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](http://www.mag.org/resources/executive-directors-message). As always, please feel free to pass this update to others.

**Council on Legislation**
The COL is meeting September 8 to decide on a recommendation for MAG’s 2015 legislative priorities. The COL recommendations will then be sent to the Board of Directors for consideration at the October meeting. Please send any items for consideration to Marcus Downs at mdowns@mag.org prior to September 8.

**Health Connect South**
We are encouraging physicians in the state to attend the “Health Connect South” organization’s inaugural event, which will take place at the Woodruff Arts Center in Atlanta from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday, September 15. Health Connect South says that its mission is to “serve the health community as a sustainable platform for regional health collaborations…(it seeks) to break down health industry silos, and foster meaningful partnerships for health and development.”

The organization adds that this will be its “first large-scale gathering to ‘officially’ launch Health Connect South…(and it estimates the meeting will include) 500-700 of Georgia’s leading health decision makers, innovators and top-tier students…gathering will be the first ever ‘roll-call’ of our community’s health assets.” The event will feature a number of high-profile speakers, including former U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher, M.D., American Cancer Society Deputy Chief Medical Officer (and MAG member) Len Lichtenfeld, M.D., and Morehouse School of Medicine President Valerie Montgomery Rice, M.D.

Health Connect South sees the event as a “gathering point where the most progressive aspects of health advancement in the Southeast are shared, explored and created.” Given MAG’s role as a founding sponsor, MAG member physicians can get a 20 percent discount to attend the event. Go to [www.healthconnectsouth.com](http://www.healthconnectsouth.com) for additional information and to register. MAG members can get the discount by using the promotional code “MAG4HCS” during the registration process.

**MAG Correctional Medicine Committee**
Our Correctional Medicine Committee is accepting applications from interested physicians. This committee focuses on enforcing the national accreditation standards for prisons and jails to ensure prisoners are receiving adequate health care. Participating physicians receive a minor stipend to perform the accreditations. Please contact me directly if you have an interest in serving on this committee. The physicians serving speak of the rewarding experience they received from their participation.

**Early Disclosure and National Practitioner Databank**
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has issued a memo that addresses National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) reporting requirements for early resolution of medical claims payments. HHS determined that payments made pursuant to a written claim or demand for payment under disclosure laws in Oregon and Massachusetts qualifies as a 'written claim or demand for payment' under the Health Care Quality Improvement Act of 1986 (HCQIA). Therefore, the payment must be reported to the NPDB. For more information, please go to http://www.mag.org/news/articles/hhs-ndpb.

House of Delegates
Please note the following updates regarding the House of Delegates.

- Resolutions are due the first week of September. Please submit your resolutions to Trish Yeatts at pyeatts@mag.org.
- Delegates and alternate delegates are encouraged to contact their county medical society to see if it has already reserved a room for them at the Lodge and Spa at Callaway Gardens. MAG’s block of rooms at the Lodge is sold out, though attendees can still call 800.225.5292 and mention the "Medical Association of Georgia" to reserve a one-bedroom cottage at the Southern Pine Cottages at Callaway Gardens for $175 per night. The majority of the cottages are within a quarter-mile of the Lodge. MAG meeting attendees that would like to be placed on a waiting list for a room at the Lodge or need any other assistance with HOD lodging should send an email to Anita Amin at anita@jlh-consulting.com.

Joseph Bailey, M.D.
Please follow the attached link (http://www.mag.org/news/articles/bailey-ama-letter) for a letter from Dr. Bailey regarding his resignation from the Georgia Delegation to the American Medical Association. Dr. Bailey will be greatly missed from our delegation.

Town Hall Forum
On September 15, we will continue our Town Hall Forum with a topic focused on the State of Georgia’s disaster contingency plan. Please place this call on your calendars. For more information and to register, please go to http://www.mag.org/news/articles/disater-prep-th.

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

Have a great weekend.

Donald

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