



The Maryland State Medical Society

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MEDCHI CELEBRATES 215 YEARS OF SERVICE TO MARYLAND'S PHYSICIANS

BALTIMORE, January 28, 2014 - MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, was founded in January of 1799 by a legislative act which was then signed into law by the Governor of Maryland, Benjamin Ogle. The act formed the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland to “prevent the citizens (of Maryland) from risking their lives in the hands of ignorant practitioners or pretenders to the healing art”. More than 100 physicians from across Maryland were instrumental in guiding this legislation to fruition. MedChi President Russell Wright, MD explained, “While much has changed in 215 years MedChi remains the foremost advocate for physicians, patients and the public health of Maryland.”

The first President of MedChi was Upton Scott, M.D., the last Royal Physician, and the uncle of Francis Scott Key. Dr. Scott’s house still stands in Annapolis. The original 100 physicians formed the backbone of medicine in Maryland, as does our current membership. They studied medicine at schools across the world and came to Maryland to practice.

Within several years, members of MedChi had formed the first medical school in Maryland and acted as the first faculty members, deans of the school and examiners of the students. That school became the University of Maryland Medical School, founded in 1807.

In 1801, the decision was made to locate MedChi in Baltimore, since all roads lead there. Gene Ransom MedChi CEO explained “MedChi’s headquarters are still in Baltimore City in several historic buildings in the Mount Vernon Cultural District.”

For 215 years, MedChi and its members have played an integral part in medicine, research and medical studies. From the original 100 members of MedChi, the largest physician organization in Maryland numbers more than 7,600 physicians and affiliated medical professionals from all parts of Maryland.

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.

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