

## MAA President Letter

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

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



As 2024 begins, I would like to thank you for being a member of the Medical Association of Atlanta. As the largest county medical society in Georgia, our actions, and decisions on critical issues that affect the practice of medicine have made a difference. We are grateful for your support and appreciate your opinions. Over the past few years of membership growth, we are fortunate to have gained insightful perspectives from both a large and diverse group of physicians.

The MAA provides so many member benefits that I hope you take advantage of such as: advocacy, a career center, community service opportunities, mentorship, and support for your causes, a physician wellness program that offers four free counseling sessions per year, media and publication opportunities, discounts, networking events, and more. Our greatest member benefit is having the opportunity to join an inclusive organization where diversity of opinion is welcomed. The MAA is focused on physician leadership, and I have learned so much from my MAA colleagues and peers representing different specialties, backgrounds and belief systems that have helped inform my priorities as a leader. Having the ability to participate in great discussions alone, my MAA membership pays for itself.

As a leader, it is important to regularly check in to make sure that we are fulfilling the MAA mission: “To champion our community’s well-being and safety while advocating a healthy environment in which physicians practice and serve.” Specifically examining this year, we have worked together tirelessly to improve both the profession as well as patient care, and we continue to make great strides.

The 2023 MAG House of Delegates presented a valuable opportunity for MAA delegates to gather, network and learn more about critical issues affecting Georgia physicians and patient communities. We were successful in adopting policies that will help direct our efforts to improve the environment in which we practice and serve.

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

# IN THIS ISSUE

MAA President Letter - 1  
 Events - 2  
 News - 4  
 Save the Date - 5  
 Student Updates - 6  
 Benefit Highlight - 7  
 New Sponsors & Members - 8  
 Ads - 9

*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.*



## EVENTS

### MAA Holiday Soiree

MAA Platinum Sponsor Bentley Atlanta generously hosted the MAA on December 1st for a fun evening of networking, cocktails and celebration. Thank you for a great event!



[More event photos here](#)



# EVENTS

## First Annual Symposium to Address the Maternal Health Crisis in Georgia

MAA President John A. Johnson MD, MBA, FACP pictured with Emory University President Gregory L. Fennes and Medical Association of Georgia President and MAA Board Member Dr. Charles Wilmer at the First Annual Symposium to Address the Maternal Health Crisis in Georgia.



Dr. Johnson outlined maternal health as a key topic of focus for the MAA, particularly surrounding access to care: "We must collaborate with our legislators as clinical subject matter experts and health systems to address health disparities in Georgia not from a political or partisan perspective but from a social, moral, and ethical perspective. We must do what is in the best interest of Georgia citizens and our patients. The role of MAA and other organizations should primarily be to focus on matters that impact equitable access to patient care, protecting the rights of patients, scope of practice for physicians, and focusing on health outcomes for Georgians, all Georgians."

Learn more about the event and find resources [here](#).

## Board Meeting

The MAA Board of Directors met at Maggiano's Buckhead on November 9th to recap the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) House of Delegates meeting and to prepare for the legislative session.



## Virtual Event Request

**Why are you a member of MAA?**

**Why do you participate in organized medicine?**

Tell us! Please send a 30 second video sharing your reasons to Shannon Andrada to be included in our MAA promotional video to help us recruit new members!



# NEWS

## MAG House of Delegates Meeting

The MAA had a very productive and successful weekend at the Medical Association of Georgia House of Delegates meeting in Savannah in October.

**David Waldrep, MAA Executive Director and CEO, stated, "It was a weekend for learning, networking, progress and camaraderie. MAG did an excellent job hosting this event and our delegation showed up to help influence policy and to advocate for legislation. We are ready for the 2024 Legislative Session."**



Dr. Kiara Jamison and Dr. Kenny Johnson were elected to lead the Medical Association of Georgia Resident Fellow Section.



Dr. Shamie Das was elected MAG Young Physician Section (YPS) Chair and Dr. Chris McAdams was elected MAG YPS Vice Chair.



Dr. Charles Wilmer is 2023-2024 President of MAG and was also elected as American Medical Association (AMA) Delegate, Dr. Theresa Rohr-Kirchgraber was elected Second Vice President, Dr. Randy Rizer was elected Treasurer, and Dr. Fonda Mitchell was elected AMA Alternate Delegate.

[Full event recap from MAG here](#)

**REGISTER FOR PHYSICIANS DAY AT THE CAPITOL HERE**



## SAVE THE DATE

Continue the momentum from MAG HOD and join us at our January Reception and Dinner! Discuss current legislative issues and prepare for the session with MAA/MAG leaders. Topics of discussion include: Scope of Practice, Certificate of Need, Medicaid Expansion, Tort Reform and more. The meeting will include a brief MAA business update to discuss updates to MAA bylaws.



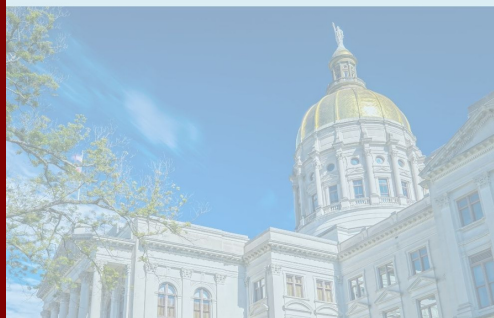
### 2024 Legislative Session Kickoff

JOIN US ON JANUARY 25TH FOR A LEGISLATIVE  
UPDATE AND PANEL DISCUSSION

Maggiano's Buckhead

Reception: 6:00 PM  
Dinner and Meeting: 7:00 PM

Registration Fee \$20



[REGISTER HERE](#)

[REGISTER HERE](#)



# House of Delegates: Medical Student Perspective



**Ibaad Khan**

**M.D. Candidate | Morehouse School of Medicine | Class of 2026**

## ***Why did you want to attend HOD?***

I have always had a strong interest in getting involved with health policy and advocacy. I want to leave a positive impact on the healthcare field by fighting for expanded access to care, especially among underserved populations. HOD seemed like the perfect opportunity to learn about healthcare from a legislative standpoint and connect with folks on the front lines of advancing issues important to Georgia's physicians.

## ***What was your favorite part of the weekend?***

While it would be hard to pick a favorite, I particularly enjoyed the programming geared toward medical students. Seeing other medical students' research posters and hearing about their interest in advocacy inspired me to become more involved with organized medicine. Additionally, I found the talk by Mr. Dan Cathy, in which he discussed how lessons he has learned from the business world can be translated into a healthcare setting, extremely insightful and informative.

## ***Are there any topics/discussion points within organized medicine that appeal to you further after the weekend?***

I am highly interested in learning more about topics like medical aid in dying, privacy protections regarding insurance company explanation of benefits (EOB), support for self-measured blood pressure, and other relevant topics that impact the health of Georgians. I am excited to learn about the current discussion surrounding these topics and tackle them by becoming more involved with organizations like MAG and MAA.

## ***Based on what you saw, how can fellow students make an impact at this point in their careers?***

Before I attended HOD, I thought it would be difficult for students to get involved with health policy. However, I have learned not only is it possible for students to make an impact -- it is also imperative that we get involved. From learning about current issues in health policy to starting local chapters of national organizations, students can have a significant impact on the future of medicine. Time and time again, I heard from folks at the HOD who want students to become more involved. By engaging with MAG and MAA, I hope to reignite a passion for advocacy amongst my fellow students.

## ***In your discussions with physicians, how should students approach seeking out mentors in their careers?***

The most important thing to do when seeking out mentors is not get discouraged. The first or second person you reach out to may not be able to help, but there are plenty of physicians who are able and extremely willing to help you on your path to your desired career. Reach out to people at your medical school and engage with national organizations to find potential mentors.

## Announcing the MAA Medical Student Leadership Program

The MAA Student Leadership Program aims to help medical students on their paths to become physicians. The MAA will award three opportunities to participate in a year-long program that offers medical students leadership development and mentoring, networking events and an introduction to organized medicine. Candidates from Emory University School of Medicine, PCOM Georgia Osteopathic Medicine (DO) Program, and Morehouse School of Medicine are eligible to apply.



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



# BENEFIT HIGHLIGHT

MAA offers opportunities to participate in community service initiatives, a space for members to promote and expand awareness to personal causes and service efforts, and provides connections to community based organizations doing important work in the Atlanta area.

## Community Based Organization Highlight: Empowerline

*From Empowerline's website:*

Empowerline is brought to you by the Aging and Independence Services Group of the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC). We are the designated area agency on aging for the metro Atlanta region, serving the City of Atlanta as well as Cherokee County, Clayton County, Cobb County, DeKalb County, Douglas County, Fayette County, Fulton County, Gwinnett County, Henry County, and Rockdale County. If you don't live in the Atlanta region, you can find an area agency on aging to help you in Georgia by visiting the Division of Aging Services or nationwide on [n4a.org](http://n4a.org). We are part of a nationwide effort to link people to the right services. Empowerline is part of Georgia's Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) network, a No Wrong Door access point for information requests and assistance. Together, we work to simplify complex program offerings, identify long-term services and support solutions, and reduce caregiver burden.



**Empowerline can provide copies of these cards for your practice in various languages - please contact Shannon Andrada with total number of copies and language per card.**



**Dr. Adrienne Mims**

*"I highly value the work of ARC and the other statewide area agencies on aging that support older people and their care partners. As clinicians, people often turn to us for the guidance and information to support keeping people safe at home or resources for placement. Many do not know about the availability of the outstanding no cost services that are available at the Empowerline."*

**Read 'Protecting My Brain' written by MAA member Dr. Adrienne Mims featured on the Empowerline website: [READ MORE HERE](#)**

## MAA Announces New Sponsor - Spire Healthcare

Spire Healthcare is a Gold Sponsor.

Spire Healthcare is an Atlanta-headquartered Travel Agency, specializing in nurses, techs, and imaging professionals. Spire was an INC 5000 company and was recently recognized as the #2 Fastest Growing agency in the workforce solutions industry as recognized by Staffing Industry Analysts.



Spire Healthcare recently helped to celebrate Allied Health Appreciation Week: Spire recruiters spent the week visiting many of their travelers at Wellstar, Northside, and Emory to deliver personalized gift bags, check in on how their assignments are going, and encourage them to keep up the good work.

[CLICK TO READ](#)

## 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.

*Kateena Addae-Konadu*

*Shoheb Ali*

*Ijeoma Anyanwu-Emamezi*

*Kseniya Azerf*

*Walter Beard Jr*

*Tesfaye Benyene*

*Marilyn Brown*

*Sheryl Canady*

*So Mang Chang*

*William Chun*

*Brian Cooke*

*Nellie Crawford*

*Gregory Crawley*

*Kasey Crockett*

*Joshua Cutler*

*Leonard D'Addesi*

*Nercie Danger*

*Jenna Daniel*

*Andrew Davis*

*Jerrica Davis*

*Margaux de Onaindia*

*Elena V. Dolmatova*

*Lauren Ellis*

*Oladepo Fazoranti*

*Alexandru Ghilezan*

*Scott Gillogly*

*Sunitha Girish*

*Jonathan Gunasti*

*Arjun Haridas*

*Roza Hassen*

*Hannah Hempel*

*Aasha Henderson*

*Keith Herr*

*Anne Elizabeth Heyse*

*Angela Holder*

*Ruma Houghton*

*Hala Idris*

*Julie Jackson-Murphy*

*Rabeesa Janjua*

*Smitha John*

*Robin Jones*

*Skylar Joseph*

*Mehulkumar Joshi*

*Amit Kachalia*

*Prema Kallepalli*

*Bryan Kamalaker*

*Sandra Kang*

*Peter Kaplan*

*Jihye Kim*

*Nhi Lee*

*Yue Ying Lee*

*John Lelli*

*Yubo Li*

*Gabriel Madu*

*Fahad Marmarchi*

*Bradley Mathers*

*Benjamin McCullar*

*Lalitha Medepalli*

*Sar Medoff*

*R. Dale Meyer*

*Ana Milisavljevic*

*Aiden Mintah-Jumbo*

*Suraj Modi*

*Sergio Naccarato*

*Akshay Nair*

*Angela Neunuebel*

*Jennifer Onyirimba*

*Steven Orr*

*Ojoru Osunkoya*

*Ishan Panchal*

*Reema Patel*

*Shree Patel*

*Elexis Price*

*Brad Prybis*

*Nathanial Ptak*

*Aisha Qaseem*

*Joseph Redcross II*

*Geetha Reddy*

*James Ren*

*Zinnia Rocha*

*Kishore Sathiraju*

*Tressa Scineaux*

*Sidra Shakil*

*Sang Ha Shin*

*Daryl Singleton*

*Nia Sipp*

*Anita Sircar*

*Tatyana Sklyarevskaya*

*Humaira Syed*

*Colleen Tope*

*Aly Toure*

*Paul Turry*

*Andrew Usoro*

*Shalini Vemuru*

*Eudorah Vital*

*Diem Anh Vo*

*Justin Waldman*

*Gabrielle Williams*

*Myreon Williams*

*Sonya Williams*





## THE DEFINITIVE LUXURY SUV

Combining exhilarating performance with exquisite craftsmanship, the Bentayga is an SUV without compromise.

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## 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:

