

## **Mahendra G Patel** *English Pharmacy Board Member, Royal Pharmaceutical Society*

Professor Mahendra Patel is a senior academic and pharmacist of national and international profile. Within the UK he is Visiting Professor at the University of Sussex and Honorary Visiting Professor at the University of Bradford. Overseas, he is also Visiting Professor at the Universiti Sains Malaysia Penang Malaysia, and Adjunct Professor at Wilkes University USA. His academic and research interests largely lie in pharmacy practice, improving medicines adherence, and in health and health inequalities within the Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups and deprived communities.

Mahendra possesses a very interesting and broad ranging portfolio career, spanning community practice, health education and health promotion, academia, and research. He is an elected member of the English Pharmacy Board member and subsequently became Assembly Member and Treasurer of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. He has always been highly active in supporting and helping the pharmacy profession to advance research, education, science, and practice locally and overseas. His valued and far-reaching contributions to the pharmacy profession was recognised when he was awarded the prestigious Royal Pharmaceutical Society President's Charter Award in 2016. More recently, he led on developing work with the RPS and its national policy for type 2 diabetes in collaboration with Diabetes UK.

Mahendra has for many years been involved with NICE in various capacities, advising on various committees in helping to drive forward evidence based practice and became the first of ten healthcare professionals (and first pharmacist) in England and Wales to become Fellow of the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) 2010-2013. In 2011, he was instrumental in pioneering a national programme, the NICE Student Champions Programme, engaging students in universities through medical, dental, nursing and pharmacy faculties. This programme continues to be ever-present and popular with universities and students.

Mahendra has been a senior and active member of the South Asian Health Foundation (SAHF) for over two decades where he also served as CEO (England). He was a central member of the team that won the BMJ Awards for diabetes (2016) in developing resources tailored to the differing needs of the South Asian population in the prevention of type 2 diabetes.

With the British Heart Foundation (BHF), he has been a huge supporter of its research, charity and fundraising activities. He advises on a number of its national steering committees. His work in 2010 led to a national educational tool kit being produced – the Healthy Hearts Tool Kit, which received the BMA Patient Information Award.

Internationally, Mahendra has also actively worked with the Lebanese pharmacy profession and was appointed International Honorary Ambassador by the Order of Lebanese Pharmacists (OPL). In India, he works closely with a number of pharmacy colleges and universities in various states. He is now the first to be awarded an International Fellowship from the Indian Pharmaceutical Association (2019). He also continues to present regularly at conferences and workshops in Europe, Middle East, and Asia promoting good clinical pharmacy practice.

Mahendra is an Associate Member of the British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (BAPIO) and is highly active in promoting the issues of equality, diversity and inclusion within the NHS and other health organisations. In Nov 2019 he became the only pharmacist to be ever awarded Outstanding Service Award to BAPIO, and subsequently appointed Pharmacy Lead for BAPIO.

Beyond pharmacy, Mahendra has been a prolific charity worker over the years helping to raise over £400, 000 for various national and local charities. He is also a trustee and a founding member of the Mouth Cancer Foundation, which provides online help to people with mouth, throat and other head and neck cancers. He has also supported the efficient running of a large grammar school foundation as School Governor for twelve years.

Mahendra has now been appointed as a Teaching Faculty Member of the Department of Education, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).