Dear all:

Please allow this to be an update of MAG’s activities over the last few weeks. My previous updates can be found at http://www.mag.org/resources/executive-directors-message. As always, please feel free to pass on this update to others.

**Blue Cross Blue Shield Town Hall**
On June 16, we will have a Town Hall Recording with Blue Cross Blue Shield and its administration of the State Health Benefit Plan. If you have any specific comments or questions, please contact Susan Moore at smoore@mag.org. To register and for more information, please go to http://www.mag.org/news/articles/bcbsga-town-hall.

On another note, the Department of Community Health is not going pay for a physician’s practice costs related to recoupments by BCBS for changes in the State Health Benefit Plan. We have addressed this issue with DCH directly and our dissatisfaction with how this matter was handled by DCH. For more information, please go to http://www.mag.org/news/articles/dch-shbp.

**United Healthcare Medicare Advantage Plans**
United Healthcare is reducing the physician networks in the Medicare Advantage Plans by 10 percent. Please see the following link for more information and MAG’s work on this issue - http://www.mag.org/news/articles/uhc-network-reduction.

**Scope of Practice**
Please see the attached letter from organized medicine in opposing the optometric expansion of scope of practice to allow surgery in Louisiana. Organized medicine opposed this expansion based on the dangers presented to patients. Unfortunately, Governor Jindal did not veto the legislation.

**Think About It Campaign**
The MAG Foundation Think About It Campaign is off to a great start this summer. Various pharmacies and hospitals have agreed to place our materials in the patient’s prescription bags. We are also working closer with The Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse on their efforts to reduce prescription drug abuse. Please make a contribution to the campaign by contacting Lori Murphy at lmurphy@mag.org.

**MAG 401K MEP Plan - Atlanta Capital Group**
Please see the following announcement from ACG regarding an outstanding addition to their team - http://www.mag.org/news/articles/acg-plan-partner-pr. In addition, the MAG 401K MEP Plan can save your practice money. For more information, please contact Kevin Rainwater or Ross Sims who are cc'd on this email.

**American Medical Association Meeting**
Your delegation, lead by Chairman Joseph Bailey, MD, attended the AMA’s annual meeting in Chicago. Many issues were addressed such as care for our veterans, e-cigarette regulation, vaccinations for children, “Good Samaritan” laws for drug overdoses, as well as a call for a review of AMA lobbying efforts. More information can be found at http://www.ama-assn.org/ama.

At this meeting, Dr. Bailey announced this would be his last AMA meeting. As such, there will be an open position on the delegation for those physicians interested. An election will take
place at the MAG House of Delegates. Please see the attached picture of some members of the Georgia delegation.

**MAG House of Delegates – Calling for Nominations for 2014 Awards**

The Medical Association of Georgia’s (MAG) annual awards will be presented during MAG’s House of Delegates meeting at The Lodge and Spa at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain on Saturday, October 18. MAG is encouraging county medical and specialty society leaders and MAG members to nominate those individuals who they believe deserve to be recognized for their outstanding contributions to the medical profession.

Nominations for the *Lamartine Hardman Cup*, the *Joseph P. Bailey Jr., M.D., Physician Distinguished Service Award*, and the *John B. Rabun Award* must be submitted by a county medical society. The *Jack A. Raines, M.D., Humanitarian Award*, the *Donna Glass Non-Physician Distinguished Service Award*, and the *Physician’s Award for Community Service* nominations may be submitted by a county medical society or an individual member.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, July 18. Nomination letters and supporting information (CV, letters, etc.) should be submitted to the MAG Awards Committee, c/o Samantha Grantham, at skblumer@mag.org. The MAG Awards Committee will accept re-nominations.

[Click here](#) for the awards criteria. Contact Grantham at skblumer@mag.org with questions.

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

Donald

Donald J. Palmisano, Jr.
Executive Director/CEO
Medical Association of Georgia
1849 The Exchange
Suite 200
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
678-303-9290 (Phone)
678-303-3732 (Fax)
404-312-9030 (Mobile)

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