

Rush University Medical Center

Faculty Profile

Niranjan S. Karnik, M.D., Ph.D.

(Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences)

Dr. Karnik is the Cynthia Oudejans Harris, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences and Associate Dean for Community Behavioral Health at Rush Medical College with conjoint faculty appointments in the Graduate College and the Department of Community, Systems and Mental Health Nursing at the Rush College of Nursing. He serves as Director of the Great Lakes Node of the National Drug Abuse Treatment Clinical Trials Network. He is the Co-Director of the Rush-University of Chicago Institute for Translational Medicine KL2 Career Development Award Program. His research focuses on data science, technology and community-based interventions for vulnerable populations with psychiatric and substance use disorders. In the past, he has worked with refugee children on the Pakistan-Afghan border, street children in India, foster youth in Central Illinois, and incarcerated youth in California.



He worked at a youth homeless shelter in San Francisco and is continuing this work with homeless youth in Chicago. He is presently a PI or Co-PI on grants from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, and Illinois Department of Human Services. He is a Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and Distinguished Fellow of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry.

Training

B.A. in *cursu honorum*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, 1993.

A.M. in Sociology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL, 1995.

M.D., University of Illinois College of Medicine, Urbana, IL, 2002.

Ph.D. in Sociology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL, 2003.

Residency in General Psychiatry, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA, 2005.

Fellowship in Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, Stanford University & Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital, Palo Alto, CA, 2007.

Fellowship in Clinical Medical Ethics, MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics, The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL 2013.

Board Certifications

Psychiatry, American Board of Psychiatry & Neurology, 2009, recertified 2019.

Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, American Board of Psychiatry & Neurology, 2011.

Arthur C. Evans Jr., PhD, is CEO of the American Psychological Association, the leading scientific and professional organization representing psychology in the United States.

Before joining APA in March 2017, Dr. Evans spent 12 years as commissioner of Philadelphia's \$1.5 billion Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services. In that post, he emphasized a data-driven, population health approach, which improved outcomes for diverse people with complex needs. This increased the system's efficiency, saving more than \$110 million over the course his tenure that was reinvested to improve and expand services. The system in Philadelphia has become a national and international model, particularly for governments desiring to improve health equity.

Prior to Philadelphia, Dr. Evans was deputy commissioner for the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, where he led major strategic initiatives that included increasing the use of evidence-based practices, addressing health care disparities, implementing a recovery-oriented policy framework, conducting research, and improving community engagement.

Dr. Evans has held faculty appointments at the Yale University School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, and the Drexel School of Public Health.

Dr. Evans holds a doctorate in clinical/community psychology from the University of Maryland and a master's degree in experimental psychology from Florida Atlantic University, where he was inducted into the university's Alumni Hall of Fame.

Maysa Akbar, PhD, is chief diversity officer of the American Psychological Association, charged with infusing equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) into the fabric of the association's work. Dr. Akbar works with APA staff, leaders, and members to refine and build consensus for an overall EDI plan, operationalize its goals and establish metrics to monitor and ensure progress. Dr. Akbar is an experienced instructor and master trainer in EDI for both the medical and the broader community.

Before assuming this post, she was the founder and chief executive officer of a clinical practice based in New Haven, Connecticut, that specialized in race-based trauma. She also created a consulting firm and educational network focused on organizational cultural transformation. Her firm delivered cutting-edge programs anchored in racial justice to city governments, public schools, and court systems, among other entities. Akbar's areas of specialty include, racism, racial (urban) trauma, racial identity development and allyship, topics on which she has written research articles, books, and various book chapters.

Dr. Akbar held a faculty appointment at the Yale School of Medicine Child Study Center for almost two decades, advancing multicultural clinical practice and cultural competence in psychological training.

Dr. Akbar holds a PhD in clinical psychology from St. Louis University, an MS in community psychology from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in Tallahassee, and a BA in psychology from the State University of New York at Albany.