

PHARMACY: Director of pharmacy, Haller's Pharmacy and Medical Supply, Fremont, Calif., since 2019.

AGE: 54

FAMILY: Married to Paragi Patel.

EDUCATION: Bachelor of pharmacy, B.K. Mody Government Pharmacy College, Rajkot, India, 1989.

WORKING HIS WAY UP: When he came to the U.S. in 1992, Sanjay found that, despite his background and education in India, he couldn't practice pharmacy. So he started over, first as a cashier at Walgreens, then as a technician and working his way up to the top over a 25-year period.

PHARMACY PASSION: Expanding clinical services. Sanjay is dedicated to building up services outside of dispensing, offering testing, and vaccine programs. Under his leadership, Haller's did 60,000 vaccinations last year, including working with nursing homes, community clinics, and clinics at local fire departments.

POINT OF PRIDE: Sanjay, a CPESN® luminary, has successfully worked with the Centers for Disease Controls and Prevention Office of Smoking and Health to raise patient and community awareness about the health effect of smoking through the Tips from Former Smokers Program.

LAND OF OPPORTUNITY: Sanjay is glad he came to the U.S. even though he had to start his career all over again. "You have opportunities here," he says. "In India, you have one path. You select your path in high school and you can't change. Here, you can do anything as long as you're willing to put in the work. You have freedom of choosing."

NCPA'S VALUE TO ME: "NCPA is a great organization for independent pharmacy. They provide support with so many programs and learning opportunities. The legislative support we get from NCPA is so important to the profession."



Sanjay Patel, RPh