



MAG chairman's report 2010

Feedback on what transpired, within MAG over the last 2 years

The soccer World cup 2010, has come and gone. What a wonderful spectacle it was! Spain played wonderful and walked away as deserved winners of the coveted trophy!

South Africa presented the world with a world class event and it made one feel proud to be a South African!!

However, life goes on even after the World cup, and especially in the world of health care delivery, much is happening in SA!

We have a new minister of health at the helm and progress under his leadership is evident.

The National Health Insurance implementation remains on the ANC's agenda, however, the planned 5 year implementation date was not practical, and the eventual implementation date has not been made public. Much needs to happen for the NHI to be implemented successfully in SA, and as things stand now, the public sector hospitals upgrading and management would be paramount before the NHI can be implemented successfully.

From MAG's point of view, I can provide the following update on what MAG's exco has been up to over the last two years.

MAG projects:

During the last AGM (2008), MAG's exco was given the mandate by the MAG members, to search for projects where we can provide financial assistance to projects in the health sector. The process involved a proper research into potential projects where MAG might get involved in. It was a prerequisite that the money be spent in the health care sector.

To this end, I can provide the following feedback into the projects that MAG has embarked upon:

- **Colleges of Medicine South Africa** – MAG, is assisting the CMSA specialist training program financially. We have agreed to donate R50 000 per year for a total of 3 years (i.e. R150 000 in total) to the CMSA in training specialists. MAG's contribution is huge in the sense that, Discovery pledged to match any business, rand for rand towards any donation to the CMSA specialist training program, thus the CMSA will have received R300 000 over a three year period to train specialists from MAG and Discovery. I have received written confirmation from the president of the CMSA, thanking MAG for their valued contribution.

- **Research projects at the Wits Business School (GIBS)** - Research funds will be available to MBA students whose research has the potential to contribute to our understanding of, inter alia:
 - Health policy
 - Health funding
 - Economic impacts of health interventions
 MAG will contribute R15 000 per successful application towards the student's tuition fees. Maximum 2 bursaries will be approved.
- **Research projects at the University of Stellenbosch business school** – exactly the same invitation was provided to the USB, where 2 students will receive bursaries from MAG to the value of R15 000 each to complete their MBA degree in the mentioned categories above.
- **USB Health technology assessment course** - MAG will contribute R2 000 per MAG member that enrol and successfully complete the HTA course presented by the USB. The details of the course are posted on the MAG website.
- **HIV clinician's society updated blood transfusion guidelines** – MAG's exco approved the decision that MAG will financially assist the HIV clinician's society in distributing the updated blood transfusion guidelines of HIV+ patients to service providers. I have been in contact with the HIV clinician's society representatives and I am just waiting for their feedback into a way forward before we can make the money available
- **MAG/ Council of Medical schemes** – the CMS has invited various role players in the funding industry to participate in a Managed healthcare forum. MAG is interested to actively participate in this forum. There will only be limited positions available on this forum, but MAG will be represented at that forum. The CMS has circulated the terms of reference in relation to the objectives and function of the planned forum. The forum chairperson has not yet confirmed a date for the forum's first meeting.

MAG website:

I am glad to report that the MAG website is up and running with various functionalities being built into the website.

Electronic registration and updating of member's details can be done via a unique password and login details. *It remains the MAG member's responsibility to ensure that his/her contact details are updated on the website.* I would like to urge members to visit the website, in order to see if their contact details are still updated. The risk of communication not reaching the MAG member if we do not have your correct email address is huge, please assist us to keep the MAG membership as updated as possible.

We are also looking at adding various important industry links on the website where, by clicking on a link, will take the browser to the relevant website such as for example the South African Medical devices' website.

If any MAG member has suggestions how we can enhance the functionality even further, please contact me with your suggestions and I will take it up with the webmaster and responsible exco member.

MAG's webmaster, Ms Belinda Frylinck, will attend the MAG AGM to demonstrate to the membership the functionalities being built into our MAG website.

MAG monthly meetings:

The monthly meetings, both in Gauteng and the Western cape, have been well attended during the last 2 years.

I need to thank the exco members responsible for arranging these monthly meetings Drs Heather Rens and Chantal Hadfield in Gauteng. A special word of thanks to Dr Levy, who, although not a MAG exco member any more, actively played a huge role in arranging the monthly meetings in the Western cape.

It is also important to formally thank our sponsors at the various monthly meetings for their financial assistance, as without their support, we will not be able to have these valuable get togethers where relevant topics can be discussed.

Building a closer relationship with the treating profession:

This has remained a challenge, as many of the planned meetings between MAG representatives and the DG at SAMA have not realised, and have been cancelled at the last minute. However, we will continue to search for ways and avenues to build a stronger relationship between the funding and treating profession.

MAG membership

As in the past, updating our MAG membership details remain a big challenge. At present we have 82 members' details on our data base. The electronic updating of the members' details on the website will go a long way in ensuring we have the most updated membership details.

We will continually strive to keep the member demographics as updated as possible.

The contact details of the MAG's exco chairperson will be placed on the website, in order to assist the treating providers if and when they can not get a hold of a particular medical advisor.

Financial report:

Please refer to the audited financial report as provided by MAG's treasurer, however, I need to add that MAG's financial position is healthy and the finances are being properly managed.

A big thank you to MAG's exco for their services during 2008 to 2010

I would like to thank the current exco members namely Manie de Klerk, Johan Snyman, Maurice Goodman, Stefan Roux, Leonard Peterson, Chantal Hadfield, Heather Rens, Philemon Masopha and Eric Hefer for the services they rendered so diligently over the past 2 years. We are all very busy, and to make time for MAG's activities during one's busy schedule is not always easy. However, I need to thank the exco for all they have done to serve our members over the last two years.

A special word of thanks to the members of MAG's exco who were involved in arranging the MAG conference over the last two years, and they are Manie de Klerk, Leonard Peterson, Johan Snyman and Philemon Masopha.

What does the next two years hold for MAG?

Unfortunately we have not been successful in our attempts to holistically move the advising profession much closer to the treating profession. On an individual scale we

have made progress, however, we need a more comprehensive approach where larger role players such as the CMS can leverage the knowledge base within MAG in trying to standardise treatment protocols including the CDL list of the PMBs.

We will continually monitor the developments around the NHI implementation and align ourselves accordingly.

From a personal point of view – I would like to thank the members of MAG for the opportunity they gave me to serve as Chairperson of MAG's exco, it certainly is an honour for me.

Kind regards
Jaco Makkink