

IPHCA Recognizes the Accomplishments of Dr. Rajesh Parikh

Dr. Rajesh Parikh has been an essential member of the IPHCA team since he began working for the Association in early 2007. He has served as a visionary and change agent for the community health center industry, initiating several modes of collaboration and sharing of best practices within the clinical community. His commitment to medicine, underserved communities, and health professionals has left an indelible impact on IPHCA, community health centers, and, most importantly, the individuals who have been better served because of his contributions.

Dr. Parikh's connection to IPHCA began years before he joined the Association, through his work with the Chicago Area Health Education Center. After joining IPHCA and seeing the need for a peer group to support Medical Directors in their daily work, he immediately began reaching out to them. Shortly thereafter, the Medical Director's Roundtable was established and has continued to meet consistently ever since.

Dr. Parikh was a pioneer in planning many of IPHCA's clinical activities. Early on, when health centers first began exploring Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) accreditation, he recognized there was a need to provide the Association's members with technical assistance. He sought out the expertise to provide health centers with the supports they needed to succeed. PCMH is now a staple in the health center world, and Rajesh was one of the original supporters of this model in Illinois.

Clinical leadership development is another area in which Dr. Parikh has positively impacted the community health center industry for years to come. In partnership with Dr. Paul Luning, Chief Medical Officer at PCC Community Wellness Center, they developed the curriculum and launched the "CHC Clinical Leaders Training Institute" – a leadership development program that has run annually since 2011. The program has been so successful, it has been expanded to include an advanced level course.

Rajesh's dedication to training health professions students is one of his greatest achievements. He was always willing to have a discussion about public health careers with students, offer to help set up an elective rotation, and accept interns. His ability to see the potential in aspiring students and professionals has been an asset to IPHCA, often turning his interns into high-performing IPHCA employees. Additionally, his involvement with several academic institutions provided IPHCA with the connections to effectively reach students.

IPHCA will miss Rajesh's respectful, friendly and calm manner. He always took the time to think through situations and was reflective rather than reactive. His knack for finding the good in situations, his leadership, and mentorship will be greatly missed. While his absence will be felt, we are happy for him as he enters a new phase of his life. IPHCA is proud to continue with the many outstanding programs that he created.



IPHCA wishes Rajesh and his wife many years of traveling and creating memories with his family and friends. Starting July 1, 2020, Rajesh can be reached at rajeshparikh1952@gmail.com.