



Avani K. Patel, MD, MHA is currently a concierge and sports psychiatrist and founder of her private practice, Mississippi Psychiatry & Wellness, in Jackson, Mississippi. She also currently works part-time at a community-based grant funded rehab where she works with the post-incarcerated and homeless population. Dr. Patel is also a Behavioral Health Medical Director for a managed care entity in her home state of Mississippi, where she manages the Medicaid contract within the plan to serve the people of Mississippi. She is a knowledgeable board-certified physician, psychotherapist, advocate, and servant leader to her community. She is a proud Mississippian and honored to be serving in her home state, having graduated from residency training at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in June 2024. She earned her Doctor of Medicine at the UMMC School of Medicine in May 2020 and Master's in Healthcare Administration with emphasis on executive level leadership (CEO/CMO) at Oklahoma State University Graduate College in May 2020. She completed additional training in sports psychiatry with her certificate awarded in March 2024 by the International Society for Sports Psychiatry. In addition, Dr. Patel has pursued 3 non-clinical fellowships & leadership academy training, a feat that is unheard of in the realm of medicine especially during residency training. She has a true passion for mental health care, healthcare administration, advocacy, marketing, writing, and communications with several years of leadership, public speaking, and non-profit board experience. She represents Mississippi on a national platform having served on various local and national boards such as the American Psychiatric Association Board, American Medical Association Foundation Board, and Mississippi State Medical Association Board. Dr. Patel has received numerous awards for her dedication to advocacy, patient care, leadership, teamwork, and teaching. She has delivered multiple speakerships on a range of mental health topics at various institutions and organizations locally and nationally. She is also committed to research multiple publications including a book chapter on social media and adolescent mental health; JAMA; and other local and national works involving academic and organizational poster and oral presentations. When she is not working, Dr. Patel enjoys spending her time with family and friends, being active outdoors, traveling, and pursuing her passion of the arts.