Stanford



Christopher Wallace Austelle

Clinical Assistant Professor, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

CLINICAL OFFICE (PRIMARY)

- **Psychiatry Clinic**
  401 Quarry Rd
  MC 5797
  Stanford, CA 94305
  Tel (650) 498-9111 **Fax** (650) 724-9900

Bio

BIO

Christopher Wallace Austelle, MD, is a board-certified psychiatrist and Clinical Assistant Professor investigating circuit-based treatments for mood and anxiety disorders. As a physician-scientist, he examines how neural circuits underlying emotion and cognition are dynamically coupled with the autonomic nervous system to shape interoception, and how disruptions in these integrated systems contribute to depression and anxiety.

With more than a decade of experience in neuromodulation, Dr. Austelle has worked across research and clinical settings using transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), accelerated protocols such as Stanford Accelerated Intelligent Neuromodulation Therapy (SAINT), transcutaneous auricular vagus nerve stimulation (taVNS), and implanted vagus nerve stimulation (VNS). His research integrates clinical trials, neuroimaging, and psychophysiology to develop targeted, physiology-informed interventions.

Clinically, he specializes in treatment-resistant depression and anxiety disorders, applying evidence-based neuromodulation strategies for individuals who have not responded to standard treatments.

CLINICAL FOCUS

- Psychiatry
- Interventional Psychiatry
- Vagus Nerve Stimulation
- Treatment Resistant Depression

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Clinical Assistant Professor, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
- Member, Wu Tsai Neurosciences Institute

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Clinical Director of the Brain Stimulation Lab, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, (2025- present)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- DART Fellowship (Resident), Medical University of South Carolina (2021-2023)
- Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC) Fellowship, Department of Veterans Affairs (2023-2025)
- Travel Award, International Neuromodulation Society (2024)
- American Psychiatric Association Research Colloquium for Junior Investigators, American Psychiatric Association (2024-2025)
- Career Development Institute (CDI) for Psychiatry, Stanford University & University of Pittsburgh (2025)
- SPORR CTS Pilot Grants Program, Stanford Center for Clinical and Translational Research and Education (Spectrum) (2026)
- Travel Award, Society of Biological Psychiatry (2026)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Fellowship: Palo Alto VA Healthcare System (2025) CA
- Board Certification: Psychiatry, American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (2023)
- Residency: Medical University of South Carolina (2023) SC
- Medical Education: Medical University of South Carolina (2019) SC United States of America

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Behavioral and Functional Neuroimaging Effects of Delivering a Course of Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation to Personalized Targets Within the Ventrolateral Or Dorsolateral Prefrontal Cortex in Treatment-Seeking Participants with Cannabis Use Disorder.** *medRxiv : the preprint server for health sciences*

  McCalley, D., Wong, B., Geoly, A., Struckman, W., Azeez, A., Kaloiani, I., Kim, B., Ninomiya, S., Ehrie, J., Austelle, C. W., Rolle, C. E., Kim, J. P., Froeliger, et al

  2026

- **How Common Are Incidental Brain MRI Findings in Psychiatric Populations? Insights From Patients Seeking Accelerated TMS**

  Austelle, C., Struckmann, W., Jones, R., Buchanan, D., Lissemore, J., Geoly, A., Feyder, M., Stimpson, K., Ford, T. J., Ehrie, J., Airan, R., Rolle, C., Bentzley, et al

  ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2026

- **Updates From a Second Stanford Neuromodulation Therapy RCT: Efficacy and Mechanistic Insights**

  Austelle, C., Kratter, I., Lissemore, J., Wada, M., Geoly, A., Pines, A., Arns, M., Rolle, C., Sahlem, G., Williams, N.

  ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2026

- **Complexity or simplicity? A replication analysis of low heart rate as a predictor of TMS response in major depressive disorder.** *European neuropsychopharmacology : the journal of the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology*

  Kozyr, L., Kaloiani, I., Wada, M., Coetzee, J. P., Austelle, C. W., Rolle, C. E., Williams, N., Arns, M.

  2026; 107: 112796

- **Stanford neuromodulation therapy for treatment-resistant depression: a randomized controlled trial confirming efficacy, and an EEG study providing insight into mechanism of action and a potentially predictive biomarker of efficacy.** *World psychiatry : official journal of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA)*

  Kratter, I. H., Austelle, C. W., Lissemore, J. I., Wada, M., Geoly, A., Chaiken, A., Kaloiani, I., Johnson, N., Wan, S., Kozyr, L., Makarewycz, E., Wong, B., Sridhar, et al

  2026; 25 (1): 105-116

- **Response to: Letter to the Editor Regarding "Accelerated Transcutaneous Auricular Vagus Nerve Stimulation for Inpatient Depression and Anxiety: The iWAVE Open Label Pilot Trial".** *Neuromodulation : journal of the International Neuromodulation Society*

  Austelle, C. W., Badran, B. W.

2025; 28 (6): 1025-1027

- **Accelerated Transcutaneous Auricular Vagus Nerve Stimulation for Inpatient Depression and Anxiety: The iWAVE Open Label Pilot Trial.** *Neuromodulation : journal of the International Neuromodulation Society*
  Austelle, C. W., Cox, S. S., Connolly, D. J., Baker Vogel, B., Peng, X., Wills, K., Sutton, F., Tucker, K. B., Ashley, E., Manett, A., Cortese, B., Short, E. B., Badran, et al
  2025
- **Vagus nerve stimulation (VNS): recent advances and future directions.** *Clinical autonomic research : official journal of the Clinical Autonomic Research Society*
  Austelle, C. W., Cox, S. S., Wills, K. E., Badran, B. W.
  2024
- **Psychodynamically Informed Brain Stimulation: Building a Bridge from Brain to Mind.** *American journal of psychoanalysis*
  Austelle, C. W., Seery, E.
  2024
- **Hope in the Face of "Futility": Considering the Full Scope of Psychiatric Treatment Options.** *AJOB neuroscience*
  Austelle, C. W., Ehrie, J., Zabinski, J. S.
  2024; 15 (1): 59-61
- **Transcutaneous Auricular Vagus Nerve Stimulation Attenuates Early Increases in Heart Rate Associated With the Cold Pressor Test.** *Neuromodulation : journal of the International Neuromodulation Society*
  Austelle, C. W., Sege, C. T., Kahn, A. T., Gregoski, M. J., Taylor, D. L., McTeague, L. M., Short, E. B., Badran, B. W., George, M. S.
  2023
- **A pilot randomized controlled trial of supervised, at-home, self-administered transcutaneous auricular vagus nerve stimulation (taVNS) to manage long COVID symptoms.** *Bioelectronic medicine*
  Badran, B. W., Huffman, S. M., Dancy, M., Austelle, C. W., Bikson, M., Kautz, S. A., George, M. S.
  2022; 8 (1): 13
- **A pilot randomized controlled trial of supervised, at-home, self-administered transcutaneous auricular vagus nerve stimulation (taVNS) to manage long COVID symptoms.** *Research square*
  Badran, B. W., Huffman, S. M., Dancy, M., Austelle, C. W., Bikson, M., Kautz, S. A., George, M. S.
  2022
- **Electrical stimulation of the trigeminal nerve improves olfaction in healthy individuals: A randomized, double-blind, sham-controlled trial.** *Brain stimulation*
  Badran, B. W., Gruber, E. M., O'Leary, G. H., Austelle, C. W., Huffman, S. M., Kahn, A. T., McTeague, L. M., Uhde, T. W., Cortese, B. M.
  2022; 15 (3): 761-768
- **A Comprehensive Review of Vagus Nerve Stimulation for Depression.** *Neuromodulation : journal of the International Neuromodulation Society*
  Austelle, C. W., O'Leary, G. H., Thompson, S., Gruber, E., Kahn, A., Manett, A. J., Short, B., Badran, B. W.
  2022; 25 (3): 309-315
- **Sonication of the Anterior Thalamus With MRI-Guided Transcranial Focused Ultrasound (tFUS) Alters Pain Thresholds in Healthy Adults: A Double-Blind, Sham-Controlled Study.** *Focus (American Psychiatric Publishing)*
  Badran, B. W., Caulfield, K. A., Stomberg-Firestein, S., Summers, P. M., Dowdle, L. T., Savoca, M., Li, X., Austelle, C. W., Short, E. B., Borckardt, J. J., Spivak, N., Bystritsky, A., George, et al
  2022; 20 (1): 90-99
- **The Future Is Noninvasive: A Brief Review of the Evolution and Clinical Utility of Vagus Nerve Stimulation.** *Focus (American Psychiatric Publishing)*
  Badran, B. W., Austelle, C. W.
  2022; 20 (1): 3-7
- **Neurophysiologic Effects of Transcutaneous Auricular Vagus Nerve Stimulation (taVNS) via Electrical Stimulation of the Tragus: A Concurrent taVNS/fMRI Study and Review.** *Focus (American Psychiatric Publishing)*
  Badran, B. W., Dowdle, L. T., Mithoefer, O. J., LaBate, N. T., Coatsworth, J., Brown, J. C., DeVries, W. H., Austelle, C. W., McTeague, L. M., George, M. S.
  2022; 20 (1): 80-89

- **A Review of Parameter Settings for Invasive and Non-invasive Vagus Nerve Stimulation (VNS) Applied in Neurological and Psychiatric Disorders.** *Frontiers in neuroscience*
  Thompson, S. L., O'Leary, G. H., Austelle, C. W., Gruber, E., Kahn, A. T., Manett, A. J., Short, B., Badran, B. W.
  2021; 15: 709436

- **Sonication of the anterior thalamus with MRI-Guided transcranial focused ultrasound (tFUS) alters pain thresholds in healthy adults: A double-blind, sham-controlled study.** *Brain stimulation*
  Badran, B. W., Caulfield, K. A., Stomberg-Firestein, S., Summers, P. M., Dowdle, L. T., Savoca, M., Li, X., Austelle, C. W., Short, E. B., Borckardt, J. J., Spivak, N., Bystritsky, A., George, et al
  2020; 13 (6): 1805-1812

- **Neurophysiologic effects of transcutaneous auricular vagus nerve stimulation (taVNS) via electrical stimulation of the tragus: A concurrent taVNS/fMRI study and review.** *Brain stimulation*
  Badran, B. W., Dowdle, L. T., Mithoefer, O. J., LaBate, N. T., Coatsworth, J., Brown, J. C., DeVries, W. H., Austelle, C. W., McTeague, L. M., George, M. S.
  2018; 11 (3): 492-500

- **Tragus or cymba conchae? Investigating the anatomical foundation of transcutaneous auricular vagus nerve stimulation (taVNS).** *Brain stimulation*
  Badran, B. W., Brown, J. C., Dowdle, L. T., Mithoefer, O. J., LaBate, N. T., Coatsworth, J., DeVries, W. H., Austelle, C. W., McTeague, L. M., Yu, A., Bikson, M., Jenkins, D. D., George, et al
  2018; 11 (4): 947-948

- **Short trains of transcutaneous auricular vagus nerve stimulation (taVNS) have parameter-specific effects on heart rate.** *Brain stimulation*
  Badran, B. W., Mithoefer, O. J., Summer, C. E., LaBate, N. T., Glusman, C. E., Badran, A. W., DeVries, W. H., Summers, P. M., Austelle, C. W., McTeague, L. M., Borckardt, J. J., George, M. S.
  2018; 11 (4): 699-708

- **Developing Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS) as a Treatment Tool for Cocaine Use Disorder: a Series of Six Translational Studies.** *Current behavioral neuroscience reports*
  Hanlon, C. A., Kearney-Ramos, T., Dowdle, L. T., Hamilton, S., DeVries, W., Mithoefer, O., Austelle, C., Lench, D. H., Correia, B., Canterberry, M., Smith, J. P., Brady, K. T., George, et al
  2017; 4 (4): 341-352

- **A Double-Blind Study Exploring the Use of Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation (tDCS) to Potentially Enhance Mindfulness Meditation (E-Meditation).** *Brain stimulation*
  Badran, B. W., Austelle, C. W., Smith, N. R., Glusman, C. E., Froeliger, B., Garland, E. L., Borckardt, J. J., George, M. S., Short, B.
  2017; 10 (1): 152-154

- **A Double-Blind, Sham-Controlled Pilot Trial of Pre-Supplementary Motor Area (Pre-SMA) 1 Hz rTMS to Treat Essential Tremor.** *Brain stimulation*
  Badran, B. W., Glusman, C. E., Austelle, C. W., Jenkins, S., DeVries, W. H., Galbraith, V., Thomas, T., Adams, T. G., George, M. S., Revuelta, G. J.
  2016; 9 (6): 945-947

- **What goes up, can come down: Novel brain stimulation paradigms may attenuate craving and craving-related neural circuitry in substance dependent individuals.** *Brain research*
  Hanlon, C. A., Dowdle, L. T., Austelle, C. W., DeVries, W., Mithoefer, O., Badran, B. W., George, M. S.
  2015; 1628 (Pt A): 199-209