



## Spotlight On Josepha Cheong, MD, Gainesville, FL

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**Dr. Cheong** is a Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology at the University of Florida College of Medicine in Gainesville, Florida.

### **Why did you want to join the ABPN Board?**

I wanted to join the ABPN Board because the work it does is integral to the field of clinical psychiatry and sets a standard for professionalism, knowledge, and expertise. As a resident in training, all of the faculty members that taught in my program were ABPN certified and set the expectation that being ABPN certified was a goal of training. Being board certified was held as a credential of the kind of psychiatrist that I want to be.

### **What do you want to achieve with the ABPN Board?**

Through the work on the ABPN Board, I want to achieve a balance between the standards of the board certification process and the flexibility to meet the changing regulatory landscape of medicine as addressed by the various governing organizations, such as the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) and the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) in support of the diplomates.



### **What is the most important thing people should understand about the Board?**

One key thing about the ABPN that is important to understand is that this is not a member organization. It is a credentialing organization and one of the 24 specialty medical boards that make up the ABMS. The ABMS, in turn, works as an organization across all medical specialties to set the standard of professionalism and care for physicians and specialists to provide quality healthcare for all populations.

### **Why is the patient perspective important to you and how does that connect to your work on the board?**

The patient perspective is one of the most important aspects of the ABPN mission to serve the public and the profession. Being able to provide high quality care to patients is supported by the promotion of lifelong learning and professionalism through the certification process for neurologists and psychiatrists.

### **Did you have a mentor that affected your career journey?**

Yes, the late Dwight Evans, MD. Dr. Evans was the Chair at the University of Florida College of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry and hired me for my first academic job. He was involved with the ABPN for much of his early career in academics and became one of the ABPN Exam Part II Team

Directors. He impressed upon me the importance of being board certified and encouraged my participation on the Examination writing teams. There was no one else at UF that was involved with psychiatry on a national level, and he inspired me to get involved. He left UF to become Chair at the University of Pennsylvania Department of Psychiatry but continued to be a source of continued advice and mentorship throughout my career. When I was notified of my selection to join the ABPN, after telling my parents, Dwight was the first person I told. He passed away in November 2022 - I genuinely miss him still and will always be grateful for his encouragement to get involved with the work of the ABPN.

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