Stanford



Charles L Raison

Affiliate, Psychology

Bio

BIO

Charles L. Raison, MD, is a Professor of Human Ecology and Psychiatry in the Department of Psychiatry, School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Raison also serves as Chief Medical Officer for Usona Institute, as Director of the Vail Health Behavioral Health Innovation Center, and as Director of Research on Spiritual Health for Emory. Dr. Raison's research focuses on the examination of novel mechanisms involved in the development and treatment of major depression and other stress-related emotional and physical conditions, He has played central roles in the development of whole body hyperthermia as a treatment for major depression and oversaw some of the world's first studies showing potential health benefits of compassion training. More recently, Dr. Raison has taken a leadership role in the development of psychedelic medicines as potential treatments for major depression. He was named one of the world's most influential researchers by Web of Science for the decade of 2010-2019. Dr. Raison received the Raymond Pearl Memorial Award from the Human Biology Association "in recognition of his contributions to our understanding of evolutionary biocultural origins of mental health and illness." Dr. Raison has also won the 2024 Emory University Science on Spiritual Health Torch and Trumpet Award "for a career devoted to the mental and spiritual health of humanity by responding and attending to suffering with a compassionate heart and a keen scientific mind." In 2026 he received a Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award from the Washington University School of Medicine. With Vladimir Maletic he is author of "The New Mind-Body Science of Depression" published by W.W. Norton in 2017.