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# **NEWS RELEASE**

## **DR. ATUL VARADHACHARY NAMED TO HARRIS COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD** *Commissioners Court Unanimously Approves Emmett Nominee*

Harris County Commissioners Court unanimously approved Dr. Atul Varadhachary's appointment Tuesday to the Harris County Hospital District's board of managers.

Varadhachary is the president and chief operating officer of Agennix Inc., a private biotechnology company involved in cancer research. He also serves as an adjunct professor at Baylor College of Medicine and an adjunct professor of management at Rice University. He received his M.D. equivalent from the University of Bombay in 1987 and earned a doctorate degree in physiology from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 1992.

As a founder of Pratham Health, a non-profit health organization in Mumbai, India, in 1998, Varadhachary designed and implemented a major preventive health program for more than 50,000 preschool children living in the poorest slums of Mumbai for a cost of less than one dollar per child. The program received numerous international awards, including recognition as one of the most innovative and successful projects by the Global Development Network. Pratham Health has since been renamed Niramaya Health Foundation.

"Atul brings expertise in two critical areas for the hospital district – indigent health care and management," said County Judge Ed Emmett, who nominated Varadhachary for the post. "With his background, I think Atul will very quickly become familiar with many of the challenges facing the district. We're very lucky to get someone of his background, and we should be grateful he was willing to serve."

The hospital district's board of managers sets policy for and oversees the administration of the district and its publicly owned facilities, including Ben Taub, LBJ and Quentin Mease hospitals and more than a dozen community clinics.

The Harris County Hospital District is a taxpayer-financed government agency dedicated to providing high-quality medical and dental care to Harris County residents. The board of managers meets the last Thursday of each month at the district's administration building at 2525 Holly Hall Drive.