MEMO TO: All Who Desire a Superb Trauma System in Georgia

FROM: Dennis W. Ashley, MD, FACS, FCCM

J. Patrick O’Neal, MD

DATE: June 19, 2012

REGARDING: Renewal of Collaboration and Cooperation

On June 14, 2012, we met to discuss opportunities for improving alignment of activities with the Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission, the Office of EMS/Trauma, and the section for Healthcare Emergency Preparedness in Georgia. As leaders of the Trauma Commission and the Division of Health Protection, we are committed to improving communication and improving the working relationships between our respective areas. We recognize that, for a variety of reasons, past disagreements have escalated to create unfortunate roadblocks that we are intent on overcoming. To successfully overcome those roadblocks we will focus on a shared vision. We both have a vision of a healthy, safe, and prepared Georgia. To achieve that vision, our goal is to work collaboratively in enhancing Georgia’s healthcare community by building an integrated, effective, and cost-efficient trauma system that will serve as a cornerstone for the preparedness infrastructure in our state.

We recognize that collaboration never requires unanimity on all issues—and in fact, we believe that some disagreements and debates can be healthy and productive. Our pledge to each other has been that when we disagree, we will do so with true respect for each other and that any divergence of opinions will not deter our focus on our shared vision for a healthy, safe, and prepared Georgia. Our request to all individuals who share our vision is also to share in our pledge. By sharing in our pledge, you will become part of the force-multiplier which will permit that shared vision to become a reality.

Over the next few weeks we will be seeking your input in identifying concrete measures for developing and implementing this critical collaboration.