



RESEARCH - Alexandra C. Tsai, MD, Ph.D, DFAPA



Alexander Tsai, M.A., M.D., Ph.D. represents a unique selection for this year's MPS Outstanding Award for Research as his focus has been on empirical approaches for the development and implementation of mental health policy to mitigate the impact of stigma on vulnerable populations. His academic background is impressive. He graduated from Harvard College *cum laude* with an A.B. in Economics in 1998 and then was awarded a Rotary Ambassadorial Fellowship to study at the University of Toronto where he obtained an M.A. in Economics as a fellow of Massey College. He received a combined M.D.-Ph.D. in Health Services Research from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in 2010. After an internship in Medicine, Neurology and Psychiatry at the University of Washington in Seattle, he completed his residency in adult Psychiatry at the University of California, San Francisco. He then undertook post-doctoral research training in population health science as a Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholar at Harvard University, the launching pad for leaders in health policy research. In 2012, Dr. Tsai joined the Department of Psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School where he currently holds the rank of Associate Professor. He also has a secondary appointment at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Epidemiology as well as an Honorary Lectureship at the Mbarara University of Science and Technology in Uganda.

Dr. Tsai's research concerns understanding how large-scale social pathogens such as stigma, discrimination and structural violence affect mental health outcomes in vulnerable populations. He employs a multi-disciplinary approach, conducting field work in the U.S., Uganda and South Africa while relying on both econometric and ethnographic methods. An additional focus of his research has been to determine how social policy can be used to impact social determinants and improve mental health outcomes to protect the most vulnerable. He has published over 250 peer-reviewed articles. His findings have been cited in U.S. Congressional legislation, *amici curae* briefs filed with the U.S. Supreme Court and numerous State courts, policy statements issued by major medical and public health organizations and numerous news media outlets.

Dr. Tsai is remarkably generous with his expertise as demonstrated by his highly valued mentoring as has been recognized by the *Exceptional Mentorship in Research Award* from MGH, the *Young Mentor Award* from Harvard Medical School and the *Stephanie Robert Mentoring Award* from the Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science. Rare for a psychiatrist, he has been elected to membership to American Society for Clinical Investigation. In 2022, he received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

The MPS is pleased to present Dr. Alexander Tsai, with the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society 2023 Outstanding Psychiatrist Award for Research.