

Dear all:

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy during these challenging times. Please allow this to be an update of MAG activities over the last few weeks.

MAG/GSMA Statement on Injustice and Racism

MAG and the Georgia State Medical Association released the following statement in response to the protests supporting George Floyd's senseless death. To further the conversation, MAG is hosting a forum on June 16th at 7pm. The purpose of the forum is for the members to respond as to what MAG should be doing going forward. To register for the forum, please go to https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/MAG_to_host_Race_Equality_Justice_Town_Hall_to_listen_solicit_ideas.aspx.

MAG/GSMA's statement can be found at https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/MAG_GSMA_condemn_violence_and_systemic_oppression_and_will_not_tolerate_inequality_injustice_or.aspx.

AMA Annual Meeting

Due to COVID-19, the AMA held a very reduced annual meeting this past Sunday held virtually. The highlight of the meeting was the speech given by then President – Dr. Patrice Harris. I have included the link for the speech and it is well worth the listen. Many thanks to Dr. Harris for her leadership this past year during this extraordinary times. The speech can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTY2SMusXww&feature=youtu.be>.

June 9 Primaries

Congratulations to the following MAG physician candidates for office for their victories last night in the federal/state level primary or moving to the runoff held in August:

- Republican **Rich McCormick, M.D.**, won his primary election for U.S. Congress for Georgia's 7th District with 55 percent of the vote – so no runoff is required.
- Republican **John Cowan, M.D.**, received 20 percent of the vote and will advance to a runoff for U.S. Congress for Georgia's 14th District.
- Democrat **Michelle Au, M.D., MPH**, received 76 percent of the vote for Georgia Senate's District 48 – so no runoff is required.
- Republican **W. Scott Bohlke, M.D.**, received nearly 40 percent of the vote, keeping in mind that he is a candidate in two races – including a special election to complete the unexpired term of Sen. Jack Hill (who passed away on April 6) for the Georgia Senate 4th District seat and the primary election for the next full term for the Georgia Senate 4th District seat. Both runoffs will take place on August 11, and whoever wins the runoff for the special election will hold the office until January, 2021.
- Republican **Betty Price, M.D.**, ran unopposed in the primary election for the Georgia House of Representatives' 48th District seat.

- Incumbent Georgia Sens. **Ben Watson, M.D.** (R-Savannah), **Dean Burke, M.D.** (R-Bainbridge), and **Kay Kirkpatrick, M.D.** (R-Marietta), and Georgia Rep. **Mark Newton, M.D.** (R-Augusta) were unopposed in their primary elections.

At the close of 2010, there was only one physician in the Georgia General Assembly and he was retiring. Since that time, MAG has spent the better part of a decade recruiting physicians to run for office. If we are successful at the end of the 2020 cycle, MAG could have 9 physicians in the General Assembly and Congress. For more information, please go to https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/Every_physician_all_MAG_members_wins_or_advances_to_runoff_in_Georgia_primary_elections.aspx.

Top Docs Show

The MAG Top Docs Show has been busy over the last few weeks. Please see the following shows addressing multiple areas of health care.

- Conversation with House of Representatives Minority Leader – Bob Trammell – https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/New_Top_Docs_features_Georgia_House_Democratic_Caucus_Leader.aspx.
- Conversation with Revive Health on the Future of Healthcare – https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/New_Top_Docs_addresses_key_COVID-19_practice_management_issues.aspx.
- Conversation with Drs. Patrice Harris (AMA Immediate Past President), Jacqueline Fincher (ACP President) and Sally Goza (AAP President) on the need to increase the tobacco tax – https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/Top_Docs_addresses_crucial_need_to_increase_Georgia_s_tobacco_tax.aspx.
- Conversation with Dr. Ben Watson (Georgia Senate Health and Human Services Chair) on the remainder of the 2020 General Assembly - https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/Top_Docs_features_Sen._Ben_Watson_on_COVID-19_General_Assembly.aspx.
- Conversation with Dr. Charles Wilmer on COVID-19 - https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/Top_Docs_looks_at_COVID-19_from_array_of_M.D._perspectives.aspx.

Tort Reform

MAG and over 100 physicians groups have asked Congress to provide liability protections for COVID-19. For more information, please go to https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/MAG_one_of_100_groups_urging_Congress_to_include_liability_protections_in_next_COVID_package.aspx.

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

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