Your MAG Foundation is pleased to present its Annual Report for 2019. Over the past year, we have continued to strive on your behalf to lead philanthropic efforts to create a healthier Georgia.

‘THINK ABOUT IT’ INITIATIVE
In the past year, the ‘Think About It’ Initiative adopted the amended focuses of Collaborate, Advocate and Educate. Efforts in each area of focus have included the following.

Collaborate
‘Think About It’ continues to collaborate with other physician-led groups as well as stakeholder groups from other healthcare disciplines, education, government and insurance. Physician, dental and select nonclinical stakeholder members of the advisory committee met one time over the past year for a “listening session” at the request of advisory committee member and Chief Medical Officer, Atlanta Regional Office Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Richard Wild, M.D. MAG has had continued service as member of the following committees on behalf of ‘Think About It’:
- Georgia Opioid Strategic Plan (Prevention Education Work Group)
- Substance Abuse Resource Alliance (SARA)
- Injury Prevention Research Center at Emory (IPRCE)
- Georgia Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Collaborative

Advocate
‘Think About It’ has worked closely with Georgia DPH to encourage physicians to register for the PDMP. MAG’s Communications Department provided ongoing promotion with links to DPH which included a registration tutorial.

‘Think About It’ has worked with Georgia’s Department of Public Health, Attorney General Chris Carr, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and Department of Community Health who are leading the effort in collaboration with over 200 stakeholders to provide recommendations as to how Georgia can successfully address the opioid epidemic. Lori Cassity Murphy, MAG Director of Development and Special Projects serves on the Prevention Education work group and Bethany Sherrer, MAG Legal Counsel, serves as co-chair of the PDMP work group.

Educate
‘Think About It’ recorded ‘Top Docs’ Radio shows in 2019 on “CMS Mapping Tool” and “Opioid Misuse/Illegal Drug Use.”

Through the 5-year grant from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), ‘Think About It’ has developed revised opioid abuse prevention education printed materials for patients and physicians. MAG members will be asked to include the patient leaflet in exam rooms, lobbies, etc. The physician education or “at-a-glance” brochure will be distributed to MAG members in
multiple high risk counties: Bryan, Cherokee, Coweta, Dekalb and Richmond. The president of the Georgia Society of Interventional Pain Physicians (GSIPP), Susheel Dua, M.D. and GPLA Class XII member, Trey Patterson, M.D joined the advisory committee. For the list of advisory committee constituents visit www.mag.org/tai.

In addition to the above efforts, ‘Think About It’ provided presenters for nearly 20 CMEs and other presentations throughout the state of Georgia. Special thanks to MAG’s communications department for streamlining the webpage.

‘Think About It’ has utilized and will continue to utilize resources available from SAMHSA, including its Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit, and to disseminate and promote the use of the CDC Policy Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain.

‘Think About It’ in conjunction with MAG will continue to monitor the work of key national stakeholders, such as the AMA, and will promote and distribute additional resources, best practices and other support tools as they are released.

GEORGIA PHYSICIANS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The Georgia Physicians Leadership Academy (GPLA) continues to function as a dynamic and vital tool in the development of new leaders for organized medicine in Georgia.

The GPLA continues to be a one-year program during which students are trained in effective communications techniques, leadership skills, advocacy, and conflict resolution. In an effort to ensure the program continually evolves to meet the changing needs of physicians and organized medicine, the Steering Committee and staff review and assess current content and possible new sessions to be included. For Class XII, a bonus session on “The Economics of Health & Health Care” was added by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee also voted to consider adding Physician Wellness to the curriculum.

In April 2019 the Academy graduated its 11th Class, bringing the total number of physicians to have graduated from the program to nearly 150. Several graduates have served or are currently serving in leadership positions in MAG and/or in their local or specialty societies.

Also, in April 2019, the GPLA’s 12th Class began with 15 physicians participating in the program.

At the August 2019 meeting of the GPLA Steering Committee, a 13th Class was approved, and planning has begun.

In December 2017, the GPLA received its third grant from the Physicians Foundation, a new 2-year grant in the amount of $150,000. Because the cost of two classes exceeds the amount of the grant, fundraising continues to be an important focus to maintain the program for the long-term. Donations are tax deductible and are gratefully accepted. They can be made by going to the GPLA web page on the MAG website under “Affiliates,” by designating the donation on MAG membership renewals and by designating the donation when registering for HOD. In addition, a new means of donating to the Academy was added this year. The MAG Foundation is now an approved Amazon Smile charitable organization. Purchasers using Amazon Smile (www.smile.amazon.com) can designate the Foundation as their charitable organization of choice and a portion of every purchase made from Amazon Smile will be paid to the Foundation. All proceeds received from these purchases will be utilized for the GPLA.

The MAG Foundation Board of Trustees thanks the members of the GPLA Steering Committee for their tireless efforts and diligence in directing the Academy. Steering Committee members include: Stephen Jarrard, M.D. – Chair (Class V)
1. Michelle Zeanah, M.D. – Vice Chair (Class V)
2. S. William Clark III, M.D. – Advisor
3. Rutledge Forney, M.D., MAG President
4. Andrew Reisman, M.D., – MAG President-elect
5. Jack M. Chapman Jr., M.D. – MAG Foundation President
6. W. Scott Bohlke, M.D. – MAG Chairman of Legislation
7. Donald J. Palmisano Jr. – MAG CEO
8. Manoj H. Shah, M.D.
9. Jacqueline W. Fincher, M.D., Class I Representative
10. James W. Barber, M.D., Class II Representative
11. Madalyn N. Davidoff, M.D., Class IV Representative
12. John Sy, D.O., Class VI Representative
13. James L. Smith Jr., M.D., Class VII Representative
14. Jovan Adams, D.O., Class VIII Representative
15. Jeff Stone, M.D., Class IX Representative
16. Anna Skold, M.D., Class X Representative
17. Rod Duraski, M.D., Class XI Representative

W.R. DANCY, M.D. STUDENT LOAN FUND/MAG SCHOLARSHIP

The Medical Association Georgia (MAG) Foundation has announced that beginning in 2020 it will fund a $10,000 scholarship each year for the next five years for a fourth-year medical student at the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) at Augusta University who goes into a primary care specialty in Georgia – including pediatrics, family medicine, internal medicine, OB-GYN, general surgery, and emergency medicine. MCG will select the recipients of the scholarship using criteria that it develops – keeping in mind that the MAG Foundation is also considering funding similar scholarships at other medical schools in the state.

The MAG Foundation has supported and administered the W.R. Dancy, M.D. Student Loan Fund for medical students for 48 years. The Dancy Fund is available to help Georgia residents realize their dreams of attending medical school by granting them affordable loans. To date, the Foundation has supported 53 medical students in their pursuit of becoming a physician.

As of now, the Dancy Fund has no outstanding loans.

Funds currently available for loans and scholarships over and above the $50,000 committed to MCG total $192,610.38.

DISTRESSED PHYSICIANS FUND

The Fund was created to assist physicians and their spouses who experience financial hardship caused by natural disasters or other circumstances beyond their control. Current funds available are $48,472.66.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY PLAN

The Foundation continues to work with PG Calc, an industry leader in administration of charitable gift annuity plans and ACG Wealth as investment advisor. The investment strategy for the plan’s assets continues to be to maximize earnings within acceptable risk margins.
In December 2018, Dr. John Gamwell, one of the plan’s annuitants on whom the MAG Foundation owned a life insurance policy, passed away. The death benefit of $779,113 was deposited to the MAG Foundation investment account at ACG Wealth, strengthening the financial condition of the plan.

GEORGIA IS NOW HANDS-FREE

MAG continues to remind Georgians of the dangers of distracted driving through this patient safety initiative that stemmed from ‘Hands-Free Georgia Act’ (H.B. 673) by Rep. John Carson that went into effect July 1, 2018 – making it illegal for drivers to use a cell phone on anything than hands-free basis.

The MAG Foundation distributed ‘Hands-Free Georgia’ window clings at the MAG Board of Directors meeting on January 26, 2019.

The Board of Trustees would like to especially thank our staff for their dedication and service:

Mr. Donald Palmisano Jr., MAG Executive Director and CEO and MAG Foundation Executive Director and CEO
Mr. Fred Jones, Director of Operations for MAG Subsidiaries
Ms. Lori Cassity Murphy, MAG Director of Development and Special Projects

Respectfully submitted,

Jack M. Chapman Jr., M.D., President, MAG Foundation, Inc.

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