

## MAA President Letter

**John A. Johnson, MD, MBA, FACP**

Chief Medical Officer – Government Employees Health Association, Inc. (GEHA)



MAA members have been working hard during this busy legislative season at the Georgia State Capitol. Several of our physicians have also served as Doctor of the Day, and we had excellent attendance at this year's Physicians' Day at the Capitol. On January 25th, the MAA General Member meeting and Legislative Seminar allowed members to hear from excellent speakers including Senator Kay Kirkpatrick, Representative Sharon Cooper, MAG's General Counsel

Brent Walker, and Cornerstone's Jet Toney. We encourage you to continue making advocacy a priority – our collective voices will make a difference.

I would like to extend a special thanks to the medical students and residents who showed up to the support Physicians' Day at the Capitol. Please make sure to apply for our MAA Student Leadership Program and submit your essays to the Atlanta Medical History Society Essay contest – there are three \$500 prizes available!

Other important updates – MAA recently incorporated the Dekalb Medical Society into our organization. We encourage all MAA members to welcome our Dekalb County colleagues that may be considering whether to join our association. MAA is composed of the most actively involved physicians in organized medicine within the metro Atlanta area, representing a diverse group that focuses on developing leadership and meeting the needs of physician leaders. We remain committed to embracing others and welcoming new perspectives.

We have exciting programs and content development underway for our membership to include webinars covering gene therapy, discussions on how to address the high maternal mortality rates in Georgia, and much more. In addition, we have grown the number of MAA sponsorship partners and continue to make available their thought leadership content. We encourage you to continue to submit your ideas for webinars and articles.

**[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.*



## BENEFITS

Why join MAA? Learn more about our member benefits through the links below.

[Advocacy](#)

[Authorship](#)

[Community Service](#)

[Education](#)

[Impact](#)

[Media Opportunities](#)

[Member Discounts](#)

[Networking & Leadership](#)

[Physician Wellness Program](#)

[Referral Network & Job Board](#)

# EVENTS

## MAA Legislative Reception

The MAA hosted a legislative reception with speakers including Senator Kay Kirkpatrick, Representative Sharon Cooper, the Medical Association of Georgia's Brent Walker, and Cornerstone's Jet Toney.



## Heritage Fund of Atlanta Medical Association Annual Scholarship & Awards Gala

MAA members attended the March 22 event to support scholarships to Morehouse School of Medicine medical students.



## MAA Board Meeting

The MAA Board met at Maggianos on February 29th to discuss progress on initiatives.

### Physicians' Day at the Capitol

MAA members, members of the Medical Association of Georgia and other specialty societies participated at the annual Physicians' Day at the Capitol.



### Doctor of the Day

MAA President Dr. John Johnson and MAA Board Member Dr. Jonathan Gibson pictured serving as the Medical Association of Georgia 'Doctor of the Day'.



## NEWS

### Dekalb County Medical Society

As you may know, the MAA recently incorporated the Dekalb County Medical Society into the MAA. With Dekalb Medical Society memberships no longer active, we need MAA member assistance to help recruit former Dekalb members in hopes that they opt to participate as members of MAA going forward.

MAA membership includes many benefits: advocacy and community service opportunities and an opportunity to serve as a delegate at The Medical Association of Georgia House of Delegates meeting, networking and leadership opportunities, four free counseling sessions per year through our LifeBridge Physician Wellness Program, media, publication and educational opportunities, a large physician referral network, a career center to help you grow your practice or make connections, and member discounts and subscriptions to news sources including the official MAA journal, ATLANTA Medicine. MAA member physicians have formed great relationships with a large network of other physician leaders in the state, all working together to help make change for both patients and the profession.

You can check out our website or social media channels for more MAA content to pass along. We encourage you to help find new active members for MAA so that our association may benefit from a wealth of diverse insight and perspective!

## AWARDS



**Dr. Albert Johary**

Dr. Albert Johary was awarded the Georgia Chapter of the American College of Physicians Community Based Teaching Award for the state of Georgia. He also received a second Clinical Faculty Teaching Award from Augusta University/ Medical College of Georgia .



**Dr. Jayne Morgan**

Dr. Jayne Morgan was named in Atlanta Magazine's annual list of Atlanta's 500 Most Powerful Leaders in 2024.

## PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

### Atlanta Hypertension Initiative

The Medical Association of Atlanta (MAA), with its mission "To champion our community's well-being and safety while advocating a healthy environment in which physicians practice and serve" is a great partner to the Atlanta Hypertension Initiative (AHI). It is not news to MAA members that uncontrolled hypertension takes its toll on our Atlanta community. It is estimated that every 40 seconds an adult in Atlanta dies from cardiovascular disease. These are our family members, colleagues, and neighbors, all gone because of a disease that is largely preventable. This

was emphasized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Director for Program and Science, Dr. Debra Houry, who stated that "the toll on human life and the economic impacts of cardiovascular disease make prevention vital. This requires preventing and controlling the key risk factors that drive cardiovascular disease, including the most powerful one: hypertension." It is well known that hypertension is a primary risk factor for heart disease and stroke, affecting nearly half of adults in the United States (119.9 million), and among those 120M people, only 1 in 4 has their hypertension under control. (27.0 million). Many Black individuals experience high blood pressure at younger ages than their White counterparts, exposing them to harm over longer periods of time and largely accounting for their higher risks of stroke, kidney disease and heart failure.



**Dr. Mike Rakotz, Interim Group Vice President, Health Outcomes, American Medical Association, addressing health care organizations during the quality improvement working session.**



**Dr. Deb Houry, Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Director for Program and Science at the CDC, giving the opening keynote address.**

There is much that can be done to prevent hypertension and keep it under control, preventing individuals from suffering from the numerous consequences of uncontrolled hypertension. Focus and concerted efforts at the individual, community and health care system levels can change the outcomes for millions in Atlanta.

With that in mind, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), American Medical Association (AMA), along with Atlanta-area American Heart Association (AHA), and the Atlanta Regional Collaborative for Healthcare Improvement (ARCHI) have committed to focusing attention and resources on equitable hypertension control in metro Atlanta, through the creation of the Atlanta Hypertension Initiative (AHI).

**[READ MORE HERE](#)**

# STUDENT/RESIDENT OPPORTUNITIES

## 2024 Atlanta Medical History Society Medical Student Essay Contest

**Who:** Medical students in Georgia

**What:** Essays can cover medical history or social determinants of healthcare including providing healthcare to minority populations, access to healthcare, health promotion and disease prevention. Any student interested in participating will have the opportunity to request a physician mentor to assist with developing a subject and constructing the essay, which should be 1500 to 3000 words and can include photos and graphs.

**When/Where:** Essay submissions are requested by May 10, 2024 and can be sent directly via email to Shannon Andrada (sandrada@maa-assn.org).

**Why:** Three winning essays will receive a prize of \$500 each along with publication in the MAA journal, Atlanta Medicine. Selected students may be asked to present at the Willis Hurst Symposium or have their essay submitted to the American Osler Society for their student awards.

**[CLICK HERE FOR PAST WINNERS](#)**

## MAA Leadership Program

**Who:** Medical students and residents from Emory University School of Medicine, PCOM Georgia Osteopathic Medicine (DO) Program, and Morehouse School of Medicine are eligible to apply.

**What:** The MAA will award three opportunities to participate in a year-long program that offers medical students and residents leadership development and mentoring, networking events and an introduction to organized medicine.

**When/Where:** Students will apply with the submission of a completed application to Shannon Andrada (sandrada@maa-assn.org) by email by May 1, 2024

**Why:** - One-on-one mentoring - Group activities - Training and development - Awards and recognition - House of Delegates scholarship recipients

**[CLICK HERE FOR APPLICATION](#)**



**Residents at the Capitol**

**MAA CEO David Waldrep took residents from Northside Gwinnett and Wellstar Kennestone to the Georgia State Capitol for the Legislative Session.**

## MAA SPONSOR CONTENT

### Northside BMT Exceeds Survival Outcomes for 15 Years

MAA Sponsor Submission - Northside

**NORTHSIDE  
HOSPITAL**

Northside is a Platinum Sponsor

Northside Hospital, once again, has among the very best survival outcomes in the U.S. for bone marrow transplants. This is according to the Centers for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR) in its Final 2023 Transplant Center Survival Report, which tabulated patient survival following transplantation at 178 adult and pediatric transplant centers in the U.S.

**[Click to read more.](#)**

### Do You Know About the Security and Interoperability Trifecta?

MAA Sponsor Submission - ZeOmega

 **zeomega®**

ZeOmega is a Platinum Sponsor.

Trust and quality are key ingredients to great healthcare, especially in a digital era bursting with data security and interoperability challenges. In this ever-changing arena, how does a payer know who to trust? How do organizations posed with a major purchasing decision determine the quality of a solution prior to investing? ZeOmega has taken steps to meet these challenges. Watch this short video to learn why ZeOmega is the first and only healthcare enterprise management organization to have successfully passed all three comprehensive data security and interoperability testing programs known as the "Security and Interoperability Trifecta."

**[Click here to watch.](#)**

### Financial Wellness "Check-Up" and/or Second Opinion

MAA Sponsor Submission - Truist

**TRUIST** 

Truist is a Silver Sponsor.

It does not matter where you are on your Physician Wealth Journey... Whether starting your career or well on your way to retirement, a financial plan provides a roadmap to help you increase your chances of reaching financial goals. Your cash flow, use of credit, asset protection strategies, investments, business growth and transition, connected purpose, and estate and tax strategies are all related. Each needs to be considered when making financial decisions. As an MAA sponsor, Truist is offering a "no obligation" second opinion to physicians working with advisors and/or financial consultation to physicians getting started. Our aim is to help you move forward with financial clarity and confidence. **Please email Sarah Welch at [sarah.welch@truist.com](mailto:sarah.welch@truist.com) to schedule your Financial Wellness "Check-Up."**



**Sarah Welch**

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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.

*Umut Akova*  
*Francine Atterberry*  
*Giles Becker*  
*Robert Blakes*  
*Samantha K. Brown-Parks*  
*Nicola Chin*  
*Zenobia Day*  
*Ricardo Dunoodie*  
*Cindy U. Emenalo*  
*Alicia A. Hall*  
*Christopher He*

*Andrea P. Juliao*  
*Nadia Kamagate*  
*Sana Kamboj*  
*Thuy Le*  
*Latoya J. Lee*  
*Tamiah Lewis*  
*Anne M. Lindsay-Allen*  
*Janet Mao*  
*Naya Martin*  
*Kayla McDonald*  
*Adaugo Okpareke*  
*Rutvi A. Patel*

*Shamaza Rivers-Johnson*  
*Mierra Robinson*  
*Shaday Robitaille*  
*Donald C. Siegel*  
*Nidhi S. Thiruppathi*  
*Eyana Thomas*  
*Donna H. Thompson*  
*Shawna L. Watson*  
*Ashlie N. White*  
*Danielle Williams*  
*Bruna Zanolin*



Members \$75  
 Member Guests \$75  
 Student / Resident \$35  
 Student / Resident Guests \$35  
 Non Member \$200

**PURCHASE HERE**

# PLATINUM



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.

# GOLD



# SILVER



Check out our social channels:

