

Going National: Breast Cancer Awareness and Football: My Experience as the 2022 Kansas City Chiefs Fan of the Year

By Amy Patel, MD

I'm incredibly honored to be named the 2022 Kansas City Chiefs Fan of the Year, now competing against the other 31 Fans of the Year chosen by their respective National Football League (NFL) teams. This was revealed to me during a surprise encounter by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and Chairman and CEO of the Chiefs, Clark Hunt, before the home opener in September!



Amy K. Patel, MD

I truly feel as though I won the lottery! I love this team with all my heart since I was born and raised in Chillicothe, Missouri. I was chosen for this honor due to my love of the Chiefs and my community impact as I work tirelessly to bridge the gap to breast care disparities and access. To practice within the area in which I was raised and to be able to serve Chiefs Kingdom has truly been a dream come true, and I am cherishing this special moment in my life.

I am the first physician chosen for this honor, and I am using this national platform to raise awareness of who we are as radiologists and the integral role we play in patient care. I am also spreading the word about early detection and annual screening mammography beginning at age 40 years as well as being risk assessed by age 30 to see if earlier cancer surveillance is warranted and what that means for patients and families. I have had such a warm reception, and during all of the media engagements I have had for this honor, usually half of the discussion is talking about breast radiology and breast cancer, which is a huge win in our book! In fact, I have predominantly male-listenership radio shows and podcasts asking me to come back to talk more about breast health! I will also be in *Sports Illustrated* magazine, in which breast cancer awareness

is also highlighted. This experience has revealed a subset of the population that is less commonly educated on this topic, and I understand the gravity of this effort as we work to tirelessly educate the entire public on breast cancer awareness.

I don't take this immense honor lightly, and I am doing all that I can leading up to the Super Bowl to win this not only for Chiefs Kingdom but also for the house of radiology and medicine! I have deeply appreciated everyone's support thus far! I live a life of service. This is no different.

I hope to earn your vote. To vote, go to <https://www.nfl.com/honors/fan-of-the-year/2022/vote>. You can vote as many times as you want leading up to the Super Bowl, and the winner will be announced at the NFL Honors Ceremony on Friday, February 10. I have the honor of attending the ceremony as well as the Super Bowl, where I will be representing the Chiefs.

I am proud that we as a breast radiology and cancer community are going national as we work tirelessly to save the most lives.

Go Chiefs and go national breast cancer awareness!



Dr. Amy Patel (left) named 2022 Kansas City Chiefs Fan of the Year by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell (center) and Chairman and CEO of the Kansas City Chiefs, Clark Hunt (right).



VOTE HERE!

