



The Maryland State Medical Society

News: For Immediate Release

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MARCH IS COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

BALTIMORE, March 19, 2014 — Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer in the United States and a leading cause of death from cancer. Colorectal cancer affects people in all racial and ethnic groups and is most often found in people age 50 and older.

MedChi President, H. Russell Wright, M.D. states “If everyone age 50 and older were screened regularly, 6 out of 10 deaths from colorectal cancer could be prevented. Communities, health professionals, and families can work together to encourage people to get screened.”

To increase awareness of the importance of colorectal cancer screening, MedChi is participating in Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. Colorectal cancer deaths account for about 10% of all cancer related deaths in Maryland.

People over age 50 are at highest risk for colorectal cancer. Other risk factors include smoking, having a family history of colorectal cancer, and being African American.

Everyone can take these healthy steps to help prevent colorectal cancer:

- Get screened starting at age 50
- Quit smoking and stay away from secondhand smoke
- Encourage families to get active together – exercise may help reduce the risk of colorectal cancer

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.