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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chip Baggett, JD, Named NCMS Executive Vice President/CEO

RALEIGH -- The North Carolina Medical Society's (NCMS) Board of Directors has named **Chip Baggett, JD**, the organization's new Executive Vice President/CEO effective Sept. 1, 2020. Baggett succeeds **Robert W. Seligson, MBA, MA**, who announced in January he would be phasing out his role at the NCMS after 26 years at the helm.

A search committee, named by the NCMS' Board, carried out a nationwide search over the past eight months using the executive search firm of Tuft & Associates to find the best candidate to carry forward the organization's work to empower the physician and PA members of the 171-year-old professional society.

"After an exhaustive national search we determined that Chip is the very best person for this position," said NCMS Past President **John Mangum, MD**, who chaired the search committee. "After much careful consideration of many qualified applicants, we selected Chip, not because he was the internal candidate, but because he was the candidate who unequivocally rose to the top."

A diverse group of more than 40 individuals applied for the job, and the committee, meeting remotely via Zoom, held interviews and lengthy calls to eventually narrow the field to two finalists by mid-August.

Baggett has worked at the NCMS since 2007, most recently as Senior Vice President for Advocacy and Associate General Counsel. Throughout his tenure at the Medical Society he has effectively advocated on behalf of the medical profession at the NC General Assembly, and is routinely lauded as one of the state's top lobbyists. In his most recent role, he also oversaw the NCMS and NCMS Foundation's fundraising and communications functions.

Prior to coming to the NCMS, Baggett worked in many facets of health care including as executive director of the Buncombe County Medical Society in Asheville (now the Western Carolina Medical Society) and in pharmaceutical sales. Trained at the Indiana School of Fundraising, he has fundraising experience in a variety of paid and volunteer capacities, and has led successful corporate and non-profit annual fund campaigns. Baggett holds an undergraduate degree in education from Appalachian State University and a law degree from NC Central University School of Law.

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“Chip’s wide-ranging skill set will be a great asset to the Medical Society,” said NCMS President **Palmer Edwards, MD, DFAPA**. “The search committee and the Board strongly felt that he is the person to take the NCMS where it needs to go in the future.”

The NCMS’ mission is to enhance the health of North Carolinians and promote the medical profession through advocacy, policy development, education and leadership training.

“I am humbled by the trust the NCMS has put in me to carry forward this crucial work,” Baggett said. “I look forward to working closely with our fellow health care stakeholder organizations as well as to establishing new, meaningful collaborations to achieve better health in our state.”

Outgoing Executive Vice President and CEO Seligson had nothing but praise for his successor: “Chip will do a stellar job,” he said. “He is passionate, smart, creative, driven and has thoroughly demonstrated his commitment to the NCMS over the years. His heart is in the organization. I am thrilled with the Board’s decision and confident the NCMS will thrive under Chip’s leadership.”

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About the North Carolina Medical Society

“The North Carolina Medical Society is the oldest professional member organization in North Carolina, representing physicians and physician assistants who practice in the state. Founded in 1849, the Society seeks to provide leadership in medicine by uniting, serving and representing physicians and their health care teams to enhance the health of North Carolinians.”