Stanford

Allen Chen

- Affiliate, Department Funds
- Resident in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

Bio

BIO

Allen Chen is a physician-scientist and resident in the Stanford Psychiatry Research Track, mentored by Drs. Robert Malenka and Liqun Luo. His research investigates serotonergic circuit mechanisms underlying social behavior and how early life stress alters neuromodulator system development, with a focus on understanding the neurodevelopmental basis of adolescent-onset psychiatric vulnerability. He completed his MD-PhD at Stony Brook University with Dr. Qiaojie Xiong, where his thesis work characterized how nigrostriatal dopamine modulates auditory perception and fear learning. His long-term goal is to establish an independent research program studying how early experiences become biologically embedded in neuromodulatory circuits, integrating systems and molecular neuroscience with clinical training in child and adolescent psychiatry.

CLINICAL FOCUS

- Residency

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Alpha Omega Alpha Postgraduate Fellowship Award, AOA (2025-2026)
- Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, AOA (2024)
- American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP) Travel Award, ACNP (2023)
- NIH Outstanding Scholars in Neuroscience Award Program (OSNAP), NIH (2022)
- Outstanding Future Physician-Scientist Award, Stony Brook University School of Medicine (2022)
- Best Talk/Oral Presentation Award, 40th Annual SBU MSTP Retreat, Stony Brook University School of Medicine (2021)
- Graduate Student Organization Distinguished Travel Award, Stony Brook University School of Medicine (2020)
- NIH NRSA F30 Research Fellowship, NIH (2019-2024)
- Outstanding Undergraduate Biology Teaching Award, Stony Brook University School of Medicine (2018)
- Stony Brook Medicine Academic Merit Award (top 10% of medical school class), Stony Brook University School of Medicine (2017)
- Ledell Family Research Scholarship, UCSD (2014)
- Fight-For-Sight Student Research Fellowship, UCSD - Fight for Sight (2013)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- MD, Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University , Medical Education
- PhD, Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University , Neuroscience
- MSc, University of California, San Diego , Biology
- BS, University of California, San Diego , General Biology

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Opponent control of reinforcement by striatal dopamine and serotonin.** *Nature*
  Cardozo Pinto, D. F., Pomrenze, M. B., Guo, M. Y., Touponse, G. C., Chen, A. P., Bentzley, B. S., Eshel, N., Malenka, R. C.
  2024

- **Nigrostriatal dopamine modulates the striatal-amygdala pathway in auditory fear conditioning.** *Nature communications*
  Chen, A. P., Chen, L., Shi, K. W., Cheng, E., Ge, S., Xiong, Q.
  2023; 14 (1): 7231

- **Nigrostriatal dopamine pathway regulates auditory discrimination behavior.** *Nature communications*
  Chen, A. P., Malgady, J. M., Chen, L., Shi, K. W., Cheng, E., Plotkin, J. L., Ge, S., Xiong, Q.
  2022; 13 (1): 5942

- **I've got a friend somewhere: control of social behavior across striatal subregions.** *Frontiers in behavioral neuroscience*
  Li, M. X., Baek, J., Guo, M. Y., Pomrenze, M. B., Chen, A. P.
  2026; 20: 1763517

- **Engines of Progress: A Quantitative Characterization of Research Track Residencies in Psychiatry.** *Academic psychiatry : the journal of the American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training and the Association for Academic Psychiatry*
  Havlik, J., Tran, N., Chen, A. P., Hidalgo, K., Wang, C. S.
  2026

- **SEROTONIN MODULATION OF SOCIAL BEHAVIOR ACROSS STRIATAL SUBREGIONS**
  Chen, A., Li, M., Guo, M., Pomrenze, M., Song, J., Luo, L., Malenka, R.
  SPRINGERNATURE.2026

- **GATING OF OPIOID WITHDRAWAL AVERSION BY AN ECCENTRIC D1 CELL-TYPE IN THE NUCLEUS ACCUMBENS**
  Pomrenze, M., Tucciarone, J., Touponse, G., Denomme, N., St Laurent, R., Baek, J., Chen, A., Phan, B., Soares, J., Pinto, D., Guo, M., Shank, A., Pfenning, et al
  SPRINGERNATURE.2024: 249

- **Presentation and Management of Acute Mania in Fanconi-Bickel Syndrome, A Metabolic Genetic Disorder.** *Case reports in psychiatry*
  Chen, A. P., Russell, G., Ashour, A., Yacoub, A.
  2024; 2024: 5593846

- **Behavioral Impairments and Increased Risk of Cortical Atrophy Risk Scores Among World Trade Center Responders.** *Journal of geriatric psychiatry and neurology*
  Chen, A. P., Ismail, Z., Mann, F. D., Bromet, E. J., Clouston, S. A., Luft, B. J.
  2024; 37 (2): 114-124

- **Lysine Ubiquitylation Drives Rhodopsin Protein Turnover.** *Advances in experimental medicine and biology*
  Chen, A. P., Chea, L., Lee, E. J., Lin, J. H.
  2023; 1415: 493-498

- **YY Lysine Ubiquitylation in P23H Rhodopsin Protein Degradation**
  Chea, L., Chen, A., Chan, P., Lee, G., Lin, J.
  ASSOC RESEARCH VISION OPHTHALMOLOGY INC.2022

- **A deep learning approach for monitoring parietal-dominant Alzheimer's disease in World Trade Center responders at midlife.** *Brain communications*
  Chen, A. P., Clouston, S. A., Kritikos, M., Richmond, L., Meliker, J., Mann, F., Santiago-Michels, S., Pellecchia, A. C., Carr, M. A., Kuan, P. F., Bromet, E. J., Luft, B. J.
  2021; 3 (3): fcab145

- **Integrating the Roles of Midbrain Dopamine Circuits in Behavior and Neuropsychiatric Disease.** *Biomedicines*
  Chen, A. P., Chen, L., Kim, T. A., Xiong, Q.
  2021; 9 (6)

- **Genetic targeting of astrocytes to combat neurodegenerative disease.** *Neural regeneration research*
  Kery, R., Chen, A. P., Kirschen, G. W.
  2020; 15 (2): 199-211