Dear all:

Please allow this to be an update of MAG activities over the last few weeks. As always, my previous updates can be found at https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/About_Us/Executive_Director_s_Page/Public/About_Us/Executive_Director.aspx?hkey=cd0ff2f5-d747-40b2-9254-cb4662266b4d.

Maintenance of Certification
MAG and the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists continue to be a leader in addressing your concerns with the American Board of Medical Specialties. Over the last two weeks, MAG President, Frank McDonald, MD and I have traveled to Chicago and Washington, D.C. for multiple meetings with the ABMS. These meetings proved productive and a great first step in addressing the MOC process. For a summary of the December 4/5 meetings from Dr. McDonald, please see https://www.mag.org/georgia/UploadedFiles/donaldbod12617.pdf. There will also be a prepared summary from ABMS, ACOG and MAG that will be coming out shortly.

Additionally, MAG met with the ABMS Planning Committee to further address the practicing physician concerns with MOC. The overall message was well received by ABMS - that ABMS has a grassroots problem with its diplomates who feel their voice is not being heard causing the involvement of the state medical societies. Change is needed and it is needed now.

Finally, MAG attended the S2C2 Strategic Planning meeting. S2C2 is a group of the large national specialty societies that met in Washington, D.C. to have further discussion with ABMS. This meeting again proved constructive as the same messages were delivered by the national specialty societies - MOC does not work and change is needed.

ABMS has formed the Continuing Board Certification - A Vision for the Future and is looking for practicing physicians to be a part of a 25 member group that will address the future of board certification. If you are interested, please fill out the nomination forms which can be found at http://visioninitiative.org/ by January 8. Please let me know if you have submitted your name for nomination. More information can also be found at https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/CBC_calling_for_nominations_for__Vision_Commission.aspx.

Workers Compensation
MAG, the Georgia Society of Ambulatory Surgery Centers and various physicians met with the Chairman of the State Board of Workers Compensation (SBWC) to discuss the board’s review of the ambulatory fee schedule. There has been significant discussion that the workers compensation fee schedule will be reduced as it applies to the ambulatory fee schedule. We have discussed with SBWC the challenges with access to care that may result in any drastic changes to the fee schedule. We have also raised a question as to the process by which the fee schedule will be reduced. While the meeting was overall positive, we need to continue to have discussions with SWBC as access to care will be impacted. We are concerned on the need for any reduction to the ambulatory fee schedule when the overall health care costs in Georgia have only risen by 1% the last few years when other states over risen by over 2.5%.

Physician Burnout
MAG’s sponsored Top Docs radio show just aired an episode on physician burnout. Special thanks to Faria Khan, M.D. for her work on the very important issue. The interview can be found at
American Board of Orthopedic Surgery – Doug Lundy, MD
Congratulations to Dr. Lundy for becoming the president-elect of the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery in 2018. Dr. Lundy is a longtime friend and am glad to have someone of his caliber with ABOS as MOC is discussed. More information can be found at https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/MAG_member_to_become_ABOS_president-elect.aspx.

As always, please do not hesitate to call if you should have any questions.

Happy holidays to all.

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End Distracted Driving - http://tinyurl.com/ydf69c4k