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Gaithersburg biotech names new CEO

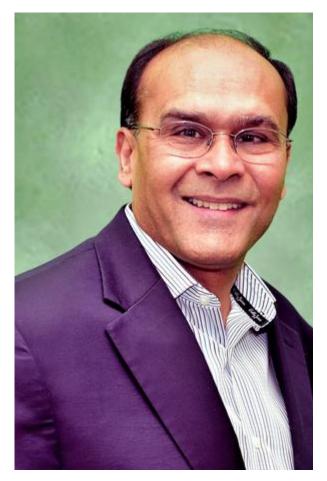
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Gaithersburg-based Altimmune Inc. has named Dr. Vipin Garg as the company's new president and CEO.

Garg, a biotech and pharmaceutical industry veteran who most recently served as president and CEO of Texas-based Neos Therapeutics (NASDAQ: NEOS), succeeds Bill Enright, who stepped down after leading the company through more than a decade of growth involving acquisitions and an initial public offering.

Garg's appointment, including joining the board of directors, became effective Nov. 30.

Altimmune (NASDAQ: ALT), a clinical-stage immunotherapeutics company with a pipeline of flu and anthrax vaccines, launched a search for Enright's replacement in October, and selected Garg because of his "extensive experience and success in building, managing,



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and financing private and public biotech companies," company board chairman Mitch Sayare said in a statement. "In addition to advancing our current product candidates through the clinic, we plan to explore opportunities to either acquire products or partner in novel immunotherapy indications to expand our pipeline," Garg said in a statement.

At Neos, Garg built it into a commercial-stage biopharmaceutical company that launched three branded products for the treatment of ADHD. He'd previously served at two North Carolina companies, as president and CEO of Tranzyme Pharma, and as chief operating officer of Apex Bioscience Inc., which was acquired by Munich, Germany-based Curacyte AG. Garg also held senior management positions at DNX Bio-Therapeutics Inc. and Bio-Response Inc., before each was acquired by Baxter Healthcare Corp., and at Sepracor Inc., now Sunovion Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Garg earned his doctorate in philosophy from the University of Adelaide in Australia and his master's in biochemistry and molecular biology from IARI Nuclear Research Laboratory in New Delhi, India. He also completed a postdoctoral fellowship in biochemistry at Drexel University.

His appointment to Altimmune follows a delisting threat earlier this year — common in the biotech industry — and a headquarters expansion plan following its acquisition of Annapolis biodefense company PharmAthene Inc. The company also recently lost CFO Elizabeth Czerepak, who resigned in May, now searching for a replacement.

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