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An elected fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and also of the American College of Medical Informatics, she was recipient of the annual Swedish "Woman of Science" award in 1999. She received an Honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of Victoria, BC, Canada in 1998 and became the fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine in 2004. Her research interests include medical expertise and expert performance, critical care decision-making, clinical errors, cognitive evaluation, and human-computer interaction in health care domains. She adapted methods and theories from cognitive science to address long-standing problems in competent performance in the workplace and learning, and to research that provides a scientific foundation for medical and health education, particularly in health care decision-making.

Her research is funded from NLM and NIMH to study cognition and health (mental health) informatics. She continues to work as a consultant to the World Bank, WHO, UNICEF, CIDA as well as to the foundations such as the James S. MacDonnell and Rockefeller Foundations. Her most recent work is targeted towards the role of cognition in designing safer workplace with better user-interface design and effective practice guidelines for professionals and laypeople alike. <http://www.dbmi.columbia.edu/patel/>