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 www.mag.org/executivedirector.

**American Medical Association**

Your delegation to the AMA is returning from a very successful meeting in Chicago. At this meeting, longtime MAG member Patrice Harris, MD began her term as 174th President of the AMA. What a fantastic accomplishment. Harrison Rogers, MD was the last AMA President from Georgia dating back to the 1980s. Please see the following -

[https://www.facebook.com/AmericanMedicalAssociation/videos/853283701704193/?notif_id=1559682244507710&notif_t=live_video_schedule_broadcaster](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanMedicalAssociation/videos/853283701704193/?notif_id=1559682244507710&notif_t=live_video_schedule_broadcaster) - which is the speech Dr. Harris delivered at her inauguration. Dr. Harris’ speech begins at the 51st minute. In addition, please see the attached picture from her event.

**Opioids**

The American Medical Association just released its report documenting the decrease in opioid prescribing by Georgia physicians. The report also shows the increase in physicians registration and participation in the Georgia Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. Please see [https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/AMA_report__Georgia_making_big_strides_in_effort_to_combat_opioid_misuse.aspx](https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/AMA_report__Georgia_making_big_strides_in_effort_to_combat_opioid_misuse.aspx) for more information.

**Anthem/Wellstar**

Please see the following consent order - [https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/Georgia_DOI_issues_consent_order_in_Anthem_BCBS_case.aspx](https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/Georgia_DOI_issues_consent_order_in_Anthem_BCBS_case.aspx) - in the Anthem/Wellstar matter. Anthem has “agreed to extend benefits so that Anthem Pathways X plan members can see primary care physicians and specialists at WellStar Health Systems, Inc., at an in-network rate from February 4 through December 31, 2019.” Please note that Anthem is now beginning contract negotiations with Northeast Georgia. We are hoping Anthem can put patients first in these negotiations rather than the tactics used in the Piedmont and Wellstar negotiations that have put patients at risk.

**American Board of Medical Specialties and MOC**

Please see the following letter from ABMS to hospitals and health systems on the applicability of certification on hospital privileges - [https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/ABMS_addresses_certification_in_letter_to_CMOs__hospital_health_system_execs.aspx](https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/ABMS_addresses_certification_in_letter_to_CMOs__hospital_health_system_execs.aspx). As you can see, ABMS continues to address the concerns of the diplomates.

**Top Docs Radio**

With a grant from Alliant Health Solutions, MAG continues the Top Docs Radio Show that can also be found wherever you get your favorite podcasts. Please see the latest Top Docs Shows:

- Healthcare and Homelessness - [https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/_Top_Docs_Radio__addresses_HC_for_homeless_housing_insecure.aspx](https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/_Top_Docs_Radio__addresses_HC_for_homeless_housing_insecure.aspx)
- Direct Primary Care - [https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/New__Top_Docs_Radio__show_addresses_direct_PC_direct_contracting_model.aspx](https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/New__Top_Docs_Radio__show_addresses_direct_PC_direct_contracting_model.aspx)
MAG is particularly proud of Dr. Agarwal and his project on Healthcare and Homelessness. Dr. Agarwal is part of the Gwinnett Residency Program that does a month at MAG. We assigned this project and required him to present his findings on the radio show. Dr. Agarwal did a fantastic job.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

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