



Octavio Choi, MD, PhD

Updated 4/1/2025

ACADEMIC TRAINING

Fellowship in Forensic Psychiatry, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
July 2011 - July 2012

Psychiatry Internship & Residency, UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute, Los Angeles, CA
July 2004 - July 2008

Doctor of Medicine (MD), University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA

September 1994 - June 2004

- federally-funded combined MD, PhD program (Medical Scientist Training Program)
- PhD in Neurosciences (molecular neuro-development) in the laboratory of Dennis O'Leary, Salk Institute

Bachelor of Science (BS), Stanford University, Stanford, CA

September 1987 - June 1992

- Bachelor of Science in Symbolic Systems (computational neuroscience)

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Clinical Professor, Stanford University,

April 2026 - Present

Clinical Associate Professor, Stanford University

August 2019 - March 2025

Core faculty, Stanford Neuropsychiatry Fellowship

2020 - present

- Providing ongoing didactics, clinical supervision, and mentorship to fellowship trainees.

Founding Director, Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship, Stanford University

2021 - 2023

- Created a new forensic psychiatry fellowship which is the first neurolaw-focused forensic psychiatry fellowship in the world. Tasks included:

- conceptualization of the vision and mission of the fellowship,
- recruitment of faculty
- formulating and teaching didactics
- building relationships with other schools (e.g. Stanford Law School) and neuro disciplines at Stanford (e.g. Neuropsychiatry and Interventional psychiatry fellowship programs)
- establishing fellowship rotations with Santa Clara Courts, CA Dept of State Hospitals, CA Dept of Corrections.
- authoring ACGME application and obtaining ACGME accreditation

- ACGME approval received Feb 2021
- First fellows arrived July 1, 2022, and program continues to thrive.

Core faculty, Stanford Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship **2021 - present**

- Provide ongoing didactics, forensic supervision, and mentorship to fellowship trainees.
- Conduct ongoing scholarly research in neurolaw

Core faculty, Stanford Interventional Psychiatry Program and Fellowship **2021 - present**

- Clinical work and research involving neuromodulatory approaches to psychiatric treatment including TMS, accelerated (SAINT) TMS, ECT, and VNS.
- Provide ongoing didactics, clinical supervision and mentorship to fellowship trainees

Professional Wellness Advisor, Stanford Health Care (SHC) **2022 - present**

- Primary responsibilities include:
 - evaluating medical staff referred to SHC's Committee for Professionalism
 - formulating intervention plans
 - making recommendations to the committee
 - developing treatment resources at Stanford for impaired physicians.

Co-instructor, "The Brain and the Law," (Psych 125), Stanford University **2022 - present**

- With David Eagleman, designed, developed, and teach on a yearly basis
- 3-unit undergraduate course at Stanford University, over 100 students enrolled

Core faculty, Stanford WellConnect program **2024 - present**

- Provide clinical support (psychotherapy, medication management, coaching) to Stanford School of Medicine faculty, fellows, and residents.

Employment prior to Stanford faculty appointment

Clinical Psychiatrist at Oregon State Hospital-Portland, Sep 2012 - March 2013

- provided clinical psychiatric care for civilly committed patients.

Assistant Professor, Division of Public Psychiatry, Oregon Health and Science University, June 2013 - June 2017

Clinical Psychiatrist at Oregon State Hospital, June 2013 - July 2014

- provided clinical psychiatric care on competency restoration units, GEI (Guilty Except for Insanity) units, and civil commitment units.
- conducted forensic evaluations (competency, insanity) at Oregon State Hospital, Salem

Chief Academic Psychiatrist, Oregon State Hospital, July 2014- March 2016

Job responsibilities include:

- Supervised all Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU)-affiliated faculty at the Oregon State Hospital
- Recruited faculty to OHSU/OSH
- Arranged academic conferences at OHSU and OSH
- Conducted competency and insanity evaluations for high-profile cases
- Supervised and organized all OHSU student, resident, and fellowship trainee clerkships at

Oregon State Hospital

- Course director for psychiatry resident didactics in forensic psychiatry

Supervising Psychiatrist, Oregon State Hospital, July 2014- Dec 2014

- Provided supervision to clinical psychiatrists working on the units
- Provided expert consultation to unit teams in managing complex patients

Director, Oregon State Forensic Evaluations, Oregon State Hospital Mar 2016 - Jul 2019

The Forensic Evaluation Service of the Oregon State Hospital conducts most court-ordered forensic evaluations in the state of Oregon, with over 1,400 evaluations completed in 2018 (e.g. insanity; competency to stand trial, extreme emotional disturbance).

Affiliate faculty, Division of Public Psychiatry, Oregon Health and Science University, June 2017 - July 2019.

CERTIFICATIONS

General Psychiatry Board Certification #60500, American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Jan 2010

Forensic Psychiatry Board Certification #1979, American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Oct 2013

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

- Member, **American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law (AAPL), 2011 - present**
 - Member, Forensic Neuropsychiatry Committee, 2012- present
 - **Chair, Forensic Neuropsychiatry committee** October 2014-2017.
 - **Assoc. Editor, Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law**, Oct 2017-2023.
 - Member, Association of Directors of Forensic Psychiatry Fellowships committee (ADFPF), July 2021- 2023
 - Member, Special Committee on Fellowship Recruitment and Selection Process, November 2021- 2022
- Member, **American Neuropsychiatry Association (ANPA), 2025- present**

MEDICAL LICENSURE

CA 49541 2019- present

ACADEMIC HONORS/AWARDS

- **2025 Fellow**, Stanford Medical Humanities Fellowship, Stanford University Medical Center
- Recipient of **2020 Innovator Grant**, Stanford University Dept of Psychiatry and Behavioral sciences
- Mind and Life summer research institute scholar, Mind and Life Institute, 2006
- Special recognition for USMLE step I score in 99th percentile
- Received Honors letter for Pathology, Neurology, and Laboratory medicine courses

- Received perfect score on MCAT exam, 1992
- Nominated for the Dean's Award for Academic Achievement, Stanford, 1990

UNRETAINED EXPERT

TEACHING ACTIVITIES AT STANFORD

- **Stanford Psychiatry Fellows** **2019 - present**
 - Stanford **Forensic** Psychiatry Fellowship program
 - Stanford **Neuropsychiatry** Fellowship program
 - Stanford **Interventional** Fellowship program
 - Provide didactics, mentorship, and clinical supervision for fellows in these programs, with focus on neuropsychiatry, neurolaw and forensic psychiatry
- **Stanford CNI-X** (Clinical Neuroscience Emerging Experience Program) **2019 - present**
 - Annually provide didactics to high school students engaged in a summer neuroscience “boot camp” experience at Stanford.
 - **Spotlight faculty presenter** for **2025** (based on exceptionally positive student feedback in previous years).
- **Stanford Medical School** **2020 - present**
 - **Psych 249- Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Subspecialty Areas** guest lecturer
 - Medical student course to introduce students to psychiatry subspecializations
 - Give annual guest lecture on subspecialty of forensic neuropsychiatry
- **Stanford Psychiatry Residents** **2020 - present**
 - Provide didactics to **PGY-3** and **PGY-4** years on various topics in forensic psychiatry, including insanity, neurolaw, and privacy implications of implanted medical devices.
- **Stanford Law School: Mental Health and the Law** **2022 - present**
 - Annually provide didactics to law students on topics of forensic psychiatry, neuropsychiatry and neurolaw.
- **Stanford Undergraduate:** **2022 - present**
 - **Psych 125- Brain and the Mind** co-instructor
 - With David Eagleman, designed, developed, and teach on a yearly basis (2022, 2023)
 - 3-unit undergraduate course at Stanford University, over 100 students enrolled
 - Student feedback for this course is exceptional (course median rating 5/5 in both 2022 and 2023)
- **Stanford IMS program** (Stanford Immersion in Medicine Series) **2022 - present**
 - Mentor Stanford undergraduates interested in entering medicine
 - Undergraduates spend a quarter shadowing Dr. Choi, with reflection and writing assignments
- **Stanford MIDI initiative** (Mentorship Initiative for Diversity and Inclusion) **2023 - present**
 - Mentor PGY-2 and PGY-3 psychiatry residents from minority backgrounds

TEACHING ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE STANFORD

- **University of California, San Francisco**- Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship **2020 - present**
- **University of California, Los Angeles**- Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship **2020 - present**
 - Annually provide didactics to forensic psychiatry fellows on topics of forensic psychiatry, neuropsychiatry and neurolaw
- **Harvard Law School**: Law and Neuroscience course **2021 - present**
 - Annually provide didactics to Harvard law students on topics of forensic psychiatry, neuropsychiatry and neurolaw
- **Harvard Medical School**: Law, Ethics and Neuroscience course **2023 - present**
 - Annually provide didactics to Harvard medical students on lie detection, interventional psychiatry, cutting-edge technologies in neuroscience

STANFORD INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

- **Member, SHC Well-being Committee** **2019 - 2023**
- **Board Member, KZSU** radio station **2023 - present**

STANFORD EXTRA CURRICULARS

- **KZSU Radio Host** **Spring 2024**
 - hosted weekly call-in radio show, "Ask Dr. Choi," fielding questions from Stanford students and nation-wide on questions tapping into Dr. Choi's expertise in neuroscience, mindfulness, psychiatry and medicine. Show topics included toxic perfectionism, healthy relationships, sleep, meditation, and nutrition. Each show was co-hosted by one of my undergraduate students who expressed an interest in student wellness to provide their essential perspective to conversation.
- **Fellow, Medical Humanities Fellowship Program** **Spring 2025**
 - With training, mentorship and guidance, I am writing a book reflecting on some of my forensic cases involving brain-damaged offenders.

GRAND ROUNDS PRESENTATIONS

- **2019: Stanford** Psychiatry Dept: "Neuroscience in the Courtroom" **Stanford, CA** Oct 10, 2019
- **2022: UCSF**- University of California, San Francisco: "What neuroscience can and cannot answer in the courtroom." **San Francisco, CA** Feb 15, 2022
- **2022: UT**: University of Texas, San Antonio: "What neuroscience can and cannot answer in the courtroom." **San Antonio, TX** Mar 8, 2022
- **2024: University of Utah** "Acquired Criminality in the Courtroom" **Salt Lake City, UT** Dec 18, 2024
- **2025: McGill University**: "Acquired Criminality in the Courtroom." **Montreal, Canada** Mar 7, 2025

NATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Judicial Trainings

- **2016:** MacArthur-sponsored **Neurolaw conference (national):** "Reinventing Reentry: Brain, Behavior, and Better Decision-making." Oregon Health and Sciences University, **Portland, OR** Oct 25, 2016
 - Co-organized and presented at MacArthur Foundation Research Network conference aimed at judges, lawyers, clinicians and neuroscientists, addressing issues of the neuroscience of addiction and the law.
- **2017:** invited speaker, MacArthur-sponsored **Judicial training conference (national):** "Neuroscience and the Law." **San Diego, CA** June 27, 2017
- **2018:** invited speaker, Los Angeles Superior Court- **Criminal Judges Training (regional):** "Neuroimaging in the Courtroom: Distinguishing Neuroscience from Neuro-consense." **Los Angeles, CA** Oct 26, 2018
- **2023:** invited speaker, Kline Center for Judicial Education- Continuing **Judicial Education Program (national):** "Neurolaw in the Classroom: What judges ought to know about neuroscience." Duquesne University, **Pittsburgh PA** Mar 23, 2023

National conferences

- **2012: APA-** "Neural lie detection: admissibility of functional neuroimaging evidence in US courts." Presentation at American Psychiatric Association symposium, "Updated Applications of Expert Psychiatric Testimony in Criminal Justice", **Philadelphia PA**, May 8, 2012.
- **2015: AAPL-** "Neuroscience and Criminal Responsibility." Organized and led panel presentation regarding the current state of neuroscience and its relevance in aiding determinations of criminal responsibility. American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law conference, **Ft Lauderdale, Florida**, October 23, 2015.
- **2016: AAPL-** "Neurolaw 101: Introduction to Neurolaw for Forensic Psychiatrists." Organized and taught a forensic neuroscience course highlighting neuroscience's potential and limitations to guide determinations of criminal responsibility, legally-relevant capacities such as testamentary capacity, lie detection, pain measurement, and violence risk prediction. American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law conference, **Portland, Oregon**, October 29, 2016.
- **2017: APA-** "The Evolution of Forensic Psychiatry." Invited speaker at the APA's Guttmacher Award Ceremony regarding neuroscience and ethical dilemmas posed by the forensic psychiatrist's dual identities as psychiatrist and forensic expert. American Psychiatric Association conference, **San Diego CA**, May 21, 2017.
- **2018: TEDx** talk- "Can Neuroscience Eradicate Psychopathy?" Featured TEDx speaker, Portland State University, **Portland, Oregon**, Feb 24, 2018. Link to video, over 100,000 views. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RB-qhZLqLo>
- **2019: AAPL-** "Neural Correlates of Criminality."

Featured speaker, American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law conference, **Baltimore, MD**, October 25, 2019.

- **2020: Seton Hall Law School-** "Neural Correlates of Criminality."
Featured speaker, Neuroscience and the Law Symposium, Seton Hall University School of Law, **Newark NJ**, Feb 14, 2020.
- **2021: AAPL Fellowship Directors** Meeting-"The Fellowship Application Process Must Be Reformed."
Featured speaker, American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law conference, **online** (due to pandemic), October 28, 2021. *[due to pandemic, AAPL conference and meetings this year were held exclusively online in the US; Dr. Choi was presenting from Stanford, CA, USA]*
- **2022: AAPL-** "Tales from the tick tock heart: fitness trackers and crime."
Featured speaker, American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law conference, **New Orleans, LA**, October 29, 2022.
- **2023: Stanford Law School conference-** "Things that get better with age: neural correlates of wisdom." Invited speaker, Biolawlapalooza conference, **Stanford Law School**. Stanford CA, May 19, 2023.
- **2023: APA-** "Neuroscience in the Courtroom." Chair and presenter, American Psychiatric Association Panel, APA conference. **San Francisco, CA** May 11, 2023.
- **2024: Stanford Law School conference-** "Formative databases I have known and loved." Invited speaker, Biolawlapalooza conference, **Stanford Law School**. Stanford CA, May 18, 2024.

PUBLICATIONS- Book Chapters

- Choi, O.** (2025). "You're probably thinking about the brain all wrong." Chapter 17 In: *Expert Mental Health Opinions: From Inquiry to Knowledge*, Oxford University Press, in press
- Choi, O.** (2023). Neuroinnovation in Medicine: History and Future. In *Ethics and Clinical Neuroinnovation: Fundamentals, Stakeholders, Case Studies, and Emerging Issues* (pp. 13-55). Cham: Springer International Publishing.
- Choi, Octavio** (2015). "Neuroimaging and Lie Detection: ready for court?" Book chapter in *Psychiatric Expert Testimony: Emerging Applications*, Kenneth Weiss and Clarence Watson, eds, Oxford University Press, 2015: 84-96. Featured review in *The American Journal of Psychiatry*, 172:9, Sep 2015: 915.
- Choi, Octavio**, and MR Irwin (2008). "Insomnia in Aging", Book chapter in: *Anderson, G, Alessi C, eds. Geriatric Sleep Medicine*, New York: Informa Healthcare, 2008, pages 39-112

PUBLICATIONS- Peer reviewed articles

- Gupta, D. R., Candilis, P. J., **Choi, O.**, Abi Zeid Daou, M., Kinnor, R., Cleary, S. D., Binder, R., & Ash, P. (2024). "Attitudes of Forensic Fellowship Psychiatry Directors towards an Applicant Match." *The Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*, 52(3), 304–310. <https://doi.org/10.29158/JAAPL.240053>
- Choi, Octavio** (2021). "The Fellowship Application Process Must Be Reformed." *The Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*. 2021 Sep; 49 (3): 300-310.
- Choi, Octavio**, (2017). What Neuroscience Can and Cannot Answer. *The Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*, 2017 Sep; 45(3): 278-285.
- Choi, Octavio** and KJ Weiss (2012). "Adjudicating dangerous and incompetent defendants: civil or criminal?" *Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*, 2012 Apr; 40(2): 279-281.
- Choi SB**, and MH Tuszynski (1997). "An in vivo method to assay substrates for axon growth after injury in the adult rat" *Journal of Neurotrauma*, 1997, Volume: 14(10): 803
- Choi SB**, Mianchi, Hotson J (1995). "Transcranial magnetic perturbation of motion and luminance signals in striate and extrastriate cortex", *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science*, 1995, Volume: 36(4): S56

PUBLICATIONS- non-peer reviewed

- Choi, Octavio** (2020). "Announcing the First Neurolaw-focused Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship." *Newsletter of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*, fall 2020.

Tacker, Katherine, and **Choi, Octavio**, (2019). Belonging, Therapeutic Landscapes, and Networks: Implications for Mental Health Practice. *The Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*, 2019 Aug; 47(3): 388-390.

Choi, Octavio (2001), "The Role of BDNF in the Development of Retinotectal Topographic Projections in the Chick." PhD dissertation, University of California, San Diego, September, 2001

UNRETAINED EXPERT