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Trauma Commission approves '08 budget

The Georgia Trauma Commission recently approved a plan to divide nearly \$59 million in supplemental budget dollars among physicians, Emergency Medical Services and hospitals across the state for trauma care.

Physicians and hospitals will receive 25 percent and 75 percent of the trauma center totals, respectively for trauma readiness costs and uncompensated care.

Atlanta's Grady Hospital received \$12.7 million, followed by the University Medical Center in Savannah at \$5.6 million and the hospital of the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta at about \$5 million.

"This was certainly a step in the right direction," says Medical Association of Georgia President Jack M. Chapman Jr., M.D. "However, it's crucial that we secure an adequate and sustainable source of funding for the state's trauma network in the future."

Dr. Chapman also points out that, "Obviously, you also can't have a trauma system without physicians."

He explains that while the \$58.9 million provides the existing trauma system in Georgia with a much-needed shot in the arm, it doesn't enhance or expand the state's trauma system in any way.

In the short term, Dr. Chapman says that MAG will be focused on ensuring that the resources that are allocated for physicians are distributed in an efficient and equitable way.