

**CURRICULUM VITAE**

**NICOLE M. RUSSO-PONSARAN, PhD**

April 2, 2021

Mundelein, IL

[nicole\\_russo@rush.edu](mailto: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

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

**LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

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)** Feb 2011  
Skokie, IL  
Trainer: Roger Thomson, PhD

<b>Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule, Certified Research Reliable</b> Chicago, IL Trainer : Valeria Nanclares-Nogués, PsyD	Jan 2011
<b>Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised, Certified Research Reliable</b> Chicago, IL Trainer : Valeria Nanclares-Nogués, PsyD	Dec 2010
<b>Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule for Research Training</b> Chicago, IL Trainer : Valeria Nanclares-Nogués, PsyD	June 2008
<b>Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule Clinical Training</b> Chicago, IL Trainer : Valeria Nanclares-Nogués, PsyD	May 2008
<b>Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised Research Training</b> Evanston, IL Trainer : Valeria Nanclares-Nogués, PsyD	Dec 2007
<b>Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised Training for Clinicians</b> Evanston, IL Trainer : Valeria Nanclares-Nogués, PsyD	Nov 2007

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 Award	2006
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**

Bilingualism Matters Chicago - Rush University Medical Center affiliate (Executive Committee)	9/20 -
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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**

***GRAND ROUNDS***

*Understanding social-emotional learning skills in children with and without clinical diagnoses.*  
Department of Pediatrics at Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL. 2015

*Children's social-emotional learning – What it is, why it is important and how we measure it.* Grand Rounds, Department of Behavioral Sciences at Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL. 2013

***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***

Doctor of Clinical Psychology student, Matthew Phillips 2019-2020

Doctor of Clinical Psychology student, Peter Durham 2019

Doctor of Nursing student, 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  
***Rush University Medical Center, Rush University College of Nursing***

Doctor of Clinical Psychology student, Ilana Reife  
Project Title: n/a  
Role: Informal mentor  
***Rush University Medical Center, Illinois Institute of Technology***

- End product: Publication in *Autism Research*

Doctor of Psychology student, Chandni Singh 2014-2015  
Project Title: Learning, Cognition, and Anxiety in Fragile X Syndrome  
Role: Informal mentor

***Rush University Medical Center, Roosevelt University***

- End product: Trained on the PARS

Medical student, Wilson Ching 2013-2014  
Project Title: Assessment of Social-Emotional Learning Tool on Fragile X Syndrome  
Role: Mentor

***Rush University Medical Center***

- End product: Poster presentation at Rush Research Forum

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: Mentor

***Rush University Medical Center***

- End product: Publication in *American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*

### **CONSULTING**

Contact: Christi Bergin, PhD (Pending grant review)  
Project: Measuring Prosocial Behavior in Schools through a Virtual Reality Game: vSchool  
Funding Source: Institute of Education Sciences  
Role: Advisory board

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

Contact: Kimberly Schonert-Reichl, PhD and M. Jennifer Kitil, MPH 01/17-  
*(University of British Columbia, Canada)*  
Project: Neuroscience and Social and Emotional Learning Study  
Funding Source: n/a  
Role: Consulting on the use of VESIP

Contact: Alexis Harris, PhD and Patrick Toland, PhD *(University of VA, VA)* 08/14-  
Project: The Compassionate Schools Project  
Funding Source: Multiple foundations and private philanthropy  
Role: Consulting on the use of VESIP as a measure of compassionate character in elementary school children using a 21<sup>st</sup> century health and wellness curriculum

Contact: Valerie Shapiro, PhD (*University of CA, Berkeley, CA*) 02/15-04/17  
 Project: Evaluation of Playworks Enrichment program  
 Funding Source: n/a  
 Role: Consulting on the use of VESIP as an outcome measure for evaluation of Playworks' program

Contacts: Deborah Gross, MA (*Stony Brook University, NY*) and Emily Vizza 11/15-06/16  
 (*Quad Preparatory School, NY*)  
 Project: n/a  
 Funding Source: n/a  
 Role: Consulting 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: Consult on the design protocol for using SELweb as a behavioral component for an EEG study with children with ASD.

**LEADERSHIP SERVICE/LEADERSHIP POSITIONS**

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

**Research Director, Rush NeuroBehavioral Center, Rush University** 08/15-  
**Medical Center**  
 Skokie, IL  
 Oversee department of 10 Research faculty & staff

**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** 05/12-08/14  
**University Medical Center**  
 Skokie, IL

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

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

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

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

*University Chicago*  
Chicago, IL

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

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Coordinator for Rush NeuroBehavioral Center Adopt-A-Family Annual Drive 2012, 2013,  
2014, 2015,  
2017

**COMMITTEE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

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

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

**Advisory Committee**, *Department of Behavioral Sciences*, *Rush University*  
*Medical Center* 07/17-  
Chicago, IL  
Role: Member  
Supervisor: Jay Behel, PhD

**Employee Recognition Committee**, *Rush NeuroBehavioral Center*, *Rush*  
*University Medical Center* 09/12-06/16  
Skokie, IL  
Role: Committee Member/Volunteer  
Supervisor: n/a

**Executive Committee**, *Rush NeuroBehavioral Center*, *Rush University*  
*Medical Center* 01/12-06/16  
Skokie, IL  
Role: Associate Research Director/Member  
Supervisor: n/a

**2011 Rush Research Mentoring Program Retreat**, *Rush University*  
*Medical Center* 10/11  
Chicago, IL  
Role: Planning Committee Member/Volunteer  
Supervisor: Kimberly Skarupski, PhD

**Faculty Development Advisory Committee**, *Rush University Medical*  
*Center* 12/10-01/14

Chicago, IL  
 Role: Junior Faculty Committee Member/Volunteer  
 Supervisor: Susan Chubinskaya, PhD, Associate Provost

**Didactics' Committee, Rush NeuroBehavioral Center, Rush University** 07/10-06/15  
**Medical Center**

Skokie, IL  
 Role: Co-coordinator  
 Supervisor: n/a

**Northwestern University Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program** 10/01-12/06  
**Student Steering Committee, Northwestern University**

Evanston, IL  
 Role: Committee Member  
 Supervisor: n/a

**AMSA Women's Health Committee, Loyola University Chicago** 08/98-05/99

Chicago, IL  
 Role: Committee Member  
 Supervisor: n/a

**SCIENTIFIC AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES**

***COURSES***

*Introduction to Mediation, Moderation, and Conditional Process Analysis* 2020  
 4-Week On-Demand Seminar taught by Andrew Hayes, PhD

***EDITOR FOR PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS***

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

***REVIEWER FOR FUNDING AGENCIES***

PTEN Research – Ad hoc reviewer 2020  
 Institute of Education Sciences' National Center for Special Education Research 2019-  
 (NCSER) – Standing panel reviewer (4-year term, ongoing thru 2022)  
 Rush University Medical Center, Rush University Mentoring Program 2018, 2019  
 Cohn Scholarship – Volunteer reviewer  
 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):  
*Ammons Scientific* 2013-  
*Audiology and Neuro-Otology* 2004  
*Audiology Research* 2011  
*Autism Research* 2013-  
*Clinical Neurophysiology* 2004-  
*Developmental Neurorehabilitation* 2017-  
*Ear and Hearing* 2004  
*Frontiers in Pediatrics* 2020-

<i>Genes</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 Human Behavior in the Social Environment</i>	2016-
<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-

### **REVIEWER FOR CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS**

Volunteer abstract reviewer for International Meeting for Autism Research	2012-2014, 2018
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### **AUTHOR COPYRIGHTS**

Virtual Environment for Social Information Processing (VESIP), *pending*  
SELweb, *pending*

### **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

#### *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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.** (2018, April). *Rigorous measurement of SEL skills in school-aged children*. Invited break-out session at 2018 Annual Conference Social Emotional Learning, Chicago, IL.

*Institutional*

9. **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.

**ORAL PRESENTATIONS**

*International*

1. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, Yesensky, J., Hessl, 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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. 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.
4. **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
5. Thomas, J.\* & **Russo-Ponsaran\*, N.M.** (2013, June). *VESIP: A social skills assessment tool for children*. Oral presentation delivered at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Games for Health Conference, Boston, MA. \*Co-presented

*Institutional*

6. **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.

**INVITED SEMINARS AND LECTURES**

*Regional*

1. **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.
2. **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.

3. **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.
4. **Russo, N.M.**, Kraus, N. (2005, March). *Auditory brainstem responses*. Invited lecture at Resurrection Hospital, Park Ridge, IL.

*Institutional*

5. **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.
6. **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.
7. **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.

**POSTER PRESENTATIONS**

*International*

1. 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
2. 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
3. **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<sup>TM</sup>) for children with and without autism spectrum disorders*. Poster session presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, Toronto, Canada.
4. **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
5. **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.
6. 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

7. **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*

8. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, McKown, C., Smith, E., Karls, A., & Wu, I. (2018, January). *Reliability and validity of VESIP<sup>TM</sup>, 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.
9. **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 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Orlando, FL.
10. **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.
11. 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
12. **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.
13. **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.
14. **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*

15. **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 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Symposium, Chicago, IL.
16. **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**

Title: Evaluating the effects of distance learning on language comprehension of young school-age children (Grieco-Calub)

Role: Co-Investigator  
Funding Agency: Institute for Translational Medicine  
Funding Mechanism: Pilot Project/Letter of Intent – Invited for full proposal  
Total Award: \$60,000  
Funding Period: 1 year

*CURRENT SUPPORT*

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: 10/01/2020-09/30/2025

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

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: 07/01/2020-06/30/2024

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: 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 06/30/2021)

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: 04/1/2016-02/28/2020

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 (2<sup>nd</sup> no cost extension through 06/30/2021)

*COMPLETED SUPPORT*

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***

***Invited Chapter***

1. **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.** & McKown, C. (2021). Newer item types and Technology-enhanced Assessment Methods. In J. Burrus, M. Brenneman, & S. Rikoon (Eds.). *Assessments for social-emotional learning*.

***Manuscripts Under Review***

1. McKown, C., Kharitonova, M., & **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.** (2020). *Psychometric properties of a shortened form of SELweb, a web-based assessment of children's social-emotional comprehension*.

*Manuscripts Under Revision*

1. McKown, C., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.**, & Karls, A. (2020). *Psychometric Properties of a Web-Based Assessment of Student Social and Emotional Competence for the Late Elementary Grades.*

*PUBLISHED PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS*

1. **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* (online first), 00:1–26. doi: 10.1111/sode.12512
2. **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.
3. 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.
4. **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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. **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.
9. **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.
10. **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.
11. **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.
12. **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.
13. 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.
  14. **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
  15. 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.
  16. 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.
  17. **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.
  18. **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.
  19. **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.
  20. **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.
  21. 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
  22. 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.
  23. **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.
  24. **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.
  25. Tuchman, N. C., Wahtera, K. A., Wetzal, R. G., **Russo, N. M.**, Kilbane, G. M., Sasso, L. M., & Teeri, J. A. (2003). Nutritional quality of leaf detritus altered by elevated atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>: Effects on

development of mosquito larvae. *Freshwater Biology*, 48, 1432-1439. doi: 10.1046/j.1365-2427.2003.01102.x.

*PEER-REVIEWED ABSTRACTS*

*Submitted*

1. 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 submitted for 2021 APS Virtual Convention.
2. McNair, M.L., Libsack, E., Mondejar, V., Mordekai, N., McKown, C., **Russo-Ponsaran, N.**, Lerner, M.D. (2021, November). *Step-By-Step: Breaking Down Social Problem Solving in Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder as Potential Social Cognitive Treatment Targets*. Symposium submitted for Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies 2021 Convention.

*Accepted*

1. 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 to be presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, Virtual.
2. 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 to be presented at the Society for Research on Child Development, Virtual.
3. 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 to be presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, Seattle, WA.
4. **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 at the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness Annual Meeting, Arlington, VA. (Cancelled due to COVID-19)
5. **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 at the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
6. 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* Autism Research, Montreal, Canada.
7. **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.
8. Weber, R.J., Kang, E., Trimmer, 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.

9. 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.
10. **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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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.

19. 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.
20. 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.
21. 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.
22. 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.
23. **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 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Orlando, FL.
24. 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 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Orlando, FL.
25. Thomas, J. & **Russo-Ponsaran, N.M.** (2013, June). *VESIP: A social skills assessment tool for children*. Oral presentation delivered at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Games for Health Conference, Boston, MA.
26. **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.
27. **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.
28. 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.
29. 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.
30. 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.

31. **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 13<sup>th</sup> International Fragile X Conference, Miami, FL.
32. **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<sup>TM</sup>) for children with and without autism spectrum disorders*. Poster session presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, Toronto, Canada.
33. 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.
34. **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.
35. **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
36. 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.
37. **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.
38. **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.
39. **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.
40. 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.
41. **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.
42. **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.

43. 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.
44. **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.
45. 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.
46. 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.
47. **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.
48. **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*

[VESIP: a web-based tool to measure social reasoning skills in students in grades 3-7](#)

[VESIP- \(Teacher\) How to Register Students and Launch a Test](#)

[VESIP- Register Students and Launch Test \(Test-Only Login\)](#)

VESIP™ and SELweb™ 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