



# PROGRESS notes

www.gmgma.com  
Summer 2010

## From the President...

**T**he next few months....

The next few months promise to be eventful for GMGMA. Here's a quick summary of some of the main topics:

### August Board Meeting

The Board will conduct its annual Strategic Planning meeting in August. If we follow the customary agenda, we'll be taking a close look at some of the main topics facing GMGMA in the next year--and how we can help address some of those topics. The August meeting will be a bit different than the usual summer meeting in that we won't get heavily into planning the next Annual Meeting. The 2011 meeting will be a Tri-State meeting with North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia once again combining forces. The 2011 meeting will be in Hilton Head.

### Executive Coordinator Position

When the Board met last fall, we were faced with the sudden vacancy in our position of Executive Coordinator. We made a deliberate decision to work with an interim coordinator until after the Annual Meeting in April. I believe that decision was a good one. It kept us moving forward and did not require us to spend time and energy on posting the position and interviewing candidates while we were in the midst of readying ourselves for the Annual Meeting. None of us on the Board wanted to do both of those major tasks at the same time. Now that the Annual Meeting has been completed, we

have begun the process of hiring a Coordinator. Various notices have been sent out, and we are accepting applications.

The position of Executive Coordinator is a key one for GMGMA. The Board, after all, is comprised of volunteers.

While volunteers are expected to give time and energy to their positions, we need a coordinator to assist us in dealing with all the details that need to be accomplished in order to keep GMGMA on track. Hiring an Executive Coordinator is not a small undertaking, and the Board has developed a detailed plan of action to make the decision a reality. We hope to have a decision by August.



### Everything Else

All of us in medical practice administration are facing a myriad of issues on a wide range of topics--including (but, as the attorneys say, "not limited to") Red Flag Rules, SGR Reform, ICD-10, HIPAA 5010, and EHRs. The list is daunting.

I'm pleased to say that MGMA and GMGMA will be leading the way for you as we move forward. The GMGMA Board is committed to offering you the networking and educational resources you'll need to stay ahead of the curve.

*Cordially,*  
**Alan R. McMurray, Ed.D., FACMPE**  
*GMGMA President, 2009-2010*

## Greeting and Salutations to GMGMA Members!

**T**oday we enter a new era. GMGMA is working on converting our paper newsletter to a true electronic format. Please bear with us as we learn how to write using HTML coding, figure out subpages and the like.

GMGMA feels that our hard copy newsletter brought good information to our membership in the past and will continue that tradition moving forward. Our first newsletter will be concise. Thank you for your patience in this process.

**Rita Foster**  
**Newsletter Committee Chair**



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### **GMGMA helps practice management staff create greater value for physicians**

Founded in 1968 as a state chapter of the Medical Group Management Association (MGMA), the Georgia Medical Group Management Association (GMGMA) supports medical practice management staff with a variety of educational opportunities and resources that will enhance their business management performance and make them more effective grassroots advocates for physicians, according to GMGMA President Alan McMurray, Ed.D., FACMPE.

"MGMA has been a successful proponent for physicians at the national level," says McMurray. "And at the state level, GMGMA's vision is to be the leading voice for practice managers and administrators by providing them with a constant stream of financial and administrative resources, and by promoting the physician/administrator team concept."

To that end, McMurray explains that GMGMA sponsors two meetings per year. The 2010 annual conference was held in April at Stone Mountain, he says. The 2010 governmental forum that will feature a meeting with state legislators and insurance company representatives, meanwhile, will take place in the fall at Stone Mountain Evergreen Conference Center.

In addition to the obvious benefits for its practice manager/administrator members, McMurray points out that GMGMA also creates value for the practicing physician.

"Your GMGMA managers and administrators are well-informed," McMurray notes. "And they're plugged into an extensive network that shares best practices in important practice management areas, like human resources management."

Building on that point, McMurray

says that, "Any practice that wants to secure the best employees and avoid the high cost associated with a high staff turnover rate will be interested in the ideas that are generated on our 'Members Only' list serve." McMurray adds that GMGMA also publishes an annual salary survey that is broken down by region. He says it is free to participating members, and it's available to other members for a nominal charge. The 2010 survey is now available for sale. Please visit the GMGMA website at [www.gmgma.com](http://www.gmgma.com) for more details. McMurray explains that finance and reimbursement are also "huge areas of concern" for medical practices, adding that GMGMA addresses these kinds of issues at the aforementioned meetings. What's more, he says GMGMA's Governmental Relations and Third Party Payer committees are also focused on these key issue areas. "GMGMA's Governmental Relations Committee disseminates information to our practice manager members and physicians that address the legislation that affect medicine in Georgia," McMurray says. "The Third Party Payer Committee, meanwhile, has taken an active role in enhancing the payment methodology through its discussions with the Office of the Insurance Commissioner and insurance company representatives."

McMurray concludes, "The GMGMA Board encourages physicians in Georgia to have their manager/administrator join GMGMA. By doing so, they will have access to the tools they need to contribute to the financial and administrative health of their practice, and they'll have the information they need to become effective legislative grassroots advocates for patients and physicians."

Go to [www.gmgma.com](http://www.gmgma.com) for more information.

Rita Foster  
Newsletter Committee Chair

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