Dear all:

I hope your new year is off to a great start. This is the first MAG BOD Update for the new year. As you can see, it has been a very busy few weeks. As always, my past updates can be found at http://www.mag.org/resources/executive-directors-message. Please feel free to share this update with others.

**Board of Directors Meeting**
Your Board of Directors is set to meet this Saturday. Given the General Assembly is in full swing, there are a number of legislative items on the board of director’s agenda, such as the following:

- Presentation by Senator Brandon Beach on the SB 141 – Patient Injury Act;
- Discussion on a definition of surgery;
- Solutions to making the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program more accessible for physicians (Resolution 306C.13 attached).

Please note that Resolution 306C.13 was referred to our Board of Directors and will be discussed this weekend. Additionally, we will have a presentation on the status of the Georgia Health Information Network and its impact on physicians, as well as MAG’s 2014 Strategic Plan.

**James Magazine**
A special thanks to *James Magazine* for naming the Medical Association of Georgia as a *Top Trade or Business Association in Georgia* (http://insideradvantage.com/james-magazine/2013-12/) After many years of not being named on the list, we made our first appearance in 2012. This year we are named number 3. Congratulations to the House of Medicine for standing together and Marcus Downs and his team for their work at the General Assembly in making this ranking possible. This honor would not have been possible without the House of Medicine speaking with one voice. Congratulations to all.

**Physicians Day at the Capitol**
On January 29, the Physicians’ Day at the Capitol will take place. We anticipate great participation as we are partnering with our specialty societies in hosting this event. However, we are always willing to have more physicians participate. Please see the agenda for the Physicians’ Day at the Capitol:

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<th>Time</th>
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| 9:00 a.m.  | LEGISLATIVE DEBRIEFING                     | Georgia State Capitol – Room 450  
206 Washington Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30334 |
| 10:00 a.m. | PHOTO WITH GOVERNOR NATHAN DEAL            | Georgia State Capitol - North Wing  
*(start time is strictly enforced)* |
| 11:30 a.m. | LUNCH (Upon General Assembly’s adjournment) | James H. Sloppy Floyd Building  
The Empire Room – 20th Floor, West Tower  
2 Martin Luther King Jr., Drive, SE  
Atlanta, GA 30334  
*(Legislators invited to attend with physicians)* |
12:30 p.m.  

**ADJOURN**
*(Physicians to follow up with their legislators)*

For more information, please contact Ryan Larosa at [rlarosa@mag.org](mailto:rlarosa@mag.org).

**Commissioner of Insurance**
We had an opportunity to meet with Commissioner of Insurance Ralph Hudgens. We addressed a number of issues which included recoupment of payments from the health insurance companies *(Resolution 111A.13 – Reimbursement for Audit Requirements)* and the cost to physicians to provide the medical records. In addition, we took the opportunity to speak about two additional House of Delegate’s actions – Verification of Eligibility and Vulnerable Patient Access and Protection *(Resolution 312C.13)*.

**SB 141 – Patients For Fair Compensation**
Last week, the Medical Association of Atlanta hosted a debate between Rick Jackson and myself on the Pros/Cons of SB 141. A special thanks to Drs. Brian Hill and Matt Gwynn and David Waldrep for putting together this well attended event. I also want to thank Rick Jackson for sharing the stage on this debate. Additionally, we had an opportunity earlier that day to speak on SB 141 on Dr. Jeff Gallups’ radio show. Please see the link to the audio - [http://www.mag.org/news/articles/wgst-interview](http://www.mag.org/news/articles/wgst-interview). I also want to thank Lasa Joiner and Travis Lindley for making the appearance on Dr. Gallups show possible.

**Model Medical Staff Bylaws**
We have updated our Model Medical Staff Bylaws. This process took over a year but it is finally completed. We sought the input from a cross section of the physicians in our membership and I want to thank all the physicians that were asked to provide feedback on the drafts. A special thanks to Sidney Welch at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton for her work on updating the medical staff bylaws. Also, I want to thank Trish Yeatts and Angela Boltz for their work in editing this document. [http://www.mag.org/news/articles/model-bylaws-2014](http://www.mag.org/news/articles/model-bylaws-2014)

**House of Delegates Meeting**

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

Donald