



MedChi
The Maryland State Medical Society



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MEDICAL SOCIETIES TO HOST MAY 8 DISCUSSION ON MEDICAL MARIJUANA

One of Several Programs to be Offered to Educate Physicians and the General Public About Medical Marijuana

BALTIMORE, May 6, 2014—Passage of medical marijuana legislation in the past two Sessions of the Maryland General Assembly has heightened interest in medical marijuana among physicians and their patients. MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society, its component, Baltimore City Medical Society and Monumental City Medical Society, the local affiliate of the National Medical Society, will host an educational program, “Medical Marijuana in Maryland,” Thursday, May 8 at 6:30 p.m. Panelists include: Delegate Cheryl Glenn (45th District), Paul W. Davies, M.D., Chairman, Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Marijuana Commission and Rabbi Jeffrey Kahn, Owner/Operator, Takoma Wellness Center, a medical marijuana dispensary.

The May 8 program is one of several the medical societies plan to offer their physician members and the general public. “We want to facilitate a better understanding of the laws, the role of the Commission and the physician in recommending medical marijuana for patients,” stated Gene Ransom, MedChi CEO.

Monumental City Medical Society’s Executive Administrator, Bonita Church, concurred. “Physicians understand the debate about medical marijuana. However, at this time, we are not endorsing, nor condemning; we are having a discussion,” she added.

“We recognize accountability, oversight and evaluation must be incorporated in any program and we look forward to gaining additional information on the roles of all involved during our May 8 discussion,” stated Lisa Williams, BCMS Executive Director.

MedChi, BCMS nor MCMS, have historically not taken a position on the legalization of medical marijuana. Under the program proposed last year, MedChi voiced strong support for physician affiliation with a hospital or hospice program and a course of rigorous credentialing for physicians who want to participate in the program.

For additional information on the May 8 program, see the contacts above.

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. Formed in 1799, it is still the largest physician organization in Maryland today. 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.