

NC Chamber

Business Summit on Mental Health

MAY 13, 2026

Sy Atezaz Saeed, MD, MS, FACPsych
Professor and Chair Emeritus
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine

Founding Director
ECU Center for Telepsychiatry and e-Behavioral Health

Founder and Executive Director
North Carolina Statewide Telepsychiatry Program (NC-STeP)



Dr. Saeed served as the Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine at the Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University from 2004 to 2022. During that time, he also served as the Executive Director of Behavioral Health Service Line for ECU Health, a non-profit hospital system made up of eight hospitals, physician practices, home health, hospice, wellness centers and other health care services serving 1.4 million people in 29 counties in Eastern North Carolina. He also serves as the Founding Director of the Center for Telepsychiatry at ECU and as the Founding Executive Director of the North Carolina Statewide Telepsychiatry Program (NC-STeP), a state funded program covering over 60 hospitals and community-based sites across North Carolina.

Dr. Saeed served as the founding Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Psychiatric Administration and Management (JPAM) from 2011 to 2019. He serves on the editorial boards of several academic journals. He is a fellow of the American College of Psychiatrists, a Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, and an elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Health, London. He also serves as the President of the Group for Advancement of Psychiatry (GAP), a national think-tank for psychiatry dedicated to shaping psychiatric thinking, public programs, and clinical practice in mental health. He was appointed by the Governor to serve two terms on the Governing Board of the North Carolina Institute of Medicine. He is currently serving on the NC Commission for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services where he also chairs its Advisory Committee.

With over 130 publications, Dr. Saeed has published extensively in the areas of evidence-based practices; telepsychiatry; psychiatric administration and leadership; and psychiatric treatment integration. He has been involved in funded research both as a principal investigator and co-investigator, with over \$35,000,000 in external funding since 2004. He has lectured and presented nationwide and internationally, including being an invited speaker at a White House Convening on telehealth in 2016. In 2019 he was the recipient of the prestigious Gov. Oliver Max Gardner Award, the highest UNC award, selected by the UNC Board of Governors, to recognize UNC system faculty who have “*made the greatest contribution to the welfare of the human race.*”