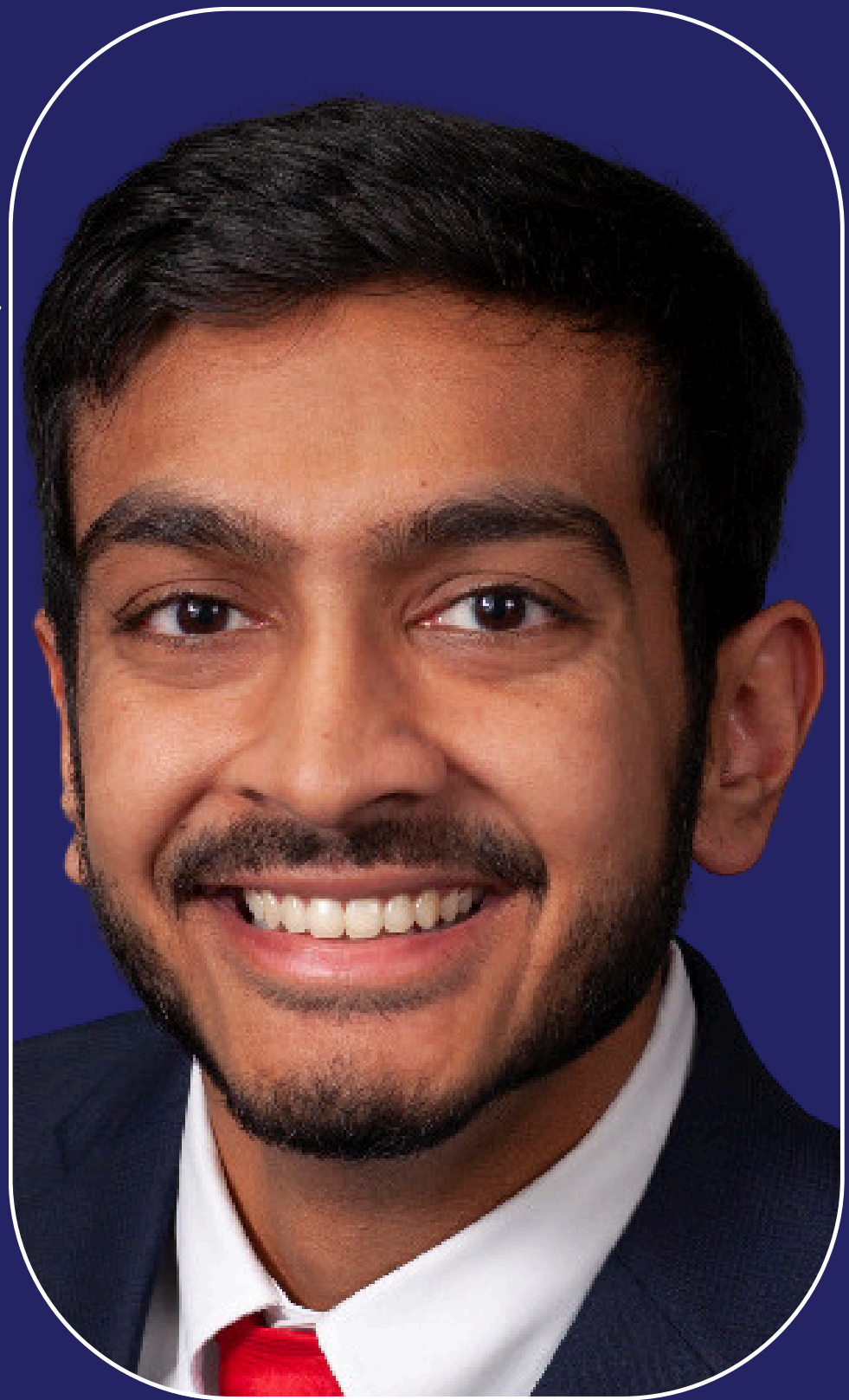


MEMBER

Spotlight

**CHIRAG PATEL,
MD**

Hematology / Oncology, PGY-5
President, MCMS



Atrium Health, Levine Cancer Institute
1021 Morehead Medical Drive, Suite 70100
Charlotte, NC 28204
(980) 442-2000

A native of Gastonia, Dr. Patel earned his undergraduate degree at Wake Forest University and his medical degree at East Carolina University Brody School of Medicine. He completed his internal medicine residency at Atrium Health/Carolinas Medical Center and currently is a hematology/oncology fellow at the Levine Cancer Institute. Patel's passion for physician advocacy and healthcare policy began in the Leaders in Innovative Care scholars' program in his medical school.

The program also taught him about healthcare administration and leadership, as well as quality improvement within the workplace. He revitalized the GME Residents/Fellows Council at CMC after a hiatus during the pandemic; the council has succeeded in increasing colleagues' vacation time, promoting strong wellness initiatives, and increasing pay for residents and fellows. This momentum motivated Patel to join MCMS and serve as a resident liaison from CMC. He looks forward to supporting physicians in Mecklenburg County and invites you to be involved in MCMS.

What inspired you to pursue a career in medicine?

I used to be an EMT-B in college and had the chance to work with patients early on my path to medicine. I loved using medical knowledge to help people, but the job focused on helping acutely ill patients. I could not truly form relationships with these patients to guide them through their chronic conditions that often lead to their acute issues I would see as an EMT. This motivated me to enter the medical field.

What's your go-to comfort food after a long day?

Trader Joe's Cookie Butter and pretzels; a nice combo of sweet and salty!

How has the society supported your professional career journey and/or professional development?

The society has taught me the importance of collaborating with physicians outside of work. So many facets of medicine can be frustrating and challenging; surrounding myself with individuals interested in advocating for each other and their patients is important as I want to be more involved in advocacy as a physician.

Do you have a favorite hobby or passion that helps you relax?

After a busy day at work, I love engaging in physical activity. I have picked up rock climbing in the past few years, and it is truly a great experience. You can easily jump into it with 3 different gyms here in Charlotte!

What advice would you give to new members of the Society as they begin their careers in medicine?

This one is a tough one to answer as I am still a trainee (PGY5 Heme/Onc Fellow). For anyone that feels like they don't have control over their career or the direction of medicine; remember, you are a physician. You are a leader in the field, and it's easy to forget that as a medical student, trainee, etc. Use the Society as a way to band together with people that will stand up with you, and I promise the Society will give you the strength to be a leader in medicine.