



CPS Member Spotlight

Rachana J. Patel, PharmD, BCPS, BCACP
Residency Supervisor & Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Primary Care
Kaiser Permanente

1. What is your favorite thing about being a CPS member?

Interacting with other pharmacy professionals throughout Colorado and learning from their experiences. Healthcare is drastically changing and I am learning that the issues we face in my organization are not different from other organizations. Also, I believe in the vision of the Colorado Pharmacists Society to serve as a leader in advocating for the role of the pharmacist as an essential provider of health care.

2. How did you get introduced to the world of pharmacy?

My father is a retired internal medicine physician who worked in private practice in Connersville, Indiana (my home town). He always appreciated the local independent pharmacists and their care of his patients throughout his 30 year career. He encouraged me to learn more about their careers and explore pharmacy further and this sparked my interest in becoming a pharmacist.

3. How did you get to where you are in your career?

I am a proud graduate of Butler University School of Pharmacy (1997), and during my APPE experience I enjoyed the clinical aspects of my rotations. Professors encouraged me to complete residency training to expand my learning and open up job opportunities. I wanted to complete my residency training outside of Indiana to see how different parts of the country practiced pharmacy. I moved to California and completed a pharmacy practice residency at the VA Medical Center in Long Beach, California (1997-98). That is how I found my true passion by managing chronic disease states for our veterans (e.g. smoking cessation clinic, anticoagulation clinic and cholesterol clinic). Additionally, I developed an interest in precepting students. With my peeked interest in ambulatory care and academia, I moved to Denver, Colorado to complete a Primary Care Specialty Residency with University of Colorado and Kaiser Permanente (1998-99). This is when I knew that I had found my true calling as a primary care clinical pharmacy specialist. I have enjoyed a rich career as a clinical pharmacy specialist in primary care at Kaiser Permanente Colorado (1999-present). Also, as residency program director for our PGY2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy residency, I have been fortunate to work with over 90 residents and a world-class preceptor team.

4. How do you give back to the profession?

I enjoy being involved in pharmacy outside of my career at Kaiser Permanente. It is important to me to network and interact with others in the profession, and to give back where it makes most sense. For instance, I am currently a member of the Board of Pharmacy Specialties Ambulatory Care Specialty

Council. I am a strong believer in board certification and enjoy serving on this council by providing my perspective and experience.

5. What do you enjoy about being a pharmacist?

What I enjoy the most is the relationships I have built with peers, residents, providers, nurses and patients over the years. It is the relationships that continue to make for a rewarding career!

6. What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I am a NFL football fanatic. As you may guess, after growing up in Indiana and following Peyton Manning's career as an Indianapolis Colt, I was ecstatic to see him land with the Broncos. As a Broncos season ticket holder, it has been a blast to watch him play in the Mile High city! My other passion is traveling the world and tasting great wine. I have enjoyed many trips to wine regions within and outside of the US, with Willamette Valley, Barolo and Rioja regions as my favorite.