

**PHARMACY:** Owner, Main Street Pharmacy, Bridgeport, Conn.

**AGE:** 44

**FAMILY:** Wife, Ani. Four sons, Jaiden 15; Josh 13; Jake, 10; Jude, 8.

**EDUCATION:** University of Buffalo School of Pharmacy, 2001.

**EARLY INFLUENCE:** When Jean was a boy, he tagged along with his father when he went to the pharmacy. He liked the pharmacist; he was friendly, and the conversation was always interesting. He observed the pharmacist as he interacted with patients. Folks who came in called the man “Doc” and he was respected. That made an impression.

**ADVICE FROM DAD:** Jean’s father suggested that he go into the health care field. “He said it was a stable business. People are always going to get sick.”

**FROM SCHOOL TO CHAIN LIFE:** After graduation, Jean tried life at a pharmacy chain and found it less than satisfying. For a while, he was employed as a floater, going from store to store where needed. “You don’t even know your patients,” he says. “You’re in and out. I wanted a sense of community.”

**CONNECTIONS:** After he landed at a mid-sized chain, Jean ventured out in the community, forging relationships with doctors. It was something he did on his own time. His bosses didn’t think it was a good idea. This went on for almost 10 years, until Jean finally realized that he wasn’t going anywhere. “You follow along with a smile on your face, but I was going against the grain of the culture.”

**LIGHT-BULB MOMENT:** “I had some ideas of what pharmacy could be. It was not in the cards for me to work for someone else.” Jean has owned his own pharmacy for 11 years, but it hasn’t always been easy. “I am the poster child for learning the hard way.”

**NCPA’S VALUE:** “People need to know about community pharmacy. If they don’t, our profession will die.”



**Jean Jacob, PharmD**