



The Maryland State Medical Society

News: For Immediate Release

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THE CENTER FOR A HEALTHY MARYLAND TO HOST PRESENTATION: CHIEF COMPLAINTS – THE HEALTH OF THE AMERICAN PRESIDENTS

BALTIMORE, April 26, 2012 – The Center for a Healthy Maryland at MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, will welcome Dr. Rainer Engel on Wednesday, May 9 for his presentation on “Chief Complaints: The Health of the American Presidents.” Dr. Engel is a retired Johns Hopkins Hospital and Union Memorial Hospital urologist, and past curator and historian at the Didusch Museum of the American Urological Association. “Dr. Engel is a leading medical historian, it is an incredible honor to welcome him to MedChi” exclaimed Gene Ransom, MedChi CEO.

Sandi Rowland, the Director of the Center for a Healthy Maryland, is asking physicians “to join us for a fascinating look at the medical complaints of our Commanders in Chief and learn how U.S. history was shaped by the care they received from Presidential physicians”. While Presidents received what was state of the art medical care, a review of their ailments and treatments through the lens of current medical knowledge, reveals how the care they received, at times, contributed to their illnesses and even premature mortality. George Washington’s team of physicians continued to prescribe “bloodletting” to treat his inflamed and infected tonsils. After being shot, President Garfield’s wounds were not life threatening, yet several physicians’ attempts to remove the bullet with ungloved and unsterile hands led to septicemia. Were President Lincoln’s mood swings a result of taking “blue mass” pills consisting mostly of mercury?

The presentation is part of the Center for a Healthy Maryland’s history of Maryland Medicine project. For more information, or to register, please contact Kimberlee Hartwell by email at khartwell@medchi.org or by phone at 410-539-0872 ext. 3341.

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.