

Farha Abbasi

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Michigan State University

East Lansing, MI, US

Expert on cultural psychiatry, Muslim issues related to mental health

Biography

Farha Abbasi is an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Michigan State University and staff psychiatrist at MSU's student health center. She can speak to a range of topics including the psychological effects and implications around suicide, terrorism, bullying and harassment.

Abbasi emigrated from Pakistan and settled in the United States in 2000 with her husband and three daughters. In January of 2009, she was awarded the American Psychiatric Association SAMSHA Minority Fellowship. She used the grant money to create awareness about cultural competency, to redefine it as not just tolerance for others but rather acceptance.

Her areas of interest are cultural psychiatry and teaching medical students how to provide culturally appropriate care to Muslim patients. She works directly with the Muslim American community to encourage integration rather than isolation from main stream society. Abbasi recently received the Pioneer Award from the Michigan All Pakistan Physicians of North America.

In addition to her efforts to build bridges between cultures, Abbasi's work as a psychiatrist has led her to publicly address the barriers that stigmatize and silence mental health issues within the Islamic community. She has established the Muslim Mental Health Conference and is the managing editor for the Journal of Muslim Mental Health.

Industry Expertise

Education/Learning, Mental Health Care

Areas of Expertise

Psychiatry, Cultural Psychiatry, Mental Health Issues Within The Islamic Community, Mental Health, Muslim American Community

Affiliations

Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, APPNA Michigan Chapter

Accomplishments

American Psychiatric Association SAMSHA Minority Fellowship

The Minority Fellowships Program (MFP) is one of the oldest most respected and admired resident fellowships in the APA. The MFP endeavors to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in mental health and substance use care by providing specialized training to psychiatry residents and medical students interested in serving minority communities. Emphasis is placed on special mentoring and career enrichment programs at the APA Annual and IPS Meetings and throughout the year.

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