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 http://www.mag.org/resources/executive-directors-message.

Health Insurance Mergers
We want to again thank everyone for all the calls, emails and letters that were made to the Commissioner of Insurance’s office opposing the health insurance mergers. As you may recall, John Harvey, MD, MAG President, was prepared to testify at the hearing on the impact of the mergers on the physicians and patients. The American Medical Association was also prepared to testify on the monopoly and monopsony impact on the physician practices. AMA and MAG submitted joint comments to the commissioner’s office. **Organized medicine scored a huge victory when Attorney General, Sam Olens, and the State of Georgia signed onto the Department of Justice’s complaint filed in the federal court blocking the mergers.** The mergers in Georgia would not have been blocked without the assistance of the AMA.

While this is a significant victory, the battle is not over. The health insurance companies are pushing for an early trial date in an attempt to salvage the mergers. If you are willing to discuss the impact of these mergers on your practice, please contact me directly at dpalmisano@mag.org.

MAG Foundation’s “Think About It”
The “Think About It” campaign continues to address problems associated with prescription drug abuse. Through a generous grant from the Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit, the “Think About It” campaign materials are on the greater Atlanta university campuses warning of the problems associated prescription drug abuse. A big thanks to Ali Rahimi, MD for his assistance in the grant process. More information can be found at www.mag.org/affiliates/mag-foundation/take-back. I would also like to commend Lori Murphy for her excellent work on this campaign. If you would like to participate in the campaign, please contact Lori at lmurphy@mag.org.

House of Delegates
The MAG House of Delegates will be held in Savannah in October. The following deadlines are rapidly approaching:
- Deadline for all resolutions and reports for the handbook - September 1;
- Deadline to submit nominations for reference committees, tellers and credentials – August 23.

If you have any questions regarding the House of Delegates, please contact Dayna Jackson at djackson@mag.org. For more information, please go to http://www.mag.org/about-us/house-of-delegates.

Zika Virus
Media coverage of the Zika virus continues to make national headlines. We have a dedicated page on our website for resources that will benefit your practices. More information can be found at http://www.mag.org/resources/zika.

2017 General Assembly – Legislative Priorities
We are in the process of developing our legislative priorities for 2017. If you have a legislative priority you would like the Council on Legislation to discuss, please contact Derek Norton at dnorton@mag.org.

TopDocs
Please go to http://www.mag.org/resources/TopDocs for our recent recordings which include a discussion on a Transition to MIPS with Adrienne Mims, MD, MPH.

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

Donald
MAG: The leading voice for the medical profession in Georgia...every physician in every specialty and practice setting.