

MAG Institute for Excellence in Medicine

Special: 07.20

SUBJECT: Annual Report
SUBMITTED BY: Kelly M. DeGraffenreid, M.D.
REFERRED TO: Not Referred

1 Your MAG Institute is pleased to present its Annual Report for 2020. Over the past year, the Board of
2 Directors has worked to guide the organization in its new mission.

3 4 **Board of Directors**

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6 In July 2020, Patricia A Rhyner, M.D. was nominated and appointed to the MAG Institute Board of
7 Directors.

8 9 **MAG Medical Reserve Corps**

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11 With the approval of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Medical Association of
12 Georgia (MAG) and the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) have developed the nation's first
13 medical society-sponsored statewide volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) – which supplements the
14 official medical, public health and emergency services resources that are available in the state.

15
16 The MAG MRC trains physicians and other health care professionals to respond to declared emergencies
17 in Georgia. It will also train physicians to respond to other emergencies affecting public health (e.g.,
18 disease outbreaks) – as well as those that have the potential to compromise a hospital's ability to respond
19 and operate.

20
21 The MAG MRC continues to build capacity to coordinate the deployment of physicians during any such
22 emergencies, is capable of setting up mobile hospital systems and under extreme circumstances (e.g., a
23 shortage of health care providers in a given area) can be called upon to perform some of the functions that
24 would otherwise be performed by the full-time emergency medical response personnel in the state.

25
26 MAG formed the MRC as a result of action that its House of Delegates took in 2013. It was chartered in
27 late 2014 and began to build its infrastructure in 2015. The MAG MRC is pleased to have a
28 multidisciplinary unit of approximately 100 volunteers.

29
30 The Georgia Trauma Commission (GTC) continues to support MAG MRC mission preparedness, training
31 and recruitment efforts in the form of an annual grant. The GTC recently awarded the FY2020 grant to
32 MAG MRC in the amount of \$172,000.

33
34 MAG MRC began the year following the 2019 HOD developing a robust training schedule. However,
35 prior to its implementation in 2020 the Covid-19 pandemic began to threaten the State of Georgia and the
36 MAG MRC was called into service.

37
38 Under the direction of the Georgia Department of Defense (DoD) and the DPH, the MAG MRC was
39 tasked with:

- 40 • Raising two mobile surgical facilities, one at WellStar Kennestone Hospital in Marietta, the other
41 at Emory University Hospital Midtown in Atlanta

- 1 • Recruiting as many volunteer health care professionals as possible to respond to an as of that time
2 unknown but potentially great need
- 3 • Developing an organizational infrastructure never anticipated to receive requests for aide and
4 direct the volunteers into the field with dispatch while at the same time providing for each
5 volunteer's safety from the time they left their home for the mission until they returned
6

7 With the assistance of MAG, the MAG MRC recruited and certified a response force of nearly 400
8 physicians, PAs, nurses, pharmacists, and other volunteer health care professionals.
9

10 The MAG MRC is designed and has trained for deployments lasting up to 72 hours. The Covid-19
11 response lasted for over two months, extending from mid-March to late May. During that time, the MAG
12 MRC Executive Leadership team met daily on Zoom at 5:00 PM to discuss the day's events, resolve
13 problems, and plan for next steps. The larger Incident Response Team met daily at noon on Zoom for
14 much of the two-month deployment.
15

16 Missions assigned by the DoD included providing for wellness support to Georgia State Defense Force
17 (GSDF) personnel at food bank missions and nursing home decontaminations. MAG MRC also provided
18 personnel to assist at State Covid-19 testing sites and understaffed hospitals.
19 Through the MAG MRC Covid-19 response, medical students from Medical College of Georgia, Emory
20 University, Mercer University, Trinity School of Medicine, and the University of Georgia filled vital roles
21 in leadership and field response. An article written by one such medical student detailing his experience
22 was featured in MAG's August 27 Georgia Pulse. The article can be found at
23 <https://www.kevinmd.com/blog/2020/07/a-medical-students-unique-education-in-a-pandemic.html>.
24

25 Since the response, the MAG MRC has received recognition for its efforts from the State of Georgia, the
26 Georgia Department of Defense, and the Georgia Department of Public Health.
27

28 The MAG MRC is deeply grateful to all the volunteers who stepped forward when called.
29

30 The MAG MRC Covid-19 Response After Action Report detailing individual missions can be found at
31 <https://www.mag.org/georgia/uploadedfiles/MAGMRCCOVID19RESPONSEAAR.pdf>.
32

33 The MAG MRC is now moving forward to be ready and available if called upon for hurricane response, a
34 second wave of Covid-19, or any other health care emergency with which our assistance is needed.
35

36 Plans are being formulated for a collaborative major deployment exercise with the Georgia Department of
37 Defense.
38

39 The MAG MRC has continued to collaborate with the American College of Surgeons and the Georgia
40 Trauma Foundation to support the "Stop the Bleed" (STB) campaign in Georgia. The MAG MRC
41 utilizes training events and sponsorship opportunities to also teach hemorrhage control techniques to
42 willing participants. At this point MAG MRC has trained over 2,000 individuals. In 2019 members of
43 the MAG MRC taught hemorrhage control techniques to employees and security personnel at the Georgia
44 World Congress Center, Mercedes-Benz Stadium, and State Farm Arena.
45

46 Go to www.mag.org/georgia/mrc or www.magmrc.org for additional information or to join the MAG
47 MRC.
48

49 Contact Dr. John Harvey at johnharveymd@gmail.com or Fred Jones at fjones@mag.org or 678.303.9284
50 with questions related to the MAG MRC.
51

1 **Medical Cannabis Task Force**

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3 The purpose of this task force is to provide recommendations for the benefit of patient safety in Georgia’s
4 Medical Cannabis Program. Georgia law allows for up to six licensed cultivators to grow and process low
5 THC/CBD oil; the THC level cannot be more than 5 percent. Patients in Georgia who wish to pursue low
6 THC/CBD oil for treatment must be certified by a physician to have at least one of the seventeen diseases
7 recognized in law.

8
9 In compliance with Georgia law, the Georgia Access to Medical Cannabis Commission (GAMMC) was
10 appointed in late 2019 to award licenses and promulgate rules for distribution and dispensing. The
11 commission met multiple times before the COVID-19 pandemic and has held one remote meeting in May
12 to announce the hiring of an Executive Director, Andrew Turnage, to help execute the commission’s
13 statutory duties.

14
15 Since that time, the GAMMC has not met and has not awarded any licenses nor promulgated any rules.

16
17 MAG staff has contacted Director Turnage to inform him of our Task Force and that the task force would
18 be happy to offer any comments on proposed rules.

19
20 MAG staff has also reached out to the Georgia Pharmacy Association to discuss working together on
21 patient safety issues related to dispensing.

22
23 As of September 3, 2020, there has not been an announced timeline for licensure applications for
24 cultivation nor any rule promulgation. MAG staff will continue to monitor the commission for any
25 developments.

26
27 The following physicians serve on the MAG Institute for Excellence in Medicine Medical Cannabis Task
28 Force...

- 29
30 Kelly DeGraffenreid, M.D., Chair
31 Tavis Bailey, D.O.
32 Susan Blank, M.D.
33 Debbie Dalton, M.D.
34 Matt Gwynn, M.D.
35 John Harvey, M.D.
36 Stephen Jarrard, M.D.
37 Gopika Krishna, M.D.
38 Frank McDonald, M.D.
39 Nathan Neufeld, M.D.
40 Gary Richter, M.D.
41 Ana Skold, M.D.
42 Michelle Zeanah, M.D.

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44 The Board of Directors would like to thank our staff for their dedication and service:
45 Mr. Donald Palmisano Jr., MAG Executive Director and CEO
46 Mr. Fred Jones, Director of Operations for MAG Subsidiaries
47 Mr. Ryan Larosa, Director of Corporate Relations

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49 Respectfully submitted,
50 Kelly M. DeGraffenreid, M.D., President
51 MAG Institute for Excellence in Medicine, Inc.

- 1 MAG Institute Board of Directors:
- 2 Kelly M. DeGraffenreid, M.D., President
- 3 Adam E. Berman, M.D., Vice President
- 4 Amin A. Yehya, M.D., Treasurer
- 5 Rob D. Schreiner, M.D., Secretary
- 6 Despina (Debi) Dalton, M.D., MAG Secretary
- 7 Aaron H. Davidson, M.D.
- 8 John S. Harvey, M.D.
- 9 Zachary D. Lopater, M.D.
- 10 Donald J. Palmisano, Jr., MAG Executive Director
- 11 Andrew B. Reisman, M.D., MAG President
- 12 Patricia A. Rhyner, M.D.
- 13 Manoj H. Shah, M.D.

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