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**Former GPhA President Armon Neel, Jr., Pharm.D.  
Named Health Expert by AARP**





# Armon Neel Helps Seniors on AARP Website

By Ray Lightner

Reprinted with additions from *THE GRIFFIN DAILY NEWS*

A Griffin pharmacist is showing doctors and patients that seniors may be overmedicated.

**Armon J. Neel, Jr., Pharm.D.** is a certified geriatric pharmacist and consultant who evaluates the medications people are taking to determine if they are taking the right medications and doses. Neel consults with nursing homes and individual patients.

This is something he has done for more than 40 years. It started as a suggestion from a friend but grew out of the way he started his practice, back in 1963.

Neel's father owned Neel's Pharmacy, but Neel didn't want to just fill prescriptions. So just two years out of pharmacy school, Neel opened an apothecary shop in Griffin across from the outpatient center, where he consulted with patients about medications and filled prescriptions.

He stopped filling prescriptions in 1977 and opened an institutional pharmaceutical consulting business, which he later sold in 2000 when he retired.

"That lasted about three weeks," Neel said. "I didn't like being retired at all."

He started back seeing patients and opened a consulting business with a website, [medicationexpert.com](http://medicationexpert.com).

"It's fun," he said. "It's my golf. When I get a new patient, it's like teeing up a drive."



He now visits nursing homes and hospitals five to six days a month. He goes over charts, talks with patients and provides recommendations.

"I go in and match the drug chemistry to the patient's chemistry," Neel said.

For a positive outcome, he said, "you have to balance things out together."

He said, "As we get older, our chemistry changes and the muscle mass is affected. A lot of physicians don't understand that."

Getting doctors to listen sometimes is the hard part, he said.

"What I do, I know well and I'm willing to share with a physician," he said.



Some of his patients end up going to another physician because the original physician won't listen.

"A lot do and fare a lot better," Neel said.

As the baby boomers continue to age, Neel said, geriatric treatment will continue to grow as a field.

"There's about 10,000 of us out there that do this," he said.

"The new paradigm for the 21st century is patient care, something I started 34 years ago."

Because of his work, Neel was recently selected for an ask-

the-pharmacist column on the AARP website as AARP's first geriatric pharmacist consultant. The site first ran a story on Neel in 2004 and has recently updated and rerun the story to introduce the ask-the-pharmacist column.

Neel will work on the column with Bill Hogan, an AARP producer with whom he has co-authored an upcoming book, *ARE YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS KILLING YOU? HOW TO PREVENT DANGEROUS INTERACTIONS, AVOID DEADLY SIDE EFFECTS, AND BE HEALTHIER WITH FEWER DRUGS*, to be published next year by Atria Books, a division of Simon & Schuster.

As a former president of GPhA, Dr. Neel has served as faculty for the GPhA convention and has been the recipient

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of both the Bowl of Hygeia and the Innovative Pharmacy Practice Award as well as GPhA's Meritorious Service. He has served the patients of the state of Georgia for more than 50 years.

As a result of Neel's dedication and achievement, he has been recognized by his peers many times. Awards include: 1992 recipient of the George F. Archambault Award, consultant pharmacy's highest honor; 1993 Innovative Pharmacy Practice Award from National Council of State Pharm. Association. Executives (Dupont-Pharmacia); 1973 A.H. Robins Bowl of Hygeia Award; President, Georgia Pharmaceutical Association; Phi Delta Chi "Pharmacist of the Year" Award; WSB 750 Award; NARD Awards of Merit in 1969-70-71-72-73-74; Profile of Career in Pharmacy in *THE CONSULTANT PHARMACIST JOURNAL*, Award of Appreciation, Georgia Association Nurses in Long Term Care; and Georgia Pharmacy Association Meritorious

Service Award.

Along with chairing numerous committees on national and state levels, he has written many articles published in professional journals and presented various papers on long term care, Alzheimer's disease, treatment of depression, anxiety, and dementia in the elderly, and performed numerous outcomes research studies relating to specific drug therapies.

Armon is married to June Chambers Neel. They have two sons and six grandchildren. Armon's hobbies are pharmacy, computers and fishing. In 1989, the Neel family celebrated 100 years in pharmacy. Armon represents the fifth generation of Neel pharmacists.

To visit the AARP Ask the Pharmacist section go to [www.aarp.org/health](http://www.aarp.org/health) and click "Experts".