



MAG Fact Sheet

About MAG...

The Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) was founded in 1849. At the time, Georgia had a population of 900,000. The state boasted more miles of railroads than any other state in the Union. Milledgeville was the state capital. Savannah and Augusta were the two largest cities, and Atlanta was just a village called Terminus.

Today, MAG is the leading advocacy organization for physicians in Georgia – and it's the primary mechanism that doctors use to achieve a strategic vision for health care in a state that 9 million people now call home.

MAG's mission is 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."

MAG employs an integrated approach, including strategic programs in the third-party payer, government relations, legal advocacy, communications, education, and health policy/research arenas.

MAG has more than 6,000 members.

There are 54 active county medical societies in the state; MAG enjoys a close working relationship with those constituent groups, as well as specialty societies and other state medical associations and the American Medical Association.

The House of Delegates (HOD) is MAG's primary legislative and policy-making body. It consists of representatives from the county medical societies and specialty societies that meet minimum membership requirements, as well as representatives from the International Medical Graduate Section, the Medical Student Section, the Organized Medical Staff Section, the Resident Physician Section, and the Young Physicians Section.

There are some 30 MAG committees that address a wide range of issues. The MAG Board of Directors and Executive Committee decide association matters between HOD meetings.

MAG also elects an American Medical Association delegation to represent Georgia's physicians at the national level.

MAG's president is Jack M. Chapman Jr., M.D., an ophthalmologist from Gainesville.

MAG's executive director is David Cook.

MAG dues for newly-licensed physicians in Georgia are free for the first year. Dues for other first and second-year members are \$275 per year, which increases to \$500 per year in the third and subsequent years. MAG also offers membership discounts of up to 20 percent to physician groups of 20 or more. MAG membership applications are available at www.mag.org/membershiop/join.

BUILDING A BETTER STATE OF HEALTH SINCE 1849

Medical Association of Georgia • 1849 The Exchange Atlanta, GA 30339 • 678.303.9290 • 800.282.0224 • www.mag.org

The value of MAG membership...

MAG offers a variety of exclusive member services, including...

- Legislative and legal advocacy on behalf of physicians and their patients
- Ongoing education
- Assistance in recovering unpaid third-party claims
- A comprehensive, up-to-date model medical staff bylaws template that helps physicians protect their interests in hospital settings
- A communications program that includes e-mail alerts, a comprehensive media summary that highlights medical developments on a daily basis, the monthly *News from MAG* newsletter, the quarterly *Journal of the Medical Association of Georgia*, and the much-acclaimed www.mag.org Web site

MAG has been a leader in introducing and preserving tort reform measures that capped non-economic damages for physicians in the state — enhancing access to care. And it has led the charge in addressing 1.7 million uninsured Georgians, in reforming the Certificate of Need (CON) program and the Care Management Organization (CMO) system in the state, in enhancing Georgia's trauma network, in ensuring that physicians are paid in a fair and timely way, and in opposing Medicare payment rate cuts for physicians.

Georgia Medical Political Action Committee (GAMPAC)...

GAMPAC is a non-partisan political action committee that was created by MAG to support pro-medicine candidates for state and federal office. It promotes a strong physician-patient relationship, and it protects the public from efforts to diminish quality patient care. GAMPAC membership is open to anybody — physicians and patients alike — who would like to enhance health care in Georgia. Go to www.mag.org/gampac to join GAMPAC.

MAG Affiliates...

- The **Physicians' Institute for Excellence in Medicine, Inc.** was created to improve patient safety and achieve clinical improvements for physicians in Georgia. The Institute's goals include providing information and tools that help physicians in private practice continuously improve outcomes and care processes; sponsoring research, education and evaluation initiatives, focusing on practical methods for improving the quality of medical care; collaborating on quality initiatives and to share information as appropriate with external bodies, including the business community; and, providing a forum for Georgia physicians to assume a role as a catalyst for medical practice improvement. For additional information, go to www.mag.org/institute.
- The **MAG Foundation** was established in 1967 as a mechanism for physicians to support philanthropic projects that advance scientific medicine and public health in Georgia. The Foundation promotes a healthier patient population in the state, and each contribution enhances the integrity of the medical profession and the sanctity of the physician-patient relationship. For additional information, go to www.mag.org/foundation.
- The **MAG Alliance** is a volunteer network of physician spouses who are dedicated to improving the health of all Georgians, especially children. It sponsors health education programs in concert with county medical societies — programs that currently reach more than 19,000 students in 42 schools in the state. The Alliance also raises awareness on issues like domestic violence, AIDS, fire and bicycle safety, and immunization. And, it conducts health forums for teens and the elderly. For additional information, go to www.mag.org/alliance.

BUILDING A BETTER STATE OF HEALTH SINCE 1849

Medical Association of Georgia • 1849 The Exchange Atlanta, GA 30339 • 678.303.9290 • 800.282.0224 • www.mag.org