



## PGEU PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

### European Pharmacists elect Rajesh Patel MBE as PGEU President for 2017

**The Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU)** is the European association representing more than 400,000 community pharmacists.

PGEU's members are the national associations and professional bodies of pharmacists in 33 European countries, including EU Member States, EEA/EFTA members and EU applicant countries.

For more information, please visit the PGEU website [www.pgeu.eu](http://www.pgeu.eu) or contact [j.svarcaite@pgeu.eu](mailto:j.svarcaite@pgeu.eu)



On the 8<sup>th</sup> June the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union has elected **Mr Rajesh Patel MBE** from the National Pharmacy Association (NPA), as PGEU President for 2017, at its General Assembly meeting in The Hague.



Mr Patel studied Pharmacy at Manchester University and a year after qualifying he bought his first pharmacy. Raj now owns 17 community pharmacies in England and is on the Board of Management of the National Pharmacy Association.

Raj has excelled in serving the pharmacy profession at all levels, from serving his local community through his pharmacy, to representing the profession at both the European and Global level. Raj was included in the Queen's New Year Honours List 2013 for Services to Pharmacy.

Mr Patel stressed in his acceptance speech: *"The European economy is not in a great shape. Efficiency savings and cost-effectiveness are sound bites commonly used by our governments, which often results in community pharmacy having to foot the bill through reduced remuneration. Despite these challenging times community pharmacy is committed to advance, innovate and ensure it is clinically engaged with our patients."*

*In Europe there is a network of 160,000 community pharmacies and in excess of 45 million people visit a pharmacy every day. Community pharmacy offers an increasing number of patient oriented services such as medicines use review, new medicine service, minor ailment services, to mention a few and is ideally placed to add to these very valuable services. Community Pharmacy is ready and willing to provide these services, it just needs to ensure it gets the support from its governments. It is essential that governments across Europe invest in pharmacy so that an integrated network of pharmacy is maintained and populations right across Europe can benefit from the expertise offered by pharmacy."*