



Spotlight On Sejal B. Shah, MD, Boston, MA

Dr. Shah is Associate Chief, Division of Psychiatry in Medicine – Mass General Brigham Department of Psychiatry, and Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts.

What is your specialty (and, if applicable, subspecialty or other more focused area) expertise?

I specialize in Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry. My current titles are Associate Chief, Division of Psychiatry in Medicine – Mass General Brigham Department of Psychiatry, and Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School.

What is your current or, in your career, most predominant clinical practice setting?

Throughout my career, I have worked predominantly on an inpatient consultation-liaison psychiatry service in a large, academic tertiary care hospital. My clinical interests include emergency psychiatry, workplace safety and chronic psychosis, with a focus on serving our most vulnerable patients who often lack advocates in their lives. I enjoy the clinical connections in this role but also the ability to (hopefully) inspire trainees to consider consultation-liaison psychiatry as a career.



What else can you tell us about your current or significant past roles in your field?

My focus has been on clinical care and the education of trainees within the field of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry. One of my most rewarding roles was serving as the program director of the Brigham and Women's Hospital Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry Fellowship. I currently co-lead a hospital-wide committee that focuses on workplace safety and violence prevention, ensuring that our non-psychiatry colleagues appreciate the role of untreated/decompensated psychiatric illness on one's behavior and the importance of taking a patient-centered approach to ongoing care. In addition to ABPN, I have been nationally involved in several organizations, promoting the significance of consultation-liaison psychiatry. I served as the Chair of the American Psychiatric Association's Council on Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry as well as on the APA Assembly. I am a former Scientific Program Chair for the Academy of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry (ACLP) and currently serve on the ACLP Board of Directors.

Please tell us your thoughts about the role and importance of ABPN board certification.

It is a privilege to care for our patients, and we owe it to them to uphold the highest standards of our profession. Since the beginning of my career, I have had a deep interest in medical education and recognize the importance of maintaining excellence in clinical knowledge—not only for the benefit of those we treat, but also for the trainees we mentor. Board certification serves as a meaningful way to

demonstrate this commitment, providing assurance to our patients and communities that we are dedicated, reliable, and responsible experts in our field.

What have your experiences been like in your interactions with the ABPN as a candidate or as a diplomate?

I have greatly enjoyed my time as a member of the Continuous Certification Subspecialty Article Assessment Committee for Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry. Collaborating with and learning from such thoughtful and dedicated colleagues has been an inspiring and rewarding experience. In addition, my involvement with this ABPN committee afforded me the opportunity to serve as a content expert for an American Board of Emergency Medicine task force, which successfully obtained approval for a focused practice designation in emergency behavioral health. I continue to be involved in this process via a portfolio task force. Engaging in this cross-specialty collaboration with diplomates from diverse backgrounds has been both invigorating and deeply fulfilling.

Do you have any other perspectives you'd like to share with us?

I want to highlight how essential it is to cultivate a network of trusted colleagues and mentors who can support and guide you throughout your career. I have been fortunate to be surrounded by an extraordinary community of friends and mentors whose encouragement, wisdom, and honest feedback have shaped my professional journey. Their mentorship has been invaluable; they have challenged me to grow, sustained me through difficult moments, and celebrated successes along the way. I would not be where I am today without their guidance and support.

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