

BIO SKETCH

Vimla L. Patel, PhD, DSc, FRSC

As Professor of Medicine and the director of McGill University's Center for Medical Education in Montreal, her early research focused on scientific foundations for medical and health education, particularly cognitive foundations of medical decision-making and reasoning. Vimla Patel led the field of research on application of cognitive science principles to investigation of the nature of reasoning and thinking of health care professionals, with support from the Canadian Medical Research Council. The findings from these studies impacted medical schools showing training alone to be insufficient unless supported by education to encourage flexibility and adaptation. As director of the Center for Cognitive Science in Graduate studies in Research at McGill University, she developed and leads the cognitive science research and training programs for 3 years, bridging psychology, linguistics, education, to Artificial Intelligence.

She is currently a Senior Research Scientist and the Director of the Center for Cognitive Studies in Medicine and Public Health at the New York Academy of Medicine. She is a Professor of Biomedical Informatics (BMI) at Arizona State University in Arizona, and adjunct professor of BMI at Columbia University, and of Public Health at Weill Cornell College of Medicine in New York. An elected fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (Academy of Social Sciences), the American College of Medical Informatics, the International Academy of Health Science Informatics, and the New York Academy of Medicine, she is a recipient of a number of federal research grants in the US. As a graduate of McGill University in Montreal in 1982, she received an Honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of Victoria in Canada. Vimla Patel served as a member of Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council committees related to social science, education and health Information technology research. She is an associate editor of the Journal of Biomedical Informatics and sits on the editorial boards of Artificial Intelligence in Medicine and Advances in Health Science Education. Her research focuses on medical decision making, medical cognition, medical errors, the impact of technology on human cognition, and resulting insights on designing an efficient and safer clinical workplace. Of particular interest and the focus of her research is on how people process, integrate and visualize data with different types, scales, and temporal characteristics as they build mental models for making their decisions. She has published around 300 scholarly peer-reviewed articles spanning biomedical informatics, education, clinical, and cognitive science journals. Vimla Patel has mentored 34 master's students, 23 doctoral students, and 20 post-doctoral and research fellows in her 28-year career.

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