Stanford



Aaron Tyler O'Dea Short

Clinical Assistant Professor (Affiliated), Psych/General Psychiatry and Psychology (Adult)

Bio

BIO

Dr. Aaron Short is a Clinical Assistant Professor (Affiliated) in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University School of Medicine and Medical Director of the Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program at the Menlo Park Division of the VA Palo Alto Health Care System.

Board-certified in Adult and Geriatric Psychiatry, Dr. Short cares for adults and older adults with complex psychiatric and medical conditions. His interests include neurocognitive disorders, behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia, late-life mood disorders, neuropsychiatric complications of medical illness, and psychodynamic psychotherapy. He emphasizes evidence-based, compassionate, patient-centered care and interdisciplinary collaboration.

His clinical experience spans outpatient psychiatry, home-based psychiatric care and primary care programs, inpatient psychiatry, long-term care consultation, geriatric psychiatry e-consultations, and electroconvulsive therapy (ECT). From 2015 to 2026, he provided ECT at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC) in Houston. He served as a consultant to VA Community Living Centers.

Dr. Short has served the Veterans Health Administration since 2011, integrating clinical care, education, and leadership. At VA Palo Alto, he leads interdisciplinary mental health services, strengthening operations, quality improvement, and training. Previously, he was Associate Director of the Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program at the MEDVAMC. His faculty appointments include Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) and McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston, with leadership roles in psychiatry residency, geriatric medicine fellowship, and postgraduate physician assistant training. He mentors and supervises Stanford psychiatry residents and physician assistant students.

He earned a BS in Neuroscience and BA in Spanish, with a minor in Latin American Studies, at Tulane University. He also completed undergraduate coursework at Tufts University, Emory University, the University of Buenos Aires, and the University of Havana. During the summers of 2004 and 2005, he served as Assistant to the Director of the National Center for Infectious Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). His early research included Chagas disease laboratory work at the University of Buenos Aires.

He earned his MD and MPH in Health Systems Management at Tulane, completed psychiatry residency at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine/Jackson Memorial Hospital, serving as Chief Resident, and completed a Geriatric Psychiatry fellowship at BCM. Additional training includes psychodynamic psychotherapy at the Florida Psychoanalytic Center and transcranial magnetic stimulation at the Medical University of South Carolina.

His academic contributions include a VA MIRECC-supported educational initiative in Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) training, a coauthored book chapter on early-life trauma and suicide, and invited geriatric psychiatry presentations at institutional, regional, and international levels. His honors include the 2026 Tulane Medical Alumni Association Young Alumni Leadership Award; the 2025 Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching and Evaluation and 2020 Outstanding Educator Award from BCM; the PGY-3 Clinical Service Award and Exemplary Teaching Award during residency; and the 2015 award for "Exceptional Therapeutic Skill, Psychodynamic Understanding, and Aptitude for Psychodynamic Psychotherapy" from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and Florida Psychoanalytic Institute. He was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Honor Medical Society in 2014.

A Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, Dr. Short is committed to advancing geriatric mental healthcare, developing future clinicians, and strengthening integrated psychiatric services.