

Dr. Vani Rao completed her residency in adult psychiatry at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (JHUSOM). She served as Chief Resident during her fourth year of residency. She then completed a fellowship in Neuropsychiatry at JHUSOM.

She is currently a part-time staff and an associate professor in the division of Geriatric Psychiatry & Neuropsychiatry, Department of Psychiatry at JHUSOM. She served as the Medical Director of the Brain Injury Program and the Director of Neuropsychiatry fellowship program, for several years until June 2017.

She now has a private practice in Washington DC.

Her research work has mainly focused on mood and sleep problems associated with traumatic brain injury. She has received funding from the National Institute of Health, The Brain & Behavior Research Foundation, Department of Defense, Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), and pharmaceutical companies.

She served as the President of the Maryland Chapter of the IAPA from 2006 -2011.

She was the President of the IAPA from 2013-2015. She is currently the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

She is very interested in mental health issues among South Asians living in the United States. She has conducted two studies to explore symptom presentation and facilitators and barriers to treatment of mental illness among South Asians residing in the US.

She has co-authored 2 books: The Traumatized Brain: A Family Guide to Understanding Mood, Memory, and Behavior after Brain Injury, published by Johns Hopkins press 2015

Mental Illness among South Asian Americans: Twenty Culturally Mindful Case Studies : published by iUniverse 2019