



EMORY  
UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF  
MEDICINE

## Department of Emergency Medicine

September 12, 2020

Dear MAG House of Delegates,

My name is Shamie Das, and I practice Emergency Medicine at Emory University. I am enthusiastically writing to announce my candidacy for the newly awarded MAG AMA Alternate Delegate position.

If there has ever been a time in recent history where healthcare has taken the forefront of public discourse, this would be it. Our patients, physicians and systems have been placed under considerable strain due to the combination of a global pandemic, increasing costs of healthcare and affronts from outside the house of medicine. The engagement of the Medical Association of Georgia at the American Medical Association has been integral to advancing policies that improve the practice of medicine for physicians and access to healthcare for patients. While the AMA is far from perfect, I firmly believe that together we are stronger.

Our diversity lends to a deeper understanding of the issues that face us. Central to our calling is the sanctity of the physician-patient relationship. No matter your practice setting or specialty, it is this core value that enables us to work collaboratively towards our common goals rather than be divided by the innumerable interests that threaten this relationship. By working together we will find solutions that specifically fit the needs of patients and physicians *in Georgia*. As practicing physicians, we understand these challenges and have always been best-suited to lead.

As an emergency physician, I believe in team-based healthcare delivery, whether it means calling our interventional cardiologist for a patient presenting with a STEMI or calling my patient's family physician to confirm follow up. Similarly, as your representative, I will rely on your insights and expertise because effective health policy requires the same team-based approach. I have had the fortune of developing relationships within the AMA for more than 12 years and have served on reference committees, as a Sectional Delegate to the HOD, and on the Resident and Fellow Section governing council. It is there that I learned the value of teamwork and the importance of surrounding oneself with the brightest minds.

In addition to advocacy work, I stay busy as a father of four, two school-age girls and twin baby boys! My wife, a communications specialist at the CDC, and I enjoy travelling the world and are yearning to travel once more. Our most amazing adventure thus far has been our honeymoon in Bali, followed closely by our first trip after residency to the Greek isles with our little girls. As you might guess, we are beach lovers! Having grown up in a restaurant kitchen, I'm an avid foodie and aspiring chef. In another life, I'd be a photographer for *National Geographic*.

Since joining MAG as a resident, I have assisted our MAG AMA Delegation in the handbook review process which has made me well versed in both our AMA and MAG Policy Compendiums and allowed me to be most effective at AMA meetings. As your Alternate Delegate to the AMA, I pledge to continue expanding the influence of our delegation, mentoring future leaders within MAG, strengthening our membership pipeline, and always placing our patients first. **I ask for your vote** on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 during our first virtual MAG HOD meeting.

Sincerely,

Shamie Das, MD, MBA, MPH, FACEP