



15th Annual

Faculty Recognition Reception

Office of the Provost
Office of Faculty Affairs



Table of Contents

Letter from the President 1

Letter from the Provost2

Letter from the Interim Dean..... 3

Letter from Faculty Affairs4

Faculty Excellence Award Nominees 5

Faculty Award Recipients 6

Excellence in Clinical Service

 Margaret Bavis, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC. 7

Excellence in Community Service

 Amanda Bradke , MD, MA, MSc. 8

Excellence in Education

 Princess Currence, DSW, MSW.....9

Excellence in Education

 Michelle Sweet, MD 10

Excellence in Mentoring

 Kathryn D. Swartwout, PhD, APRN, FNP, BC 11

Excellence in Research

 Chien-Ching Li, PhD, MPH, GFSA 12

Faculty Recognition Reception Honorees

Professors 13

Associate Professors 14

Endowed Chairs..... 16

National Institutes of Health Grants 17

Foundation Grants20

Other Federal Grants24

Rush Research Mentoring Program Awards 25

2024-25 Teaching Academy Series27

Faculty Recognition Reception



Dear Faculty,

I am pleased to join you and hope this event will offer you a chance to network with each other and learn about your remarkable accomplishments and contributions to Rush excellence.

Over the last several years, our faculty have demonstrated phenomenal resilience, providing the best education to our students, excelling in research, and developing to new methods of patient care. We are positioned to continue making significant contributions to all the communities we serve. I am honored to celebrate all your achievements. I am proud that many of you took the time to recognize the incredible work of your colleagues. This year, we have four Faculty Excellence Award winners, along with numerous new academic appointments, promotions, achievements, grants awarded, and leadership positions earned. The service Rush faculty provide to our institutional, local, regional, national and global communities are both impactful and impressive. It is an honor to support your professional and leadership development and accomplishments.

We have entered a new era. With the resilience of our faculty and their passion for what they do, we are better equipped to face its challenges. I am proud to know that our communities are safer and better cared for because of your clinical excellence, research endeavors, and teaching. I look with great anticipation of all the wonderful accomplishments you will achieve.

Robert S.D. Higgins, MD, MSHA

President and Chief Academic Officer, Rush University

Senior Vice President and Chief Academic Officer, Rush

Dear Faculty

I extend my congratulations to all the Faculty Excellence Award winners and nominees, and to those of you who have achieved promotions and appointments this year. Your contributions to science, education, patient care and the community, as well as your fortitude during these past pandemic years, are recognized and appreciated.



Please take a moment to reflect on your academic and research accomplishments, leadership efforts, promotions and appointments, and your day-to-day interactions with students and one other. Your efforts to create the next generation of clinicians, scientist, educators, and advocates is an immense responsibility. It is what distinguishes an academic medical center and a health sciences university from other institutions of practice and education. It is all of you — the people who work here — who make the difference.

We all share in your commitment to excellence. The Faculty Awards recognizes you for honoring the pursuit of excellence.

Julie Anne Hoff, PhD, RN, FAAN
Provost and Senior Vice President

Dear Faculty,

I warmly congratulate all Faculty Excellence Award recipients and nominees, as well as those who have earned promotions or new appointments this year. Your impactful contributions to science, education, patient care, and our broader community are truly appreciated and celebrated.



In an increasingly uncertain healthcare and educational environment, your dedication to nurturing the next generation of clinicians, scientists, educators, and advocates is an immense responsibility critical to the communities that we serve. It is this commitment that distinguishes an academic medical center and a health sciences university from other institutions of practice.

It is your passion and perseverance that truly make the difference. The Faculty Awards Reception stands as a tribute to our shared pursuit of excellence and to the vital work each of you carries forward every day.

Jason S. Turner, PhD, MAE
Interim Dean, College of Health Sciences

Dear Faculty,

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the fifteenth annual Faculty Recognition Reception, where we come together to honor the dedication, impact, and excellence of our faculty.

Please join us in congratulating this year's Rush Faculty Excellence Award winners, nominees, and all faculty members for their exceptional achievements. Through academic appointments, promotions, leadership roles, and your vital contributions in clinical care, education, research, and community service—you exemplify the very best of Rush University.

The outstanding work of our faculty continues to elevate the reputation and influence of Rush University. We are proud of the critical roles you play—whether mentoring future health care leaders, driving scientific discovery, or providing compassionate, high-quality care.

The Office of Faculty Affairs is honored to support your professional, career, and leadership development. We hope this reception offers a meaningful opportunity to connect with one another and celebrate the extraordinary work happening across our institution.

As we look to the future, we do so with pride and confidence in what lies ahead. Thank you for your unwavering dedication and for all you do to advance the mission of Rush University and improve lives across the globe.

With deep appreciation,

Office of Faculty Affairs

Faculty Excellence Award Nominees

Excellence in Clinical Service

Margaret Bavis, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

Excellence in Community Service

Amanda Bradke, MD, MA, MSc
Christine Lawrence, DNP
Diane Howard, PhD, MPH

Excellence in Education

Princess L. J. Currence, DSW, MSW
Michelle Sweet, MD
Steve Wightkin, MA, MS
Adam Wilson, PhD

Excellence in Mentoring

Kathryn D. Swartwout, PhD, APRN, FNP BC

Excellence in Research

Chuka N. Emezue, PhD, MPH, MPA, CHES
Chien-Ching Li, PhD, MPH, FGSA

Faculty Award Recipients

Excellence in Clinical Service

Margaret Bavis, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

Excellence in Community Service

Amanda Bradke, MD, MA, MSc

Excellence in Education

Princess L. J. Currence, DSW, MSW

Michelle Sweet, MD

Excellence in Mentoring

Kathryn D. Swartwout, PhD, APRN, FNP BC

Excellence in Research

Chien-Ching Li, PhD, MPH, FGSA

Excellence in Clinical Service

Margaret Bavis, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC



Margaret Perlia Bavis, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, is an assistant professor in the Rush University College of Nursing and a Family Nurse Practitioner at CommunityHealth, the nation's largest volunteer-based free clinic. Dr. Bavis is a long-time member of the Rush community including graduating from the BSN program in 1997 and the Doctor of Nursing/FNP program in 2001. Since 2001, Dr. Bavis has worked with under-resourced populations in various settings including a federally qualified health center, a school-based health center and since 2014 at CommunityHealth.

As a continuity provider at CommunityHealth, Dr. Bavis delivers high quality comprehensive primary care to uninsured adults. She consistently meets and exceeds quality metrics including diabetes control, blood pressure control, and cancer screenings. She serves on the CommunityHealth Clinic Advisory Counsel, provides support to initiatives both during the pandemic (eg provision of on-site primary care, vaccination initiatives) and during the recent influx of migrant arrivals (eg medical outreach to police stations). Her clinical commitment to the patient population at CommunityHealth has included developing proficiency in Spanish to better serve the immigrant population.

Dr. Bavis' clinical work at CommunityHealth has included the creation and development of an Academic-Practice Partnership with Rush University College of Nursing to train Nurse Practitioner students. Formalized in 2017, this training program has grown from training three students per year to training nine students per year in high quality health care. She has worked closely with partners at CommunityHealth to track clinical outcomes for patients and clinical learning for students. Beyond the growth in number of students trained, the partnership has consistently received high ratings from students as to their learning experience and further interest in primary care. The work of the Academic-Practice Partnership was selected as an exemplar by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, was presented at the American Association of Colleges of Nursing national meeting and was the topic of a recently published article in the Journal for Nurse Practitioners.

Dr. Bavis has brought her clinical work into the Rush College of Nursing. She has restructured the FNP clinical simulation program and courses to align with clinical training. The restructuring has included the development of clinical workshops. She identified an opportunity in clinical teaching and learning around diagnostic reasoning. Dr. Bavis was selected for a fellowship in diagnostic reasoning with the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine. Through the fellowship, she developed a simulation-based formative assessment of diagnostic reasoning. This project was presented at the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine annual conference. This work is now embedded into FNP clinical training. Dr. Bavis continues her work in diagnostic reasoning, serving as the chair for the curricular workgroup on diagnostic reasoning for the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties.

Excellence in Community Service

Amanda Bradke, MD, MA, MSc



Amanda Bradke has a dual appointment in the Division of Hospital Medicine and Community and Global Health Equity at Rush University Medical Center. She has built her career around her passion for health equity and social justice. At Rush, she serves as the Adult Medicine Medical Director of the Center to Transform Health and Housing where she provides clinical care in multiple organizations that serve people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity, and assists in running the FranRu Medical Respite.

Outside of her work with the Center, Dr. Bradke engages in additional health equity work through her role as assistant director of Global and Community Health Programs in the Department of Internal Medicine, where she directs the Internal Medicine (IM) Resident Global Health elective and codirects the IM Global Health fellowship. She also chairs the Health Equity Anti-Racism Transforming (HEART) Clinical Care subcommittee and has founded and co-chairs the Chicago Coalition for Anti-Racism and Equity in Health, both which work to dismantle race-based medicine and its harm. Outside of Rush, she has a long-standing relationship with Tséhootsoí Medical Center on the Navajo Reservation and continues to work their clinically multiple times per year.

Excellence in Education

Princess L. J. Currence, DSW, MSW



Princess L.J. Currence, DSW, MSW, is the University Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer and an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences and Social Work. She is a dynamic educator, advocate, speaker, mentor, and leader whose unwavering commitment to equity and justice in her work is truly inspiring.

Currence's career spans both academic and community health settings. She has held leadership positions in curriculum design, faculty development, and health equity strategy, with a focus on transforming health professions education to be more inclusive, equitable, and structurally competent. As Rush University's inaugural DEI Officer, she leads institutional efforts to embed inclusion, diversity, equity, antiracism, and social justice across the educational continuum.

Currence's innovative work includes the redesign of the Rush Medical College Advocate Curriculum, a nationally recognized health justice education model aligned with AAMC and ACGME competencies. The curriculum prepares students to recognize and address structural racism, unconscious bias, and social determinants of health in patient care. Portions of this curriculum are now used across the University and Health System.

In addition to her curriculum work, Currence developed and implemented the Health Equity Professional Development Workshop Series, the Equity in Action interdisciplinary education series, departmental grand rounds, leadership development series. Moreover, she serves as one of the core faculty members in the Genentech Health Equity Antiracism Training and as an executive sponsor and faculty member for the RMC Health Equity Social Justice Leadership (HESJL) Program, where she teaches and mentors learners and faculty on equity-focused education and clinical practice. Previously, she served as Assistant Dean for Inclusive Excellence, Equity, and Learning and Director of Curriculum and Education at Rush Medical College, where she led anti-bias reforms and interdisciplinary initiatives to advance structural competency. At the University of Illinois College of Medicine, she directed the Urban Health Program. She co-founded the Interprofessional Health Equity Institute to prepare health profession students for collaborative care that addresses disparities using simulation and dialogic facilitation.

Currence continues to provide mentorship to over 20 faculty members across 12 disciplines in inclusive pedagogy and equity-focused education at Rush alone. She consults with faculty leaders at academic institutions nationwide to redesign their education in areas such as culturally responsive approaches, health equity, antiracism, and systemic change. She contributes to national conversations on education justice.

In addition to her professional achievements, Currence is a proud wife and mother. Her work reflects a lifelong commitment to education, justice, and preparing future healthcare leaders "to be responsive to the full humanity of the patient in front of them."

Excellence in Education

Michelle Sweet, MD



Dr. Michelle Sweet is a career medical educator and curricular leader at Rush Medical College. As Assistant Dean of Fourth-Year Education, she has transformed the M4 year into a cohesive, residency-aligned experience that combines rigorous preparation with meaningful personal growth. A few of her innovations include the implementation of a structured Transitions to Residency course, a program to support case writing and scholarship amongst trainees and faculty, and a medical education elective that instills a love of education to the next generation of clinician-educators.

Dr. Sweet began by revitalizing the local and national Subinternship curriculum and has subsequently shaped systemic changes across more than 80 fourth-year electives. She has curricularized residency preparation at Rush, linking assessment reform, advising models, and professional identity formation into a unified framework. In parallel, she has worked closely with faculty to elevate teaching relationships and build mentoring communities across disciplines.

At the national level, Dr. Sweet has contributed significantly to the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine through scholarship, task force leadership, and as a co-author of the widely adopted AAIM Subinternship Curriculum 2.0. She has been a consistent voice in improving residency selection fairness, milestone-based assessment, and the teaching of clinical vignette writing for students, residents, and faculty. Her work bridges policy and pedagogy—ensuring educational systems evolve while staying rooted in the lived experience of learners.

Excellence in Mentoring

Kathryn D. Swartwout, PhD, APRN, FNP BC



Kathryn Swartwout, PhD, APRN, FNP BC, is an associate professor and chairperson in the Department of Community, Systems, and Mental Health Nursing in Rush University's College of Nursing (CON). She is a certified family nurse practitioner (FNP) who began her nursing career in 1982, nurse practitioner role in 1986, and formal educator role in 1991. Major leadership highlights of her career include becoming the founding manager (1996) of a school-based health center located in Evanston Township High School, becoming the program director of Rush's FNP specialty track (2008), a time of rapid growth for the program and the FNP role, and stepping into the department chairperson role (2019). She is especially proud that two large specialty tracks in her department (FNP and PMHNP) consistently rank at the very top of the U.S.

News and World Report rankings (#4 and #3 in 2025) and that the CON supports an outstanding advanced public health nursing specialty.

Mentoring activities have allowed Swartwout to not only share her expertise but personally grow from every interaction with the numerous talented students and faculty she has supported in achieving their personal, academic and/or career goals. Her philosophy of advancing both students and faculty includes first listening and recognizing the multiple directions they are pulled in both professionally and personally. Subsequently, she supports them to create realistic goals tailored to their individual situation and interests. She prioritizes helping faculty and students incorporate time management and wellness strategies as they pursue their goals.

Swartwout's interest in teaching nursing students began in 1987 in a non-remunerated capacity as a clinical preceptor and guest lecturer to RUSH FNP students. In 1991, she accepted a position in the RUSH CON as an Instructor. Since that time, she has had the opportunity to teach and mentor hundreds of students at all degree levels and in numerous courses. She counts over 100 mentored doctoral and master's level projects. In her leadership roles, she has the privilege of having supported numerous faculties through the rank promotion process, specifically supporting both the teaching and professional scholarly activities needed in publication, presentation, and research. She leads regular writing retreats and for numerous years led a Writing Accountability Group (WAG) before eventually mentoring another faculty member to assume leadership of WAG. Her expertise also includes successful applications and management of multiple HRSA workforce training grants. She intentionally mentors other faculty with HRSA grant applications and management.

In 36 years of active clinical FNP practice, she rarely had a clinical day in which a clinical student wasn't working with her. She always found watching students gain confidence when given positive feedback highly satisfying. Her long career in nursing education has provided the unique and incredible reward of long-term mentoring and watching students grow into leadership roles themselves.

Excellence in Research

Chien-Ching Li, PhD, MPH, FGSA



Chien-Ching Li, PhD, MPH, FGSA, is an Associate Professor and health services researcher in the Department of Health Systems Management at Rush University. Originally from Taiwan, Dr. Li came to the United States in 2006 to pursue a Master of Public Health at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and later earned his PhD in Health Services Research from Saint Louis University in 2012.

Dr. Li's research focuses on addressing health disparities among underserved and minority populations, with a particular emphasis on older Chinese immigrants. His work is rooted in community-engaged research methods that prioritize cultural relevance, linguistic accessibility, and sustainable partnerships. Over the past ten years, Dr. Li has collaborated closely with community-based organizations such as the Chinese American Service League and the Mid-West Asian Health Association in Chicago's Chinatown. With support from internal and external grant funding, and in collaboration with community partners, he has led a series of community-engaged research projects aimed at reducing tobacco-related harms and improving dementia care among Chinese American populations.

In collaboration with trusted community-based organizations in Chicago's Chinatown, Dr. Li has led a culturally tailored intervention to promote shared decision-making around lung cancer screening among older Chinese smokers. This project developed a web-based decision aid for increasing awareness of screening guidelines, addressing language and health literacy barriers, and supporting informed choices that align with individuals' cultural values and preferences.

He also directed a community-driven initiative aimed at reducing secondhand smoke exposure and promoting smoke-free homes within Chinese households. The project engaged family members— particularly non-smoking women—as key influencers to encourage the voluntary adoption of smoke-free household rules. Culturally and linguistically appropriate educational materials, along with peer-led support groups, were used to foster sustainable behavior change.

In recognition of his impactful research, community engagement, and leadership in gerontology, Dr. Li was named a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) in 2024, one of the highest honors awarded by the Society. This recognition reflects Dr. Li's long-standing commitment to advancing equity in aging research and improving the health and well-being of older Asian American populations.

Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Li serves as Chair of the International Comparison of Healthy Aging Interest Group within the GSA, a member of the Health Equity Task Force for the American College of Chest Physicians, and a reviewer on the Prevention Review Council for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas.

Faculty Recognition Reception Honorees

Congratulations on your appointments and promotions.
The following is a list of new professors named this past academic year.

Fiscal Year 2025 Professors

Fotios Asimakopoulos, MD
Internal Medicine
Rush Medical College

Sindhura Bandi, MD
Internal Medicine Rush
Medical College

Gail Basch, MD
Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Rush Medical College

Carlos Bechara, MD, MS
Cardiovascular Thoracic Surgery
Rush Medical College

Andrew J. Dennis, DO, FACS, FACOS
Surgery
Rush Medical College

Luis Garcis, MD, FACS, MBA, FACHE
Surgery
Rush Medical College

Faisal Hasan, MD Internal
Medicine, Cardiology Rush
Medical College

Robert Higgins, MD, MSHA
Cardiovascular Thoracic Surgery
Rush Medical College

Marina Ivanovic, MD
Pathology
Rush Medical College

Leon (Lee) Jones, MD
Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Rush Medical College

Shelly Lo, MD
Internal Medicine
Rush Medical College

Saurabh Malhotra, MD, MPH
Internal Medicine
Rush Medical College

Augusto Miravalle, MD
Neurological Sciences Rush
Medical College

Sephr Sani, MD
Neurosurgery
Rush Medical College

Suresh, Santhanam, MD, MBA, FASA, FASRA
Internal Medicine
Rush Medical College

Nicole Siparsky, MD
Surgery
Rush Medical College

Madhu Soni, MD
Neurological Sciences
Rush Medical College

Antone J. Tatoes, MD
Cardiovascular Thoracic Surgery
Rush College of Nursing

Joseph Weber, MD
Emergency Medicine
Rush Medical College

Mallory Williams, MD
Surgery
Rush Medical College

Faculty Recognition Reception Honorees

Congratulations on your appointments and promotions.
The following is a list of new professors named this past academic year.

Fiscal Year 2025 Associate Professors

Rosalinda Alvarado, MD
Surgery, Division of Surgical Oncology
Rush Medical College

Kyle Amber, MD
Dermatology
Rush Medical College

Kyle Bersted, PhD
Pediatrics
Rush Medical College

Christina Chen, MD
Pediatrics
Rush Medical College

Elizabeth Davis, MD
Internal Medicine, General Internal Medicine
Rush Medical College

Lei Duan, MD
Anatomy and Cell Biology
Rush Medical College

Ramya Gaddikeri, MD
Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine
Rush Medical College

Jonathan Goldner, PhD
Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Rush Medical College

Henry Govekar, MD, FACS, FASCRS
Surgery
Rush Medical College

Nina Goyal, MD, FACS
Opthamology
Rush Medical College

John Hyngstrom, MD
Surgery
Rush Medical College

Kristin M. Jacobs, MD
Sugery
Rush Medical College

Ashok Jagasia, MD, PhD
Otorhinolaryngology
Rush Medical College

Jonathan Kaplan, MD
Psychiatry and Behavioral
Sciences Rush Medical College

Laura Laursen, MD
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Rush Medical College

Fathima Manzil, MD
Diagnostic Radiology
Rush Medical College

Sacha McBain, PhD
Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Rush Medical College

Stephan Munich, MD
Neurosurgery
Rush Medical College

Faculty Recognition Reception Honorees

Congratulations on your appointments and promotions.
The following is a list of new associate professors named this past academic year.

Fiscal Year 2025 Associate Professors

Shahram Oveisgharan, MD
Neurological Sciences
Rush Medical College

Peter Papagiannopoulos, MD
Otorhinolaryngology
Rush Medical College

Monika Pitzele, MD, PhD
Emergency Medicine
Rush Medical College

Sheela Raikar Mahendra, MD
Pediatrics
Rush Medical College

Michael Ralls, MD
Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine
Rush Medical College

Lauren Rynar, PhD
Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Rush Medical College

Blake Schroedter, PsyD
Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Rush Medical College

Jonathan Tottleben, MD
Cardiology
Rush Medical College

Octavia Vega, MD
Internal Medicine
Rush Medical College

New Endowed Faculty Positions

Fotios Asimakopoulous, MB Bchir, PhD

The Robert E. and Emily H. King Professorship of Cancer Research

Carlos Bechara, MD, MS, DFSVS, FACS, RPVI

The James A. Hunter, MD, University Professorship

Asokumar Buvanendran, MD

The Anthony D. Ivankovich, MD, Chair of Anesthesiology

Brian Forsythe, MD

The Tim and Keli Walbert Chair in Orthopedic Surgery

Sharon D. Gates, DSW

The Catharine and R. Winfield Ellis – Philip N. Jones, MD, Professorship of University Affairs

Dirk Gillespie, PhD

The John H. and Margaret V. Krehbiel Professorship of Cardiology

Robert S.D. Higgins, MD, MSHA

The James A. Campbell, MD, Presidential Chair

Miral D. Jhaveri, MD, MBA

The Colonel Robert R. McCormick Professorship of Diagnostic Imaging

Meenakshi Jolly, MD, MSCP

The George W. Stuppy, MD, Professorship of Arthritis

Leon Jones, MD

The Stanley G. Harris Family Professorship of Psychiatry

Hannah J. Lundberg, PhD

The Claude N. Lambert, MD - Helen S. Thomson Professorship of Orthopedic Surgery

Augusto A. Miravalle, MD, FAAN

The Joseph and Florence Manaster Foundation Professorship of Multiple Sclerosis

Angela M. Moss, PhD, MSN, APRN-BC, RN, FAAN, FAANP

The Judd and Marjorie Weinberg Presidential Professorship

David C. Reid, MD, FAAD

The Clark Wylie Finnerud, MD, Professorship of Dermatology

Steven K. Rothschild, MD

The Roger C. Bone, MD, Presidential Professorship of Rush University

Barbara A. Swanson, PhD, RN, FAAN

The Nurses Alumni Association Professorship of Health and Aging

National Institutes of Health Grants New Grants Received in Fiscal Year 2025

Puja Agarwal, PhD

1R01AG085483-01A1

Dietary factors, Neuroinflammation, Plasma Neurodegenerative biomarkers, and Alzheimer's Disease in Diverse cohorts

National Institute on Aging

Sarah Ailey, PhD

1R01HD116320-01

End Diagnostic Overshadowing: Addressing Ableism in the Healthcare Context

Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Lena Al-Harathi, PhD

1R56NS136172-01

Antibodies in the neurologic effects of COVID-19

National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke

Zoe Arvanitakis, MD

1RF1AG076124-01A1

cPLA2 activation, neuroinflammation and APOE4 in Alzheimer's disease

National Institute on Aging
University of Southern California

Mariam Aziz, MD

HHSN275201800001I

NICHD International and Domestic Pediatric and Maternal HIV and Other High Priority Infectious Diseases Data Coordinating Center

Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
Westat, Inc.

David Bennet, MD

4R01AG072471-02

Interrogation of a human microglia phenotype associated with Alzheimer's disease

National Institute on Aging
Columbia University Medical Center

Elizabeth Berry-Kravis, MD, PhD

2R01MH091131-11

A family genetic study of Autism and Fragile X syndrome

National Institute of Mental Health
Northwestern University

Aron Buchman, MD

4R01AG070436-02

Bidirectional interactions between sleep and Alzheimer's disease: Functional dissection of the brain transcriptome in humans and Drosophila

National Institute on Aging
Washington University in St. Louis

Melissa Crane, PhD

5P50MD017349-04

Leveraging discrete choice experiments to increase participant diversity in future clinical trials in Chicagoland

National Institute on Minority and Health Disparities
University of Chicago

Kirsten Dickins, PhD

1R01NR021261-01

Improving Traumatic Stress in Black Women Experiencing Homelessness: Evaluation of a Stakeholder Engaged Intervention

National Institute of Nursing Research

Michael Fill, PhD

R01AA031056

The JNK2-NLRP3 nexus in atrial fibrillation and its anti-AF therapeutic potentials

National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
Ohio State University

National Institutes of Health Grants

New Grants Received in Fiscal Year 2025

Jori Fleisher, MD
1R01DK138055-01
Viral Immune interaction in glomerular kidney disease
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
University of Texas Medical Branch

Rajeev Garg, MD
1R01NS135614-01A1
Silent Brain Infarcts in Spontaneous Intracerebral Hemorrhage as a Prognostic Biomarker for Vascular contributions to Cognitive Impairment and Dementia (VCID)
National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke

5R01NS120557-03
The REpeated ASSEssment of SurvivorS in ICH (REASSESS)
National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke
Johns Hopkins

Stefan Green, PhD
1R01DK138055-01
Viral Immune interaction in glomerular kidney disease
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
University of Texas Medical Branch

Francine Grodstein, ScD
1U01AG084547-01A1
Mexican Teachers Cohort Study: Genetics and Cognitive Function
National Institute on Aging

1R01AG085375-01A1
Optimism and Dementia-Related Health Outcomes
National Institute on Aging
Harvard School of Public Health

1R01AG087356-01
Identification of brain metabolomic profiles associated with dementia
National Institute on Aging
Brigham and Women's Hospital

Mary Hayden, MD
1R01AI179686-01A1
Community Reservoirs of Extended-Spectrum Beta-Lactamase-producing and Multi-Drug Resistant Enterobacterales
National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Disease Emory University

Bryan James, PhD
2RF1AG067622-06A1
Personality and Prediction of Dementia Risk & Progression
National Institute on Aging
Northwestern University

Ali Keshavarzian, MD
7R01CA279487-03
Development of a precision medicine platform for circadian based therapeutics in pancreatic cancer
National Cancer Institute
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

1U01AG086145-01
Impact of Circadian-Microbiome Interaction on the Gut-Pancreas Axis in Aging
National Institute on Aging
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

1U01DK140923-01
The Bidirectional Gut-Microbiota-Brain Axis in Parkinson's disease: integrating mechanistic biomarkers of disease severity and progression
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

National Institutes of Health Grants

New Grants Received in Fiscal Year 2025

Susan Lopez, MD
R01MD018730
Dime la verdad: verify, debunk, and disseminate
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities
University of Iowa

Hannah Lundberg, PhD
1R56AR082872-01A1
In vivo chemical changes of contemporary polyethylene in TKA: implications for wear and osteolysis
National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases

Elizabeth Lynch, PhD
1U01AG094351-01
VITAL: Vital Investments To Advance Life expectancy
National Institute on Aging

Carl Maki, PhD
1R01CA285743-01A1
Synthetic lethal targeting of KRAS/KEAP1 co-mutant non-small cell lung cancer
National Cancer Institute

Anne-Marie Malfait MD, PhD
1R21AR085242-01
The role of Nerve-fibroblast communication in EDS pain
National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases

Joao Filipe Mamade, PhD
1R01MH139377-01
Role Of Innate Immunity to NeuroHIV in the cART Era
National Institute of Mental Health

John Martin, PhD
5U01HL146245-06
MACS/WIHS Combined Cohort Study: Cook County Clinical Research Site (CC_CRS)
National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute
Hektoen Institute for Medical Research, LLC

Amanda Mathew, PhD 5P50MD017349
Chicago Chronic Condition Equity Network (C3EN)
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities
University of Chicago

5R33HL155160
The ALOHA trial: Addressing Quality of Life, Clinical Outcomes, and Mechanisms in Uncontrolled Asthma Following the DASH Dietary Pattern
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois at Chicago

Sacha McBain, PhD
1 R61 DA059947-01
Developing and Testing Innovative Care Pathways for Screening and Treatment of OUD/PTSD in Jails
National Institute on Drug Abuse University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Rupal Mehta, MD
Transdisciplinary Research Accelerating Neuropathology Studies and Facilitating Open Research Methods in TBI (TRANSFORM-TBI)
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania

National Institutes of Health Grants

New Grants Received in Fiscal Year 2025

Eduardo Molina Jijon, PhD
1R01DK141612-01
Hodgkin's Lymphoma-induced Nephrotic Syndrome
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

James Moy, MD
10T2HL156812-01
RECOVER-SLEEP: A Platform Protocol for Evaluation of Interventions for Sleep Disturbances in Post-Acute Sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 Infection (PASC) study
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
Duke University

5R01AI130348-08
Food Allergy Management and Outcomes Related to Racial/Ethnic Differences from Infancy through Adolescence: The FORWARD study
National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Disease Northwestern University

Kyle Popovich, MD
1R21AI185529-01
Whole Genome Sequencing of N. gonorrhoeae from Non-Culture Based Clinical Specimens to Surveil for Emerging Resistance

Didem Saygin, MD
S75N98022D00019
tandardized Interoperable Data Collection for Myositis Research
National Institute of Health - Office of the Director
Black Canyon Consulting, LLC

Jeffrey Schneider, PhD
5U01HL146245-06
MACS/WIHS Combined Cohort Study: Cook County Clinical Research Site (CC_CRS)
National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute Hektoen Institute for Medical Research, LLC

Julie Schneider, MD
1RF1NS139948-01
VCID CWOW: Identifying novel targets to treat cerebral amyloid angiopathy
National Institute on Neurological Disorders and Stroke The Jackson Laboratory

RF1NS139975
Vascular-immune mechanisms of cerebral amyloid angiopathy and Alzheimer's pathology
National Institute on Neurological Disorders and Stroke
Gladstone Institutes

Michael Schoeny, PhD
1RF1AG089550-01
Impact of Change in Lifestyle Health Behaviors on Cognitive Health: Harmonizing and Leveraging Participant-Level Data from Randomized Controlled Trials
National Institute on Aging
University of Illinois at Chicago

Raj Shah, MD P1R01AG081287
REVENTABLE Frailty Ancillary Study
National Institute on Aging Boston
VA Research Institute, Inc.

Tanya Sorrell, PhD
5UG1DA013720-25
Integrating MOUD with Buprenorphine in Nonmedical Community Settings
National Institute on Drug Abuse
University of Miami

Shinya Tasaki, PhD
2R01AG061800-06
Identifying therapeutic targets that confer synaptic resilience to Alzheimer's disease
National Institute on Aging
University of Alabama

National Institutes of Health Grants

New Grants Received in Fiscal Year 2025

Ken Tatebe, MD, PhD
NRG-BN013: Phase III Trial of Single Fraction Stereotactic Radiosurgery (SRS) Versus Fractionated SRS (FSRS) for Intact Brain Metastases
National Cancer Institute
NRG Oncology

Robin Voigt, PhD
1RF1AG083764-01A1
The Microbiome-Gut-Brain Axis and Personalized Mediterranean Diet Interventions for Alzheimer's Dementia Prevention
National Institute on Aging The Brigham and Women's Hospital, Inc.

Jennillee Wallace, PhD
5U01HL146245-06
MACS/WIHS Combined Cohort Study: Cook County Clinical Research Site (CC_CRS)
National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute Hektoen Institute for Medical Research, LLC

Dian Wang, MD, PhD
EA8191: Phase III Study of Local or Systemic Therapy INTensification DIrected by PET in Prostate Cancer Patients with Post- ProstaTEctomy Biochemical Recurrence (INDICATE)
ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Research Group

David Williams, PhD
R01AI177493-01A1
Development of novel TGR inhibitors for the treatment of schistosomiasis
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
University of Illinois at Chicago

1R41AI184237-01
Discovery and development of novel schistosomicidal agents
National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases
Acheminall Corporation

Joo Yeon Nam, MD
A072201: Randomized Phase II Trial of Anti-Lag-3 and Anti-PD-1 Blockade vs. SOC in Patients with Recurrent Glioblastoma
National Canter Institute
Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology (Alliance)

Lei Yu, PhD
1R01AG085469-01
Human brain and blood N-glycome profiling in AD
National Institute on Aging
University of Florida

Foundation Grants

Robert Balk, MD
Cystic Fibrosis Learning Center Award
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

Elizabeth Berry-Kavis, MD, PhD
Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation (PMSF) Agreement with The Children's Hospital Corporation d/b/a Boston Children's Hospital supplemental funding
Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation

Manju Daniel, PhD
Physical Activity Targeting Metabolic Syndrome for Prevention of Breast Cancer in South Asian Indian Immigrant Women
American Cancer Society

Rajeev Garg, MD
Biomarkers of Inflammation and Outcome in Subarachnoid Hemorrhage
Neurocritical Care Society

Daniel Golden, MD
EQual Rubric Evaluation of the Radiation Oncology Education Collaborative Study Group Entrustable Professional Activities
American Association for Cancer Education

Deborah Hall, MD, PhD
Black and African Americans Connections to Parkinson's Disease (BLAACPD) A Project of the Global Parkinson's Genetics Program (GP2)
Michael J. Fox Foundation

Ankitaben Han, MD
PREvention of Cardiovascular and Diabetic kidney disease in Type 2 Diabetes (PRECIDENTD)
Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)
Brigham & Women's Hospital, Inc.

Neha Joshi, MD
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF)
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

Ali Kashavarzian, MD
Role of Fungal Translocation in Modulating Post-acute Sequelae of COVID-19
American Lung Association

Bryan Killinger, PhD
Integrin CLOAKs as Novel Oral Therapeutics for Parkinson's Disease
The Michael J. Fox Foundation

Hyejin Kim, PhD
Culturally-Tailored Stress Reduction Program for Korean ADRD Caregivers
Alzheimer's Association

Timothy Larsen, DO
Cardiac resynchronization therapy using His/Left bundle pacing vs left ventricular epicardial pacing in patients with heart failure with LVEF <50% and a wide QRS complex (>130 ms) or with/anticipated >40% pacing
Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

Jie Li, PhD
Prevalence of Impairments in Cognitive Function and Manual Dexterity in Outpatients with COPD and Associations with Correct Inhaler Technique
COPD Foundation

Rachel Miller, PhD
Modeling Joint Pain using an Animal-free System on a Chip
Alternatives Research & Development Foundation (ARDF)

Foundation Grants

Palavi Patwari, MD
The VIBRANT Study: Validating Innovative Biosensors for Rett Autonomic Symptom Tracking
Rett Syndrome Research Trust

Ruta Rao, MD
Chicago Breast Cancer Research Consortium
Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Foundation

Juan Rojas, MD
Repurposing Drugs in Intensive Care Units through Real-world Data Analysis (REDISCOVER-ICU)
Society of Critical Care Medicine

Didem Saygin, MD
Multiparametric Muscle Ultrasound Imaging for Assessment of Muscle Inflammation in Idiopathic Inflammatory Myopathies
Rheumatology Research Foundation

Raj Shah, MD
PaTH Clinical Data Research Network
Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

Hussam Suradi, MD
REvascularization CHOICES Among under-Represented Groups Evaluation (The RECHARGE Trial)
Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

Csaba Szilagyi, MDiv
Transforming Chaplaincy and Cedars-Sinai - Partnership to Advance Spiritual Care
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

Spiritual Care Services in Top US Children's Hospitals
Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford

Transforming Chaplaincy and Providence - Partnership to Advance Spiritual Care
Providence

Adam Yanke, MD
Quantitative MRI Assessment of Cartilage Restoration Procedures: A Prospective Analysis
JRF Ortho

Other Federal Grants

Amanda Marzo, PhD
HT94252410463
Determine the mechanisms by which pathogen vaccine combinations augment anti-tumor responses in a triple negative breast cancer model
Department of Defense

Joan O'Keefe, PhD
HT94252410099
Neural underpinnings of the relationship between cognitive and gait dysfunction in Fragile X-associated tremor/ataxia syndrome (FXTAS)
Department of Defense

Philip Held, PhD
HT94252410666
Evaluating Evidence-Based Options for Initial PTSD Treatment Non-Responders
Department of Defense

HT94252410637
Evaluating the Efficacy of Combined Cognitive Processing Therapy and Stellate Ganglion Blocks for PTSD: A Randomized Controlled Trial
Department of Defense

Rush Research Mentoring Program Awards

Fiscal Year 2025 Cohn Fellows

Ana V. Chee, PhD
Assistant professor
Department of Orthopedic Surgery
Rush Medical College

Catherine Yuh, PhD
Instructor
Department of Orthopedic Surgery
Rush Medical College

Hyejin Kim, PhD, RN
Assistant Professor
Department of Adult Health and Gerontological Nursing
College of Nursing

Jeffrey Schneider, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Microbial Pathogens and Immunity
Rush Medical College

Steven P. Mell, PhD
Instructor
Department of Orthopedic Surgery
Rush Medical College

2024 Symposium Abstract Winners

Liudmila Romanova, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Neurological Sciences
Rush Medical College

Puja Agarwal, PhD
Assistant Professor
Rush Alzheimer Disease Center
Department of Internal Medicine
Rush Medical College

Sai Rama Krishna Meka, PhD
Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Orthopedic Surgery
Rush Medical College

Rush Research Mentoring Program Awards

2024 Symposium Poster Winners

Hoomin Lee, PhD (Frank Ko, PhD)
Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Anatomy and Cell
Biology Rush Medical College

**Jonathan Day, BA (Alejandro
Espinoza Orias, PhD)**
Medical Student (Rush Medical
College) Department of Orthopedic
Surgery
Rush Medical College

Inesha P.A. Wiseman, BS (Ana Chee, PhD)
Graduate Student (Division of Translational Sciences)
Department of Orthopedic Surgery
Rush Medical College

2024 Mentee of the Year

Kirsten Dickins, PhD, AM, APRN, FNP-C
Assistant Professor
Community, Systems, and Mental Health Nursing
College of Nursing

2024 Mentor of the Year

Olimpia Paun, PhD, AM, APRN, FNP-C
Professor
Community, Systems, and Mental Health Nursing
Rush Medical College

2024 Postdoctoral Mentor of the Year

Markus A. Wimmer, PhD
Professor
Department of Orthopedic Surgery
Rush Medical College

2025-26

Teaching Academy Series

Third Tuesday of each month from noon to 1 p.m.

All Rush University faculty are invited to participate in the 2024-25 Teaching Academy Series.
The following is a tentative schedule of presentation topics:

- Professionalism and Ethics in Academia and Clinical Practice
- Negotiation Skills
- How to Give Presentations - Working with the Media
- Charting Your Academic Pathway: Building Your Niche and Brand
- Leadership Without Title: Navigating Influence in Academic Medicine
- From Clinician to Leader: Transitioning to Administrative Roles
- Faculty Mentorship Across Career Stages: Giving and Getting What You Need
- Finances in academic medicine
- Advocating for compensation increases
- Networking and collaboration skills
- AI in Healthcare Research
- ADA Violations - Why it matters; what it is?

The information found in this program is a compilation of content that was obtained from the Faculty Management System and various offices at Rush University Medical Center. It was reviewed and incorporated based on particular criteria and is only as accurate as original sources.

600 S. Paulina St.
Chicago, IL 60612
(312) 942-7100
www.rushu.rush.edu