



August 5, 2005

The Honorable Michael Leavitt  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Hubert Humphrey Building  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the American Medical Group Association (AMGA), I would like to submit a letter of support for the nomination of Ronald A. Paulus, M.D., M.B.A., for membership on the American Health Information Community (AHIC). Dr. Paulus is a proven executive and clinical leader in the health care field with 15 years experience in senior management in multi-site public company operations. Additionally, Dr. Paulus co-founded and built a successful HIT company and has vast experience in information technology (IT) design and IT strategic application. AMGA is very pleased to support Dr. Paulus's nomination to AHIC and believe his HIT background will provide invaluable assistance to you and AHIC as it begins its critical task of developing standards and achieving interoperability.

AMGA is an association that represents medical groups, including some of the nation's largest, most prestigious integrated health care delivery systems. AMGA members' 65,000 physicians deliver health care to more than 50 million patients in 40 states, including 15 million capitated lives. As integrated systems of care, AMGA members are already implementing sophisticated information technologies, providing evidence-based, coordinated care to patients with chronic conditions, and attaining improved clinical outcomes. AMGA members are involved with virtually every facet of the health care delivery system and employ many nationally recognized leaders in the healthcare field.

Dr. Paulus is currently the Chief Healthcare Information Technology Venture Officer at the Geisinger Health System (Geisinger), a 600 physician multi-specialty group practice in Pennsylvania. Dr. Paulus is responsible for developing new models of care to support cross-continuum care management and automation and implementing pay for performance models. In addition, Dr. Paulus is responsible for commercializing HIT and expanding penetration of HIT to the broader commercial market. As such, Dr. Paulus is very cognizant of the challenges facing AHIC as it determines mechanisms for encouraging HIT adoption nation-wide.

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Prior to coming to Geisinger, Dr. Paulus served as the Chief Healthcare officer to Quovadx, Inc., a company which supplies tools and services to enable the integration and extension of existing information services. This experience directly translates to the interoperability challenges that will face AHIC. Before coming to Quovadx, Dr. Paulus served as the Chief Operating Officer and Chief Executive Officer of CareScience, Inc., a leading provider of care management solutions that supports the access, analysis and application of clinical data to high quality care delivery. Again, Dr. Paulus' experience is directly related to the challenges facing AHIC. Dr. Paulus also served as the Vice-President for Salick Health Care Inc., a nation-wide provider of ambulatory oncology and dialysis related services.

Dr. Paulus is an internist and graduated with Recommendation Outstanding from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and received his MBA with Distinction in health care management from the Wharton School.

Additionally, Dr. Paulus serves on the Interoperability Workgroup, the Certification Commission for Health Information Technology, and is a past member of the eHealth Initiative Leadership Council, and the Data Standards workgroup with the National Quality Forum Institute of Medicine Summit on Information Technology.

Because of Dr. Paulus's vast experience with HIT issues, including the challenges facing interoperability of multiple systems, as well as applying HIT to clinical care process improvement and pay for performance systems, AMGA is very pleased to support the nomination of Dr. Paulus to be a member of AHIC.

Thank you very much for your consideration. If you or anyone on your staff has any questions regarding AMGA's letter of support for Dr. Paulus, please feel free to contact me or Chet Speed at (703) 838-0033 ex. 364 or by email at [cspeed@amga.org](mailto:cspeed@amga.org).

Sincerely,



Donald W. Fisher, Ph.D  
President and CEO