

Narasimhulu Neelagaru, MD, FACC, FCCP, FACP

Narasimhulu Neelagaru, MD (known widely as "Dr. Neel") is an eminent physician and successful Indian American banker, businessman and philanthropist. Known as a pillar of multiple Georgia communities, he is recognized for innovating finance and partnering with community members, especially for populations often disadvantaged by common lending institutions.

Dr. Neelagaru is the Founding Chairman and owner of one of the most successful banks in the country, Quantum National Bank of Georgia. At the end of 2020, Quantum Bank boasts \$640 million in assets and is ranked as the fourth most profitable bank among 4,619 U.S. banks in the \$100 million to \$3 billion asset category. Dr. Neelagaru and his family trust own 99.9%.

His innovative approach to partnering with community members in their business ventures was based on experience earned as director of the Neillsville Bank holding company in Neillsville, Wisconsin in the 1980s. Dr. Neelagaru is particularly proud of the stability and growth he achieved for Quantum National Bank through the financial crisis of 2008.

Dr. Neelagaru currently serves as Vice Chairman of the Executive Board and Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Indian American International Chamber of Commerce (www.iaicc.world) as well as the Chairman of the IAICC Southeast Region. He previously served as a board member for financial, business and medical organizations including Cigna Health Spring Insurance Company, Athens Area Coalition of Physicians, Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce and the Community Bankers Association of Georgia. He is a member of the American Medical Association, has been a member of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin since 1979, and has served as president of the Georgia Association of Physicians of Indian Origin.

Dr. Neelagaru is board certified in Internal Medicine and Cardiovascular Diseases, a practice he has always served with distinction. He practiced Cardiology in Neillsville, Wisconsin from 1978 to 1988 and in Commerce, Georgia from 1989 to 2017. He held the position of Chief of Staff at both Neillsville Hospital in Wisconsin and BJC Medical Center in Commerce, Georgia. He was voted the Best Physician of Jackson County in 2016 and given the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce in 2018.

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Dr. Neelagaru is an alumnus of Harvard Business School where he completed the Owner-President Management program in 2008. He attended the Government Medical College in Bellary, India on a Government of India sponsored merit scholarship. There he graduated first in his class and was awarded the "Gold Medal" and the "Best Outgoing Medical Student." He has been awarded fellowships by the American College of Cardiology, American College of Physicians and American College of Chest Physicians.

Dr. Neelagaru enjoys encouraging and helping entrepreneurs and the country's underserved. He has provided scholarships to Banks County and Jackson County high school students interested in health care careers for 29 years. The Children's Library in the city of Commerce, GA is named after his family for their contribution to its development. Dr. Neelagaru has been providing free medical care for the underserved population in the Atlanta area for 30 years.

Dr. Neelagaru moved to the United States in 1973 and became a citizen in 1982. He is married to Sumithra who also serves in the medical field. They have a son, a cardiologist with a specialization in electrophysiology, and a daughter who is board certified in pediatrics and public health/preventative medicine. Dr. Neel is interested in farming and agriculture and owns a 680-acre working farm in Jackson County, Georgia.