

MAG Board of Directors,

I am writing today to announce my intention to run for President-Elect of the Medical Association of Georgia this year. My concerns regarding recent strategies and actions that represent a shift in the direction of our organization inspired this commitment. I hope that my candidacy will begin a constructive conversation about these emerging issues so that we can work together to realign our activities with our mission.

MAG is an advocacy organization. Nearly 175 years ago, our founders established our mission to “enhance patient care and the health of the public by advancing the art and science of medicine and by representing physicians and patients in the policy-making process.” Our *raison d'être* is to represent and protect the interests of Georgia physicians and our patients. To accomplish that purpose, we need robust physician membership and diverse partnerships. Georgia physicians and legislators alike should look to MAG as the gold standard for physician advocacy.

Currently, we are not maximizing our limited resources in support of our mission. While fringe membership benefits may be appealing, our recent survey data show that they are not meaningful enough to inspire physician engagement with MAG. Instead, Georgia physicians expect MAG to provide meaningful and practical discourse, leadership, and advocacy on issues crucial to our profession (i.e., tort reform). The past two board meetings and the results of the Board Survey confirmed my concerns.

We must restore our focus. Without substantial state membership numbers, we lack meaningful influence when lobbying at the State Capitol. Thus, we should keep membership growth and engagement at the forefront of every decision. Our members should feel involved and represented as we develop clear and specific goals to serve the needs of physicians and our patients. If we want to engage hospitals, medical groups, and the next generation of medical providers, we must continually convey that they can have every confidence in our efficacy.

Yet the systems in place for MAG engagement with physicians continue to wane dramatically. We are an organization without a communications department. A lobbying organization without a strategic communications focus is fundamentally a social club. Presently, MAG seldom utilizes the communication channels at our disposal. Social media posts and emails are rare and random. Innovative initiatives such as the TopDocs podcast have gone by the wayside. Long term, we will continue lose membership and clout if we do not maintain channels of communication with Georgia physicians.

We need a cause to excite our physicians (i.e., tort reform). We must reinvigorate our physicians and nurture important affiliations throughout the state. MAG leadership should travel around Georgia, spreading the compelling message of our pertinence and legislative intent. MAG staff should focus on lobbying and collaborating with partner organizations that meaningfully contribute to our core focus, advocacy.

I recognize our financial constraints and applaud efforts to augment our income through other means. However, these efforts cannot come at the expense of our mission. Without a dedicated communications team to support an empowered governmental affairs division, we are doomed. This organization may survive in name, but our accomplishments will fade into memory if we do not act decisively to return our focus to our mission.

Our mission matters.

I respectfully ask for your vote. I look forward to the opportunity to work with our executive leadership and any member of the MAG team. We need a strong medical association that will be our unimpaired advocate. I am happy to discuss specific concerns and brainstorm ideas at any time.

Most sincerely,

Michael Davidson Brown, MD, MBA, FCCP
Medical Association of Georgia Board Member
Organized Medical Staff Section
Chief Medical Officer
Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine
Colquitt Regional Medical Center
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Moultrie, GA 31768

Dr. Cory Porteus, DO
Laboratory Director | Chief Pathologist
Colquitt County Medical Society President
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Dear MAG Delegates,

On behalf of the Colquitt County Medical Society, I wholeheartedly endorse Dr. Michael Brown as President-Elect of the Medical Association of Georgia. In addition to his duties as a pulmonary / critical care physician, he is a physician leader who has made an indelible impact on the quality of healthcare at Colquitt Regional Medical Center. I am confident that his leadership will prove just as instrumental for MAG.

As Colquitt Regional Medical Center's first Chief Quality Officer, Dr. Brown created a multidisciplinary case review committee as well as a readmission and transitional care oversight committee. In total, he now serves on more than a dozen essential committees at Colquitt Regional. Always fair and self-possessed, he has spent countless hours managing provider disputes, customer and family care concerns, and addressing medical staff concerns.

When he became Chief Medical Officer, he incorporated numerous additional responsibilities including involvement at senior staff and board meetings, and a new IRB. Collaborating with teams across our institution, he became crucial to physician recruitment, contracts, and governance. Understanding physician wants and needs, he works to create a welcoming environment that appeals to outstanding medical staff and their families, and inspires them to put down roots in our community.

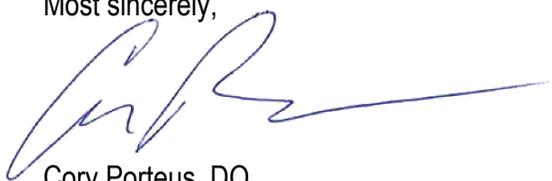
During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Brown's leadership was critical to our success. During the preliminary crisis, he developed new inpatient care guidelines, supported nursing leadership, and guided several policies including a resource allocation guideline. Throughout the crisis, he remained calm, set the example for making rational decisions, and provided support for others to do the same during such a harrowing time.

Dr. Brown continually develops and promotes physician wellness and leadership among our medical staff. He created new specialty departments for OB/Gyn and Pediatrics as well as new medical director positions for each department. Thanks in large part to his leadership, Colquitt Regional reports a top 10% wellness satisfaction score.

In 2017, Dr. Brown began rebuilding our defunct MAG CMS. When he became a MAG delegate, our CMS had only 12 members. He set about rewriting our bylaws and recruiting physicians. Dr. Brown persuaded our CEO Jim Matney of MAG's importance to physician wellness and patient care. Our hospital now fully supports our CMS. Every physician at Colquitt Regional is a MAG member.

Dr. Michael Brown has established a solid record of extraordinary physician leadership. He is an excellent physician, an exceptional leader, and an ardent supporter of MAG. Our CMS is proud to endorse him as President-Elect of MAG.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cory Porteus', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cory Porteus, DO
Colquitt County Medical Society President