

MAA President Letter

Cody McClatchey, M.D.

Piedmont Internal Medicine



It was great seeing 64 delegates (out of a total of 160 in attendance) from the Medical Association of Atlanta (MAA) at the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) annual House of Delegates (HOD) in Savannah in October. MAA represented 40% of all delegates in attendance. If MAA had filled its allotted 104 spots then it would have represented a majority of all delegates in attendance. Let's send a full delegation to HOD next October in Savannah! The MAA caucus meetings held every morning were a great opportunity to share our viewpoints on important health issues, leading to

passage of important resolutions related to easing the burden of prior authorizations and improving maternal health. I want to congratulate the election of former MAA presidents Dr. Deborah Martin to president-elect, and Dr. John Johnson to second-vice president of MAG. MAA member Dr. Theresa Rohr-Kirchgraber was elected to serve as First Vice President of MAG. Former MAA president Dr. Ali Rahimi was re-elected as MAG delegate to the American Medical Association (AMA), and MAA treasurer Dr. Shamie Das was re-elected and MAA Board members Dr. Jin Lee and Dr. Andrea Juliao were elected as alternate MAG delegates to AMA. MAA Board member Dr. Chris McAdams was elected chair and Dr. Jin Lee vice chair of MAG's Early Career Physician Section. If you are interested in serving in leadership in MAG next year, please let me know. Former MAA and MAG presidents Dr. Steve Walsh and Dr. John Harvey received the Joseph P. Bailey Jr., M.D. Physician Distinguished Service Award and the Jack A. Raines, M.D. Humanitarian Award. As one can see, MAA leaders continue to be influential in organized medicine at local, state, and federal levels.

Carrying on the theme of increasing effectiveness of physician advocacy, I would like to encourage all MAA members to attend the MAA Legislative Dinner on January 29th to meet and hear from state legislators on important health care legislation being debated in the 2025 Georgia General Assembly. Following that, plan to attend MAG Physicians' Day at the Capitol on February 5. If you cannot attend these events, there are additional

[READ MORE HERE](#)

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The Medical Association of Atlanta (MAA) is a non-profit association founded in 1854 dedicated to the advancement of organized medicine in the Atlanta, GA area. MAA membership is made up of the most actively-involved participants in organized medicine who have united their individual voices and efforts into one cohesive body of progress, representing the new face of organized medicine in areas of legislation, community service, and individual patient care.

As the largest component society of the Medical Association of Georgia, MAA is committed to its mission to develop leaders to ensure the health and safety of our citizens. We applaud the continued contributions of our members and welcome any Georgia physician seeking to grow as a leader to join us.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

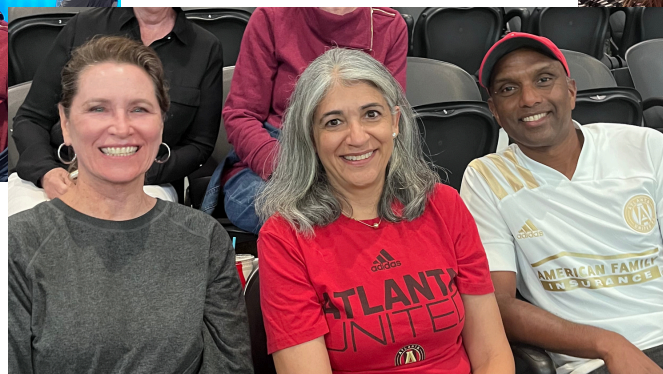
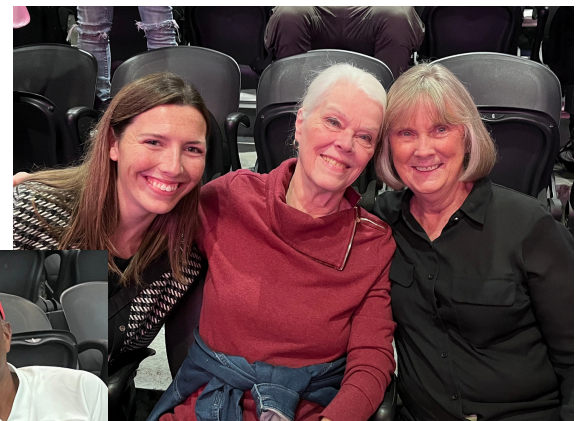
<i>Khushdeep Chahal</i>	<i>Angel Leon</i>	<i>Megan Cohen</i>	<i>Brent Walker</i>
<i>Karl Opara</i>	<i>Jonathan Masor</i>	<i>Mikaela Katz</i>	<i>Adam Davis</i>
<i>Felicia Williams</i>	<i>Anwar Osborne</i>	<i>Samer Melhem</i>	<i>Kheri Hicks</i>
<i>Jessica Arluck</i>	<i>Chad Ritenour</i>	<i>Gaurav Patel</i>	<i>Jasmin Gillespie</i>
<i>Scott Boden</i>	<i>Alexander Papangelou</i>	<i>Roman Sciecinski</i>	<i>Jasdeep Singh</i>
<i>Taili Cid</i>	<i>Kimberly Shumate</i>	<i>Dimple Shah</i>	<i>Ragini Gupta</i>
<i>Elizabeth Moore</i>	<i>Gautam Sreeram</i>	<i>Blaine Farmer</i>	<i>Ashley Rogers</i>
<i>Patricia Moore</i>	<i>Adam Webb</i>	<i>Tina Shah</i>	<i>Terry Chongulia</i>
<i>Ticaria Lipsey</i>	<i>Sarah Wise</i>	<i>David Nelson</i>	<i>Joseph Gaskins</i>
<i>Jesheena Watkins</i>	<i>Wendy Wright</i>	<i>Michelle Romej</i>	<i>Lara Hannay</i>
<i>Munir Yusuf</i>	<i>Rupeng Li</i>	<i>Jane Gilmore</i>	<i>Tsering Shola</i>
<i>Lauren Fox</i>	<i>Patrick Meloy</i>	<i>Markus Klass</i>	<i>Maya Randolph</i>
<i>Jamie Haber</i>	<i>Anna Woodbury</i>	<i>Jennifer Kawwass</i>	<i>Tu Bui</i>
<i>Joshua Rifkind</i>	<i>Amit Prabhkar</i>	<i>Audrey Marsidi</i>	<i>Jason Ijeoma</i>
<i>Christine Son</i>	<i>Katherine Nugent</i>	<i>David Schirmer</i>	<i>Jennifer Monaco</i>
<i>J. Williams Thomas</i>	<i>Diana Tiwari</i>	<i>Kristen Starbuck</i>	<i>Dorian Jimenez</i>
<i>Jose Eugenio C.</i>	<i>Nadim Choudhury</i>	<i>Mary Dolan</i>	<i>Margo Jimenez-Menke</i>
<i>Wendy Book</i>	<i>Joel Winer</i>	<i>Aliza Machefsky</i>	
<i>Anastasios Costarides</i>	<i>Melissa Kottke</i>	<i>Nadi Kaonga</i>	
<i>Leonard Heffner</i>	<i>Jade Stafford</i>	<i>Gapika Krishna</i>	
<i>Julie Hollberg</i>	<i>Heather Hipp</i>	<i>Steven Clark</i>	
<i>John Horton</i>	<i>Nisha Verma</i>	<i>Brad Wall</i>	
<i>Jeremy Jones</i>	<i>Jennifer Narvaez</i>	<i>Matthew Broggi</i>	

EVENTS

MAA Fall Social The MAA hosted our first Fall Social at Tucker Brewing. Great conversation, free food and beverages, and an excellent opportunity to meet fellow MAA members. Please join us for our Spring MAA Social at Bold Monk Brewing!



Atlanta United FC Game The MAA offered discounted tickets this Fall - if you want to see more ticket offerings, please contact Shannon Andrada with ideas!



WEBINARS

'The Silver Tsunami: Myths & Facts' - Elder Care



[Watch here.](#)

This webinar is geared toward educating both physicians, providers, and the community about elder care options. Doctors are getting so many questions as the “silver tsunami” – our aging population, specifically, baby boomers reaching the age of 65 – hits medical practices in Atlanta and Georgia. This webinar will aim to debunk myths and provide facts about all things elder care related – what to do when helping family members with diminished cognitive functional capacity, how to plan for end of life, advance directives and wills, the differences between elder care attorneys and estate planning, and so much more. We also hope to provide answers as to what primary care doctors can say to aging patients, and what resources they can point them toward. Featuring Dr. Anna Skold, Susan Ahearn, Caroline Bufalini, and Joanna Hurley.

Menopause: Part 1



[Watch here.](#)

This webinar is the first in a two-part series geared toward educating the community about menopause. What is it? What are the symptoms? What are the first steps you can take? What are the treatment options? We will cover all of these topics and provide answers to common questions. Featuring MAA Board Members Dr. Jayne Morgan and Dr. Sandra Reed.

GAMPAC

The Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) defines GAMPAC as **"MAG's non-partisan political action committee and elects pro-physician candidates at the state level.** Members of the General Assembly consider important legislation in Georgia every year, measures that address key issues like licensure, Medicaid pay, insurance reform (e.g., "narrow networks"), the accessibility of care, and tort reform. It is consequently imperative for physicians to develop genuine, trust-based relationships with legislators in the state. GAMPAC is an easy and effective way for physicians to support political candidates who want to enhance the practice environment in the state and protect the patient-physician relationship."



Dr. Fonda Mitchell (pictured here with fellow MAA Board Member Dr. Jayne Morgan) has been a member of GAMPAC for over 10 years. **About the motivation to join GAMPAC, Dr. Mitchell noted, "As a practicing physician, I wanted to make sure our story is told and the practice of healthcare is top of mind in meetings with legislators and statewide leaders. GAMPAC opens the doors to allow for these important conversations. Participating in GAMPAC is a bipartisan way to educate legislators and constitutional leaders in our state about the practice of Medicine. The primary goal of the PAC is to promote and protect the patient-clinician relationship...always on the winning side."**

Dr. Mitchell's time as a GAMPAC member has held many highlights: "One of the many benefits of joining GAMPAC is the opportunity to advocate alongside other physicians for the house of medicine and the populations we serve. Events such as Physicians' Day at the Capitol and MAG's Legislative Seminar bring together thought leaders from around the state of Georgia to engage in meaningful dialogue with key stakeholders."

MAA CEO David Waldrep noted, **"Professional membership organizations like MAG and the MAA cannot make campaign donations to candidates that support our efforts to advocate for a healthy environment for physicians to practice and serve. By contributing to GAMPAC we can pool our resources and have a larger impact helping legislators who are friends of medicine. The MAA does not operate a separate political action committee that would compete for donations against GAMPAC. We have found success in working closely together for a common goal."**

Every year we are faced with making our position known at the Georgia Capitol. Other business groups outspend physicians, but physicians have a position of trust in the community that can help us educate legislators on the issues during the session. MAA leaders do a great job of supporting GAMPAC and I want to thank them for their contributions and encourage other members to consider joining GAMPAC at some level. Currently two big issues we face are improving the liability environment that physicians face and protecting the practice of medicine for our patients. The current Tort climate in Georgia jeopardizes attracting and keeping our physician workforce strong. Scope of practice issues can reduce the standard of care patients receive."



JOIN GAMPAC HERE ➔

AWARDS, HONORS, PUBLICATIONS

Medical Association of Georgia House of Delegates Awards



Steve Walsh, M.D.

Dr. Steve Walsh received the Joseph P. Bailey Jr., M.D., Physician Distinguished Service Award, which is presented to a physician for distinguished and meritorious service that reflects credit and honor on MAG.



John Harvey, M.D., FACS

Dr. John Harvey received the Jack A. Raines, M.D., Humanitarian Award, which is given to a physician who makes an outstanding humanitarian contribution to his or her fellow man, community, country, or world community beyond the normal practice of medicine.

Medical Association of Georgia Election Results

(Left to Right)

President-Elect: Deborah Martin, M.D.

First Vice President: Theresa Rohr-Kirchgraber, M.D.

Second Vice President: John A. Johnson, M.D.



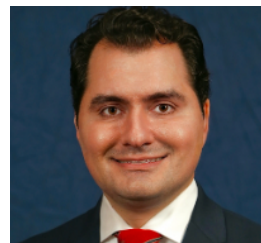
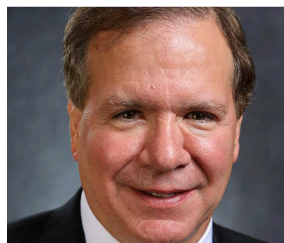
(Left to Right)

American Medical Association (AMA) Delegate: John

Antalis, M.D.

AMA Delegate: Ali Rahimi, M.D.

AMA Alternate Delegate: Shamie Das, M.D.



(Left to Right)

AMA Alternate Delegate: Andrea Juliao, M.D.

AMA Alternate Delegate: Jin Lee, M.D.



(Left to Right)

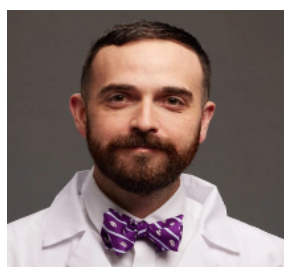
Young Physician Section (YPS) Chair: Chris McAdams, M.D.

YPS Vice Chair: Jin Lee, M.D. (pictured above)

Resident Fellow Section (RFS) Chair: Yea Kim, D.O.

International Medical Graduate Section (IMG) Chair:

Lalitha Medepalli, M.D.



AWARDS, HONORS, PUBLICATIONS



Dr. John A. Johnson

Dr. John A. Johnson won the Leadership in Health Equity Award from Fierce Healthcare for his work as Chief Medical Officer at G.E.H.A.



Dr. Jayne Morgan


Dr. Jayne Morgan is the host of the new show 'HealthyHer', talking with inspiring women who are leading the charge for a cleaner, more sustainable world. These environmental advocates share their journeys, discuss the challenges they've overcome, and reveal the innovative steps they're taking to drive positive change in their communities.



Dr. Theresa Rohr-Kirchgraber

Dr. Theresa Rohr-Kirchgraber was reappointed to the AMA Political Action Committee (AMPAC) Board of Directors. AMPAC's investment in the 2024 election cycle was nearly \$2.4 million with strategic contributions totaling \$1,476,650 in support of 254 medicine-friendly candidates in the US House and Senate and key leadership PACs.

EVENTS



THE IMPACT OF HOUSING & TRANSPORTATION POLICY ON ATLANTA HEALTH OUTCOMES

February 27, 2025
6:00 - 7:30 pm
Emory Midtown Hospital Auditorium: 550 Peachtree St NE, Atlanta, GA 30308

Many cities have set in motion housing and transportation policies that can improve health outcomes for all their residents. According to the existing evidence, all socioeconomic groups, not just those with lower socioeconomic status, can benefit from these new policies. This forum will describe several evidence-based urban policies that can improve the health and well-being for all Atlantans.

Carissa Beatty, MPH
Emory University


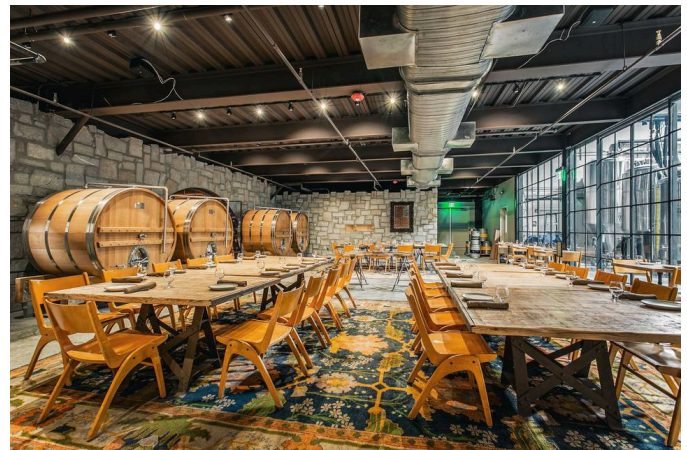
Jason Dozier
Atlanta City Councilman

Florence LeCraw, MD
Northside Hospital

Fei Li, PhD
Georgia State University

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

[REGISTER](#)

MAA Spring Social

March 26, 2025

Bold Monk Brewing

6:30pm

Registration coming soon!

EVENTS



LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION



January 29th, 2025
6:30 PM Reception
7:30 PM Dinner and Meeting
Maggiano's Buckhead
\$20/Members



MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA

REGISTER TODAY

PHYSICIANS' DAY AT THE CAPITOL

WHEN: FEBRUARY 5, 2025
WHERE: TWIN TOWERS SLOPPY FLOYD BUILDING | EMPIRE ROOM
TIME: 7:30 AM-12:00 PM



REGISTER TODAY
WWW.MAG.ORG

Join MAG and the Specialty Societies for the annual Physicians' Day at the Capitol!
breakfast will be provided

What to expect:

- Meet with members of the General Assembly.
- Discuss important issues in healthcare.
- Fellowship with colleagues.
- Advocate for your patients and practice.

SUGGESTED PARKING DECK: PETE HACKNEY
SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION:



WWW.MAG.ORG

For more information, please contact
Devin Krecl
devin@capitolstrategy.us

MAA SPONSOR CONTENT

Northside Adds New CAR T-cell Therapy for Leukemia

MAA Sponsor Submission - Northside Hospital

**NORTHSIDE
HOSPITAL**

Northside Hospital is a Platinum Sponsor

Northside Hospital Cancer Institute is now a certified treatment center for a new chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy for leukemia. AUCATZYL® (obecabtagene autoleucel or obe-cel), from Autolus Therapeutics, was approved by the Food and Drug Administration on Nov. 8 for adults with relapsed or refractory B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia (r/r B-ALL).

[Click to read more.](#)

Negotiating Medical Office Leases: Key Terms Every Physician Should Know

MAA Sponsor Submission - RGRE



RGRE is a Silver Sponsor

Did you know that the terms of your medical office lease could make or break your practice's success? Whether you're launching a new practice or renewing an existing lease, understanding the unique aspects of medical office agreements is vital. These contracts involve more than square footage and rent; they directly impact your practice's efficiency, patient care, and financial stability.

[Click to learn more.](#)

YOUR CONTENT HERE!
Sponsor the MAA in 2025.



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BENTLEY ATLANTA

GEHA.

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Permanente Medical Group

Pfizer

SOUTHEAST
PRIMARY CARE
PARTNERS

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TDCGROUP

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HEALTH SYSTEM

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We extend a sincere thank you to our MAA Sponsors!
Your sponsorships have been a benefit to our association.
Our appreciation is immeasurable for your contributions to our mission.

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LAW FIRM

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