

March 7, 2016

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
Government Accountability Office
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Comptroller General Dodaro,

The undersigned organizations are writing to urge you to appoint a surgeon to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) this year. Currently, there are no surgeons serving on this important Commission and we are concerned that MedPAC and Congress are missing a unique perspective during the development of policies that impact access to quality care. In addition, surgeons, like all physicians, are directly affected by MedPAC recommendations but they have no voice on the panel.

MedPAC's biannual reports and other meaningful commentary would benefit from the clinical, academic, and health policy knowledge of a surgeon. We also firmly believe surgeons hold the key to improving health care delivery and payment reform. For these reasons, we urge you to select a surgeon whose clinical expertise and comprehensive understanding of the health care system makes them an ideal candidate for MedPAC.

An appointment of a candidate from the surgical community would expand MedPAC's diversity of thought, widen its institutional knowledge, and ensure recommendations from such a highly respected independent congressional agency are inclusive of another critical viewpoint in health care. With five upcoming vacancies, it is an ideal time to add this important perspective to the Commission.

Thank you for considering our recommendation.

Respectfully,

American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American College of Surgeons
American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics
American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery
American Society of Breast Surgeons
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Urogynecologic Society

American Urological Association
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Society for Vascular Surgery
Society of Gynecologic Oncology
The American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons