Dear all:

Here is a summary of the last few weeks since the Board of Directors Update. As you can see, we are having very positive momentum and a very big membership announcement.

**Membership**

We are proud to announce that the Medical College of Georgia at Georgia Health Sciences University has decided to join MAG. We are very excited to have the addition of over 360 physicians join MAG, and GHSU being the first academic institution to join MAG in over 15 years. We are looking forward to proving to GHSU that joining MAG is in the best interest of patients and physicians. A special thanks to Peter Buckley, M.D., Dan Deloach, M.D., and David Bogorad, M.D., for making this relationship possible. Please note Dr. Bogorad is a member of the Georgia Physicians Leadership Academy. Special thanks to Kate Boyenga, MAG Director of Membership and Marketing, for her continued hard work increasing MAG membership. If this trend continues, 2012 will mark the second straight year of increased membership.

On another note, David Fallaw, M.D., will bring MCG residents to MAG on Wednesday to discuss the benefits of organized medicine. Thereafter, the residents will proceed to the Capitol for a few hours of advocacy. We are really looking forward to this experience.

**Medicaid Redesign**

The Medicaid Redesign and discussion of the Navigant Report is underway (http://dch.georgia.gov/vgn/images/portal/cit_1210/29/1/180740547MASTER_Cha pter_1-5_and_Exec_Summary.pdf). On February 4, Sandra Reed, M.D., convened a task force comprised of solo physicians, large group physicians, hospital employed physicians, specialty physicians and primary care physicians. These physicians were also representative of urban and rural areas. Since the meeting, we are preparing a letter to the Commissioner of the Department of Community Health that will be presented to the Executive Committee for approval. In the interim, please see the presentation prepared by Cam Grayson summarizing the Navigant Report. MAG is also participating in a Department of Community Health Task Force assigned to solicit feedback on the Medicaid Redesign.

**National Advocacy Conference**

On February 12 -15, the American Medical Association held its annual National Advocacy Conference. Drs. Sandra Reed (MAG President) and Scott Bohlke (President Elect) represented MAG at the conference. John Antalis, M.D., (Past President) also
attended the conference, as well as Patrice Harris, M.D., (AMA Board of Trustee) and John Neeld, M.D., (AMPAC). Drs. Reed, Bohlke and Antalis met with Senator Johnny Isakson and Representatives Tom Price, Phil Gingrey, David Scott, Jack Kingston, John Barrow, Paul Broun, Tom Graves and Austin Scott. Issues discussed included the Medicare Patient Empowerment Act (HR 1700), the SGR, as well as the need to increase federal funding for graduate residency slots to keep our medical students in Georgia. As you know from our E-News from the Capitol, Congress has agreed to a temporary 10 month fix on the SGR, which is disappointing.

**Physicians Advocacy Institute**

Please find attached a Tip Sheet for Physicians on Physician Rating and Tiering by Health Plans. This document would be applicable to programs such as Aetna's Aexcel and United Healthcare's Premium Designation programs. A special thanks to the Physicians Advocacy Institute for preparing documents which are beneficial to a physician's practice. Please note MAG has a seat on the board of directors for the Physicians Advocacy Institute. Additionally, SB 425 sponsored by Senator Josh McKoon would remedy some of the problems associated with these programs.

**Georgia General Assembly**

I would like to remind everyone to check their emails on Friday for the E-News from the Capitol. Please take a look at the bills being presented and send us your feedback. Scope of practice is increasingly becoming an issue at the Capitol, especially pharmacists wanting to administer all vaccines. Your feedback is very important to ensure we have the most up to date information on the issues affecting your patients and your practice.

**AMA Medical Student – Russell Kirks**

Congratulations to MCG third year medical student Russell Kirks on his recent appointment as a delegate to the American Medical Association. Russell attended the AMA meeting last year and has been a wonderful addition to the delegation.

**Speaking Engagements**

We have been very busy promoting MAG. A special thanks to Jacqueline Fincher, M.D., and Mary Daniels for the invitation to speak with Rep. Ben Watson to the young physicians of the Georgia Chapter of the American College of Physicians. I would like to thank Fay Brown, Pat Cota, Rick Ward and Mary Daniels for having Marcus Downs present MAG's legislative priorities at Primary Care Day at the Capitol. I also had the opportunity to present an Update on Health Care Reform to the Georgia Podiatric Medical Association. Finally, I want to thank Pamela Miller for the invitation to speak
to the East Georgia Physicians Association, who will also be at the Capitol this week. We are looking forward to working with them on their advocacy day.

As always, please feel free to forward this email to others. Also, if you would like to see past reports, please go to http://www.mag.org/about/executive-director.shtml <http://www.mag.org/about/executive-director.shtml>.

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