



The Maryland State Medical Society

News: For Immediate Release

Additional Information Contact:

Gene M. Ransom, CEO

Office: 410-539-0872 x 3305

MEDCHI HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING; SETS ADVOCACY PLATFORM FOR 2019

BALTIMORE, October 10, 2018 – At MedChi’s 2018 Annual Meeting & Fall House of Delegates last month, an aggressive agenda of legislative, regulatory, and operational priorities for the organization were set and several of these issues will be included in our 2019 legislative advocacy platform. Jeremy Robinson of Merritt Hawkins led an analysis and discussion of the results of MedChi’s salary survey, focusing on the unfavorable discrepancies in Maryland physicians’ salaries compared to physicians in other states and the startling gender pay gap for doctors in Maryland. MedChi’s House of Delegates also considered several resolutions focusing on key public health concerns relating to the ongoing opioid crisis in Maryland. A keynote address from Clay Stamp featured an update on the activities of Maryland’s Opioid Operational Command Center and Gary Pushkin, M.D., was honored and recognized for establishing and leading MedChi’s Opioid Task Force.

There were six items adopted by the House that call for MedChi’s advocacy on a federal level, and MedChi has initiated the process of bringing these issues to the American Medical Association (AMA):

1. MedChi is urging our AMA to petition the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to rescind the policy of denying Medicaid patients coverage of medications that are prescribed by a non-participating practitioner.
2. MedChi is asking our AMA to join MedChi in filing an amicus brief in support of the Maryland law prohibiting price gouging for generic pharmaceuticals.
3. MedChi will work with our AMA to establish regulation and/or legislation that all quality measure data should only be collected in summary format with no personally identified information included.
4. MedChi is asking our AMA to encourage states to require physicians who serve on formulary review boards to disclose conflicts of interest; and ask our AMA to encourage insurance companies to require physicians who serve on formulary review boards to disclose conflicts of interest.
5. MedChi is requesting to work with our AMA to explore coverage of non-opioid therapies for pain on health insurance formularies.
6. MedChi is requesting that our AMA work with all appropriate specialty societies to develop and disseminate fact sheets for discussing mental illness in the media, including fact sheets for reporting on mental illness and violence and to work with all appropriate specialty societies to enhance the accuracy of media reports concerning mental health and gun violence, and to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness.

Last month’s meeting also included elections for MedChi’s Board of Trustees. Dr. Benjamin Z. Stallings, II became the new President; Dr. Michele Manahan became the new President-Elect; Dr. Michael Niehoff became the new Specialty Society Trustee; and Dr. Renee Bovelle became the new Alternate Delegate to the AMA. MedChi would like to congratulate all of those elected.

MedChi would like to thank everyone who attended our Annual Meeting and express our excitement for the upcoming year.

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.