

# NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release

## GOVERNOR APPOINTS DR. RAO TO MEDICAL BOARD

**ROANOKE RAPIDS, NC (December 1, 2011)—Shiva Rao, M.D., a general surgeon on the staff at Halifax Regional, has been appointed to the North Carolina Medical Board.**

Governor Perdue appointed Dr. Rao for a three year term, effective November 1.

“Your leadership and commitment are critical to this Commission as part of our efforts to strengthen our communities and improve the quality of life for our citizens,” wrote the Governor in a letter to Dr. Rao.

The North Carolina Medical Board was established in 1859 by the General Assembly to regulate the practice of medicine “for the benefit and protection of the people of North Carolina.”

“I am honored to have been selected for this position by Governor Perdue,” said Dr. Rao. “While I will be making decisions on a statewide basis, I will make sure the Board understands the perspective of providing quality healthcare in rural areas of our state.”

Dr. Rao said his previous leadership responsibilities on the local, state and national level qualify him for service on the board. “I want to step forward to be involved in improving healthcare in North Carolina and supporting my colleagues,” he said.

“Dr. Rao’s involvement in regional and national healthcare issues enables him to stay abreast of trends, and that is extremely important in today’s changing healthcare environment,” said Will Mahone, president of Halifax Regional. “Dr. Rao’s influence will have a positive impact on improving the quality of healthcare in rural areas.”

Dr. Rao has been a general surgeon in Roanoke Rapids for 16 years. He has been president of the Halifax-Northampton County Medical Society, chief of the medical staff of Halifax Regional, chair of the International Section of the North Carolina Medical Society and has received the Foundation Leadership Award from the American Medical Association.

In addition, he was a clinical assistant professor of surgery at the UNC School of Medicine from 2003 to 2006. Dr. Rao is certified by the American Board of Surgery and is a Fellow in the American College of Surgeons.

The Medical Board licenses, monitors, disciplines, educates, and “when appropriate, rehabilitates physicians to assure their fitness and competence,” according to information about the Board.

Eight of the 12 board members are physicians. One is a licensed physician assistant or approved nurse practitioner and three are members of the public. The board is supported by a full time professional staff in Raleigh.

In Roanoke Rapids, Dr. Rao has been a member of the Roanoke Rapids School District and president of the Roanoke Rapids Rotary Club.

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**About Halifax Regional**

*Halifax Regional Medical Center is licensed for 204 beds, including psychiatric and nursery. A non-profit organization, Halifax Regional is fully accredited by the Joint Commission. For more information, visit [www.halifaxregional.org](http://www.halifaxregional.org).*