition, theory of mind, and pragmatic language in children with and without autism spectrum disorders*. Poster session presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, Donostia/San Sebastián Basque Country, Spain.
47. McKown, C., Allen, A., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, & Johnson, J.K. (2013, April). *Reliability and validity of direct assessments of social and emotional comprehension*. Poster session presented at the Biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Seattle, WA.
48. McKown, C., Johnson, J.K., & **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.** (2013, April). *Development and consequences of children's social self-efficacy accuracy ratings*. Poster session presented at the Biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Seattle, WA.

49. Evans-Smith, B., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.**, and Johnson, J. (2013, February). *Examining the effectiveness of mindfulness for treating children with ASD and ADHD*. Oral presentation delivered at the Bridging the Hearts and Minds of Youth Conference. San Diego, CA.
50. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Yesensky, J., Hessel, D., & Berry-Kravis, E.M. (2012, July). *Feasibility, reproducibility, and clinical validity of the Pediatric Anxiety Rating Scale, Revised (PARS-R) in fragile X syndrome*. Oral presentation delivered at the 13th International Fragile X Conference, Miami, FL.
51. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, McKown, C., Johnson, J., Allen, A., & Knudsen, K. (2012, May). *Usability and likability of the virtual environment for social information processing (VESIPTM) for children with and without autism spectrum disorders*. Poster session presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, Toronto, Canada.
52. Evans-Smith, B., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.**, & Johnson, J. (2012, May). *Examining the effectiveness of mindfulness for treating children with ASD and ADHD*. Poster session presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, Toronto, Canada.
53. **Russo, N.**, Yesensky, J., Hessel, D., & Berry-Kravis, E. (2011, October). *Feasibility, reproducibility and clinical validity of the Pediatric Anxiety Rating Scale (PARS) in fragile X syndrome*. Poster session presented at the Annals of Neurology, Savannah, GA.
54. **Russo, N. M.***, Evans-Smith, B.*, Johnson, J., & McKown, C. (2011, May). *Efficacy of a facial affect recognition training tool for children with autism spectrum disorders*. Poster session presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, San Diego, CA.*equal contributions
55. McKown, C., Warren, H., Allen, A., **Russo, N. M.**, & Lipton, M. E. (2011, March). *Social-emotional learning skill, intellectual ability, and academic competence in elementary and middle school students*. Symposium at the Society for Research in Child Development, Montreal, Canada.
56. **Russo, N.**, Berry-Kravis, E., McKown, C., & Lipton M. (2010, May). *Variants in the social-emotional phenotype of children with autism and children with fragile X syndrome*. Oral presentation session delivered at the International Meeting for Autism Research, Philadelphia, PA.
57. **Russo, N.**, Berry-Kravis, E., McKown, C., & Lipton, M. (2010, April). *Social information processing deficits in girls with fragile X syndrome*. Poster session presented at the 27th Annual Rush University Forum for Research and Clinical Investigation, Chicago, IL.
58. **Russo, N.**, McKown, C., & Lipton, M. (2009, May). *Affect recognition skills across four nonverbal channels in children with autism spectrum disorders and their typically-developing peers*. Poster session presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, Chicago, IL.
59. McKown, C., **Russo, N.**, & Lipton M. (2009, May). *Joint effects of nonverbal accuracy and nonverbal processing speed on social functioning among children with autism spectrum*

disorders and their typically-developing peers. Poster session presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, Chicago, IL.

60. **Russo, N. M.**, Trommer, B. L., Skoe, E. E., Nicol, T. G., Zecker, S. G., Bradlow, A. R., Hornickel, J. M., & Kraus, N. (2008, May). *Brainstem transcription of speech in autism spectrum disorders*. Poster session presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, London, UK.
61. **Russo, N. M.**, Larson, C., & Kraus, N. (2007, February). *Auditory feedback affects vocal production in autistic children*. Poster session presented at the Association for Research in Otolaryngology Winter Meeting, Denver, CO.
62. Wong, P. C. M., Skoe, E., **Russo, N. M.**, Dees, T., & Kraus, N. (2007, February). *Musical experience shapes human brainstem encoding of linguistic pitch patterns*. Poster session presented at the Association for Research in Otolaryngology Winter Meeting, Denver, CO.
63. **Russo, N. M.**, Skoe, E., Bradlow, A., Zecker, S., Trommer, B., & Kraus, N. (2006, October). *The integrity of the auditory brainstem in autism*. Poster session presented at the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
64. Banai, K., **Russo, N. M.**, Nicol, T., Zecker, S., & Kraus, N. (2005, December). *What can brainstem timing teach us about learning disabilities?* Poster session presented at the International Conference on Neurophysiology of Developmental Disorders in Children, Freiburg, Germany.
65. Musacchia, G., **Russo, N. M.**, Nicol, T., Zecker, S., & Kraus, N. (2003, November). *Normal & learning-impaired children's brainstem response to speech*. Paper presented at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention, Chicago, IL.
66. **Russo, N. M.**, Nicol, T., Hayes, E., Zecker, S., & Kraus, N. (2003, November) *Auditory training can improve neural timing in the auditory brainstem*. Poster session presented at the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
67. **Russo, N. M.**, Musacchia, G., Nicol, T., Zecker, S., & Kraus, N. (2003, February). *Encoding of speech sounds in quiet and background noise in the brainstem: Normal and learning impaired children*. Poster session presented at the Association for Research in Otolaryngology Winter Meeting, Daytona Beach, FL.

ONLINE MATERIALS

VESIPTM and SELwebTM are included in the RAND Corporation/Hewlett Foundation online repository of information about assessments of interpersonal, intrapersonal, and higher-order cognitive competencies for use with K-12 students; VESIP online user guides