

Board of Directors, Medical Association of Georgia:

I am excited to announce my candidacy for President–Elect of the Medical Association of Georgia for the coming year. The Medical Association of Georgia has had a prominent role in shaping medical care in Georgia for the past 173 years. Medicine has changed a lot in the past 10 to 20 years and this has created a challenge for the Medical Association of Georgia. Given my experience with medicine in the past 41 years and with the Medical Association of Georgia specifically, I would like to steer this Association through the challenging times ahead with the invaluable help and support of my esteemed colleagues.

I have represented you on the GAMPAC Board, Legislative Council, CON Task Force, as a member of the MAG Board, Alternate Delegate to the American Medical Association and currently as Treasurer of MAG. I am a graduate of the GPLA and have served as President of the Medical Association of Atlanta in 2017.

Surveys of the membership indicate the time for Tort reform is now. There are many controversial issues that we have worked through and that we will work through in the future. Now is the time we come together and form a solid unit galvanized to work as a team against those who would harm us and our patients. United as one, we can fight prior authorization and develop tort reform legislation which can hold insurance companies accountable for malpractice if they delay or turn down procedures or testing that would help our patients. The time to act is now. In order to ensure the continuity that we are building in the executive committee to form a solid foundation for a stable continued growth I am handing over the office of Treasurer to run for President Elect. MAG has a strong future and a trusted voice at the Capitol. The membership has spoken - Tort Reform is our #1 agenda. We are ready to move forward to fight prior authorization and develop tort reform that can hold insurance companies accountable.

We must practice conservative measures to sustain financial stability and we have an excellent board to help us achieve this goal. In the past year we have taken the difficult steps to maximize efficiency and to limit unnecessary spending as we work toward a neutral budget. Last year we were facing severe financial headwinds, and we have just about stopped the bleeding. We are now in the process of balancing the budget. The executive committee has worked hard to deal with the loss of revenue and staff as we have reorganized to become more efficient and able to grow. We will continue to work tirelessly to improve the financial situation of this great institution, as we also look for innovative ways to improve our long-term stability. My goal is to grow membership throughout the state and increase our representation at the Capitol. This includes all of the component medical societies throughout the state as each one is a valuable part of our overall organization. We will need to reach out to these societies, offer them assistance and help them grow so that we will grow and be stronger. MAG should be able to help provide administrative services for CMS to help them grow.

I advocated tirelessly to achieve the Distracted Driving legislation that began in our County Medical Society and was adopted by the Medical Association of Georgia. Through the strong support of MAG, we had a tremendous success in working together and achieved an 11% drop in the mortality rate in Georgia the following year. No other state in the Southeast United States of America achieved this level of success in dealing with the common problem of distracted driving and many have learned from our example of how to attack this issue.

I am looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead. I performed the first STEMI at Piedmont Hospital in 1988. I helped the American Heart Association build an AED program in Atlanta and was instrumental in providing AEDs at the Olympics in 1996 which led to a 50% survival rate in sudden death victims at the Olympics. I helped establish AED placement with partners including the local high schools, Mercedes-Benz stadium, the Braves stadium, and multiple public venues with continued saving of lives. With the help of legislators including Dr. Tom Price, we were able to pass the good Samaritan law which allowed citizens to be good Samaritans without fear of being sued if they use defibrillators to save someone's life. I also helped start the Piedmont Heart Institute in 2007 which now has national and international recognition.

The patients need us, Georgia needs us, and we need each other to keep this vital institution influential and impactful. I look forward to working with you, the members of MAG, and the MAG staff to retain and enhance this organization's future. We have a special bond, a special calling, and a chance to make a significant difference in so many lives. Let us not stray from the purpose for which we were built. I thank you in advance for your support.

I am,
Sincerely Yours,
Charles Wilmer, MD FACC FSCAI



September 7, 2022

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Charles I. Wilmer, M.D.

Dear MAG Delegates and Alternate Delegates,

The Medical Association of Atlanta is honored to endorse Charles Wilmer, MD, FACC, FSCAI, for election at the MAG House of Delegates for the position of President-Elect of the Medical Association of Georgia for the coming year.

Dr. Wilmer has been active in organized medicine in many capacities and has been an active member of the Medical Association of Atlanta since 1987. He served as the President of the Medical Association of Atlanta in 2017. He has served on the Georgia Medical Political Action Committee Board, Legislative Council, and CON Task Force. He is the current Treasurer of MAG and serves as an Alternate Delegate to the American Medical Association.

Dr. Wilmer has been a champion for membership development as well as leadership development for new physicians. He has also worked with other MAA members to address complex issues, such as advocating to achieve the Distracted Driving legislation that began with the MAA and was adopted by the Medical Association of Georgia.

Dr. Wilmer is a Cardiology Specialist at The Piedmont Heart Institute. He received his undergraduate degree from Amherst College in Amherst, Massachusetts. He received his medical degree from the University of Virginia School of Medicine in Charlottesville, Virginia and completed an internal medicine internship and residency and a cardiology fellowship at Emory University Affiliated Hospitals. Dr. Wilmer is board certified in internal medicine and cardiovascular disease. He is a fellow of both the American College of Cardiology and the American College of Physicians. His specialties include cardiology and interventional cardiology.

It is my privilege to recommend Dr. Wilmer for the position of President-Elect of the Medical Association of Georgia.

Fonda Mitchell, MD, MBA