

# Maryland Medicine

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 6

**What You Need  
to Know Now**

**MedChi's  
Legislative  
Priorities**

**Maryland Political  
Outlook for 2019**

**How You Can Get  
Involved Today**

## AMA's House of Delegates Tackles Aid in Dying, Sexual Harassment, and Other Important Issues

*Stephen Rockower, MD, Past-President, Member, Maryland Delegation to AMA*

Maryland played host to the American Medical Association Interim Meeting in November 2018. More than 3,200 physicians, residents, medical students, staff, and guests from each state and U.S. territory, representing all medical specialties, gathered to consider more than 100 reports and resolutions covering topics such as aid-in-dying/physician-assisted suicide; vaping; firearm background checks; suicide prevention for medical professionals; research of intimate partner violence in the LGBTQ community; and the affirmation of the medical spectrum of gender identity and sexual expression.



An emergency resolution was submitted to require the AMA to retain an outside consultant to look into questions of sexual and non-sexual harassment, both at an organizational level and within the House of Delegates and its related events. There was significant emotional testimony outlining previous instances that swayed the House to unanimously support this resolution.

One controversial topic that was sent back for further study was aid-in-dying/physician-assisted suicide. The report of the Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs (CEJA) tried to “thread the needle” between existing AMA policy that bars physicians from participating in such events and recognizing that others feel that the need for compassion and alleviation of suffering should be the deciding factor. Both sides presented significant testimony, and were not able to reach an agreement. It was sent back to CEJA to further study the issue and a more workable solution that might satisfy everyone.

AMA President Barbara McAneny, MD, gave her address in the opening session. Maryland Delegation Chair Bruce Smoller was joined by delegates Stephen Rockower, Harbhajan Ajrawat, Loralie Ma, and Shannon Pryor, with assistance from alternate delegates Brooke Buckley, Padmini Ranasinghe, Gary Pushkin, Renee Bovelle, resident Omar Harfouch, medical student Lucy Nam, and our AMA Trustee, Willarda Edwards. Maryland physicians provided strong leadership at the meeting and were noted to be fine hosts.

## What You Need to Know Now

1. **Practices have been informed if they have been accepted into the Maryland Primary Care Program.** Deadline for submission of documents was December 21, 2018. Twenty-five Care Transition Organizations were approved to assist practices that were accepted into the MDPCP, including MedChi.
2. **MedChi offers a free online CME program for physician members on Medical Cannabis: Legal and Practice Considerations for Maryland Physicians.** To access, visit MedChi's Online Education Catalogue at [www.medchi.org/Education](http://www.medchi.org/Education).
3. **Maryland's 2019 Legislative Session begins on January 9, 2019.** If you are interested in getting involved, consider participating in one of the legislative skills workshops either in person or online (January 4 and January 9). If you'd like to participate in the Legislative Council or in your component society's lobby day, contact MedChi at 1.800.492.1056, or your component society. Visit [www.medchi.org/YourAdvocate](http://www.medchi.org/YourAdvocate) for details.

## What Will 2019 Hold for Health Care?

Each year, the Healthcare Executive Group (HCEG) ranks evolving issues and concerns in the field of health care. These are the top ten challenges identified for 2019 by HCEG (<https://www.healthexec.com/topics/leadership/top-10-healthcare-challenges-2019>).

1. Data and analytics
2. Total consumer health
3. Population health services
4. Value-based payments
5. The digital health care organization
6. Rising pharmacy costs
7. External marketing disruption
8. Operational effectiveness
9. Opioid management
10. Cybersecurity

## From the President...

### MedChi Is Our Advocate for Our Profession

*Benjamin Z. Stallings, II, MD, President, MedChi*

As the largest physician organization in the state, MedChi is the primary advocate and resource for Maryland's physicians and patients. As we gear up for the 2019 Maryland General Assembly Session, we

want you to know that we'll be your strength and your voice in Annapolis. We will be fighting the lawyers' attempts to repeal important tort reforms, fighting for better payment for physicians, and fighting for public health improvements in Maryland.

But we need your help. Our strength is in numbers, and we need you and all of your colleagues to join MedChi. We need your grassroots response

when legislative alerts are sent out on important issues.

During the legislative session and beyond, I will be attending as many county medical society meetings, medical staff meetings, and specialty society meetings to let everyone know the importance of your involvement. Your membership is enough, but if you can do more, you can greatly impact our advocacy efforts by:

- Serving as Physician of the Day in the Maryland State House First Aid Room during the 2019 legislative session.
- Joining the Legislative Committee and reviewing the proposals Maryland lawmakers are considering. We meet on Monday evenings in Baltimore.
- Attending your Component visits in Annapolis.

Visit [www.medchi.org/YourAdvocate](http://www.medchi.org/YourAdvocate) for details about how you can get involved with MedChi's legislative advocacy efforts. If you have any questions, please contact MedChi by phone at 410.539.0872, ext. 6001.



## How MedChi's Legislative Process Begins

MedChi's advocacy agenda is truly a grass-roots campaign. When an individual physician, or a medical practice or other small group of physicians, has a concern about patients, the profession, or the public health, he or she works closely with MedChi's component medical societies to draft resolutions for consideration by MedChi's House of Delegates.

In September, the House met to consider a variety of resolutions that will directly impact our 2019 advocacy efforts. In addition to reaffirming several long-term advocacy initiatives, the House adopted resolutions to:

- Protect physicians' right to dispense
- Support the development of pilot programs for overdose prevention sites in Maryland
- Protect the rights of physicians who experience Board of Physicians disciplinary processes (See page \_ for details.)
- Oppose legislation and initiatives that would allow non-security personnel to bring, store, or discharge firearms at schools for students in pre-K through twelfth grade
- Support legislation that the Maryland Department of Health intervene in cases in which children are exposed to lead levels of at least 5 micrograms per decileter.

As you can see, MedChi's House of Delegates is an effective vehicle for initiating legislative advocacy efforts that directly affect physicians, their patients, and the public health of Maryland. As a representative governing body, the House allows every physician in Maryland to amplify his or her voice and gain the strength of thousands of colleagues to achieve goals on behalf of the physicians and patients of Maryland.

## How to Get Involved in the 2019 Legislative Session?

Advocacy is important because legislators depend on subject matter experts, like you, to create effective policy and legislation. Because health care policy touches everyone, regardless of age, gender, or political leanings, it is critical that physicians are engaged and can educate legislators on the unseen effects of their proposed policies.

1. Join MedChi to learn more about the bills that will affect you and your patients.
2. Become a member of MedChi's Legislative Council so that your voice is heard.
3. Donate to the Maryland Medical Political Action Committee to support legislators who prioritize health care. For more information, you can visit [www.medchi.org/MMPAC](http://www.medchi.org/MMPAC).
4. Contact your legislators on the issues that matter to you and your patients. Visit [www.medchi.com/youradvocate](http://www.medchi.com/youradvocate) for more information.



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## MedChi's 2019 Legislative Agenda Includes Board of Physicians Reforms, Protecting Medicaid Access, and Opposing Weakening of Maryland's Medical Liability Environment

Steve Wise, Esq. (Contact MedChi at 1.800.492.1056 for further information.)

### Board of Physician Reforms    Protecting Medicaid Access    Opposing Weakening Maryland's Medical Liability Environment

No physician ever expects to be the subject of a disciplinary proceeding before the Maryland Board of Physicians (BOP), but it does happen, and MedChi constantly works to ensure that the process is fair. A MedChi Task Force recently identified three issues that need legislative reform, and MedChi will seek introduction of a bill to address them:

**Peer Review:** When a case involves determining if a physician followed the standard of care, two peer reviewers are used, but the law is not clear on what occurs if they disagree. The legislation will establish that if two peer reviewers disagree, the case is dismissed, unless a supermajority of the disciplinary panel votes for a third review.

**Insurer Fallout:** When a physician is disciplined, health insurers often suspend or terminate their credentials. With so few insurers in the state, this is tantamount to ending their practice. In serious cases, this may be appropriate; in less serious cases, for example where probation is ordered, the health insurer's sanction often outlasts the probationary period. The legislation will prohibit insurers from denying credentials or coverage based solely on

Medicaid payment rates to physicians have historically been too low to ensure an adequate network for enrollees, negatively affecting access to medically necessary services. Access to care challenges leads to poor outcomes and results in an increase in the cost of care for Medicaid recipients. Appropriate payment rates not only encourage private practice physicians to participate in the Medicaid program, but also lessens the impact on employed and hospital-based physicians. Without an appropriate physician network, many enrollees often seek care in the hospital under emergency situations. Failure to restore Evaluation and Management (E&M) codes reimbursement to Medicare rates and the resulting cost of care impact could have a negatively effect on the successful implementation of Maryland's Total Cost of Care Contract.

2012: To address health care expansion and a significant lack of physician participation in Medicaid, the State increased reimbursement for E&M codes in Medicaid to 100 percent of Medicare rates for all physicians who accept Medicaid.

Trial lawyers continue to advocate for measures that would weaken Maryland's current medical malpractice laws. These have included:

- Tripling the non-economic damage cap in medical malpractice cases. Maryland's cap remains one of the most liberal in the nation and increases each year by \$15,000. For causes of action arising in 2018, the cap will be \$815,000.
- Eliminating the 20 percent rule for expert witnesses. The current law precludes as an expert a person who devotes annually more than 20 percent of their professional activities to testifying in personal injury cases. Elimination would have the effect of allowing "professional witnesses" to testify in Maryland medical malpractice cases.
- Revising the standards for how punitive damages may be applied and in what type of cases, which may include medical malpractice causes.

*continued on page 7*

#### EDITORIAL STATEMENT

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## CONSULTATIVE INSURANCE REVIEW

*Med Chi Insurance Agency was established in 1975 “by physicians for physicians” to satisfy the needs of doctors and medical practices.*

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- Group Life & Disability
- Voluntary Benefits

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- Workers Compensation
- Medical Office Insurance
- Employment Practices Liability
- Directors & Officers Liability
- Privacy/Data Breach Coverage
- Bonds (Fiduciary/Fidelity/ERISA)

#### **Personal:**

- Life Insurance
- Disability (Individual/Pension/Business Overhead)
- Annuities
- Long Term Care
- Estate Planning/Retirement Planning
- Auto/Homeowners/ Umbrella Coverage

***Board of Physician Reforms continued***

the fact that the physician was placed on probation by the Board, if the BOP's probation has ended.

**Expungement:** The range of possible sanctions include a public reprimand or probationary period, but these remain on the physician's record. The legislation will require the Board to expunge records of public reprimands or probation three years after final disposition.

***Protecting Medicaid Access continued***

2015: Due to budget shortfalls, E&M codes were reduced mid-year from 100 percent of Medicare to 87 percent of Medicare. MedChi, through strong advocacy, fought for restoration and successfully won an increase to 92 percent of Medicare.

2016: MedChi requested full restoration of the rate and successfully worked with the General Assembly and Governor to Hogan to ultimately achieve an increase in rates to 94 percent of Medicare.

2017: MedChi continued to advocate for restoration of funding to full Medicare parity and despite a significant Medicaid deficit coupled with uncertainty of funding at the federal level was success in maintaining the 94 percent rate.

2018: Governor Hogan included \$17.6 million dollars in the budget to maintain Medicaid rates for the FY 2019 fiscal year. This was particularly notable as numerous other provider reimbursement rates, such as developmental disability and community mental health providers and providers who contract with the Department of Human Services to care for children in out-of-home placements, were capped significantly below statutory mandates.

Support enhanced physician participation and protect the integrity of the Medicaid program by advocating to restore E&M code reimbursement to 100 percent of Medicare rates.

***Opposing Weakening Maryland's Medical Liability Environment continued***

During the 2018 Session, eliminating the 20 percent rule for expert witnesses was the top priority for trial lawyers. Both the House of Delegates and the Senate passed different versions of the bill, causing a conference committee to be appointed. The conference committee voted to eliminate the 20 percent rule. In an historic vote, MedChi lobbied hard to defeat the bill and it died on the House floor 41-89. It is anticipated that trial lawyers will once again advocate for its repeal.

Oppose legislation that would eliminate the 20 percent for expert witnesses. In addition, opposed measures that would: (1) triple the cap on non-economic damages in medical malpractice cases; and (2) authorize the imposition of punitive damages.

Call/write/e-mail members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and the House Judiciary Committee to ask them to oppose any bills which will aggravate the present medical malpractice environment.



# 2019 *Legislative and Regulatory Priorities*



# MedChi

*The Maryland State Medical Society*

## PROTECT ACCESS TO PHYSICIAN SERVICES

- Advocate for parity of Medicaid payment rates with Medicare
- Protect patients by opposing the inappropriate expansion of non-physician scope of practice
- Fight the weakening of Maryland's medical liability environment
- Protect physicians' right to dispense

## ENSURE TIMELY DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES

- Advocate for health insurance transparency and efficiency to reduce administrative burdens
- Work to streamline prior authorization processes
- Improve Maryland's payment climate
- Support drug transparency initiatives
- Support network adequacy initiatives

## PROTECTING THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

- Monitor Maryland Board of Physicians regulatory and disciplinary actions
- Ensure fairness in credentialing requirements

## ADDRESS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT AND RECOVERY NEEDS

- Work to expand crisis treatment centers and address barriers to access
- Protect and enhance the integrity of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program
- Support innovative approaches to addressing the opioid crisis

## STRENGTHEN PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES

- Address health disparities
- Advocate for initiatives that focus on child health and safety



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## 2018 Statewide General Election Results

To learn what district you are in and/or to obtain contact information, visit [www.medchi.org/law-and-advocacy/legislative-center](http://www.medchi.org/law-and-advocacy/legislative-center).

District/County	Senate	House of Delegates
1. Allegany, Garrett & Washington	George C. Edwards (R)	Wendell R. Beitzel (R), Jason C. Buckel (R), Mike McKay (R)
2. Washington	Andrew A. Serafini (R)	Neil C. Parrott (R), William J. Wivell (R), Paul D. Corderman (R)
3. Frederick	Ronald Nelson Young (D)	Carol L. Krimm (D), Karen Lewis Young (D), Ken Kerr (D)
4. Frederick	Michael Hough (R)	Barrie S. Ciliberti (R), Dan Cox (R), Jesse T. Pippy (R)
5. Carroll	Justin Ready (R)	Susan Krebs (R), April Rose (R), Haven Shoemaker (R)
6. Baltimore	Johnny R. Salling (R)	Robin L. Grammer (R), Bob Long (R), Ric Metzgar (R)
7. Baltimore & Harford	J.B. Jennings (R)	Lauren Arikian (R), Rick Impallaria (R), Kathy Szeliga (R)
8. Baltimore	Katherine Klausmeier (D)	Harry Bhandari (D), Eric Bromwell (D), Joseph C. Boteler, III (R)
9. Howard & Carroll	Katie Fry Hester (D)	Trent Kittleman (R), Warren E. Miller (R), Courtney Watson (D)
10. Baltimore	Delores G. Kelley (D)	Benjamin Brooks (D), Jay Jalisi (D), Adrienne A. Jones (D)
11. Baltimore	Bobby A. Zirkin (D)	Jon S. Cardin (D), Shelley Hettleman (D), Dana Stein (D)
12. Baltimore & Howard	Clarence K. Lam (D)	Eric Ebersole (D), Jessica Feldmark (D), Terri Hill (D)
13. Howard	Guy Guzzone (D)	Vanessa Atterbeary (D), Shane Pendergrass (D), Jen Terrasa (D)
14. Montgomery	Craig J. Zucker (D)	Anne R. Kaiser (D), Eric Luedtke (D), Pamela Queen (D)
15. Montgomery	Brian J. Feldman (D)	Kathleen Dumais (D), David Fraser-Hidalgo (D), Lily Qi (D)
16. Montgomery	Susan C. Lee (D)	Ariana Kelly (D), Marc Korman (D), Sara Love (D)
17. Montgomery	Cheryl C. Kagan (D)	Kumar Barve (D), Jim Gilchrist (D), Julie Palakovich Carr (D)
18. Montgomery	Jeff Waldstreicher (D)	Al Carr (D), Emily Shetty (D), Jared Solomon (D)
19. Montgomery	Ben Kramer (D)	Charlotte Crutchfield (D), Bonnie Cullison (D), Vaughn Stewart (D)
20. Montgomery	Will Smith (D)	Lorig Charkoudian (D), David Moon (D), Jheanelle Wilkins (D)
21. Anne Arundel & Prince George's	Jim Rosapepe (D)	Ben Barnes (D), Mary A. Lehman (D), Joseline Pena Melnyk (D)
22. Prince George's	Paul G. Pinsky (D)	Tawanna P. Gaines (D), Anne Healey (D), Alonzo T. Washington (D)
23. Prince George's	Douglas J.J. Peters (D)	Geraldine Valentino-Smith (D), Marvin E. Holmes Jr. (D), Ron Watson (D)
24. Prince George's	Joanne C. Benson (D)	Erek L. Barron (D), Andrea Fletcher Harrison (D), Jazz Lewis (D)
25. Prince George's	Melony Griffith (D)	Darryl Barnes (D), Nick Charles (D), Dereck E. Davis (D)
26. Prince George's	Obie Patterson (D)	Veronica Turner (D), Kris Valderrama (D), Jay Walker (D)
27. Calvert, Charles, & Prince George's	Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. (D)	Susie Proctor (D), Michael A. Jackson (D), Mark N. Fisher (R)
28. Charles	Arthur Ellis (D)	Debra Davis (D), Edith J. Patterson (D), C.T. Wilson (D)
29. St. Mary's & Calvert	Jack Bailey (R)	Matt Morgan (R), Brian M. Crosby (D), Gerald W. "Jerry" Clark (R)
30. Anne Arundel	Sarah K. Elfreth (D)	Mike Busch (D), Alice Cain (D), Seth Howard (R)
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32. Anne Arundel	Pamela Beidle (D)	J. Sandy Bartlett (D), Mark S. Chang (D), Mike Rogers (D)
33. Anne Arundel	Edward R. Reilly (R)	Michael E. Malone (R), Tony McConkey (R), Sid Saab (R)
34. Harford	Bob Cassilly (R)	Steve Johnson (D), Mary Ann Lisanti (D), Susan K. McComas (R)
35. Cecil & Harford	Jason C. Gallion (R)	Kevin B. Hornberger (R), Andrew Cassilly (R), Teresa Reilly (R)
36. Queen Anne's, Kent, Caroline, Cecil	Stephen S. Hershey, Jr. (R)	Steven J. Arentz (R), Jeff Ghrist (R), Jay A. Jacobs (R)
37. Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot, Wicomico	Adelaide "Addie" Eckardt (R)	Sheree Sample-Hughes (D), Christopher T. Adams (R), Johnny Mautz (R)
38. Somerset, Wicomico, & Worcester	Mary Beth Carozza (R)	Charles J. Otto (R), Carl Anderton Jr. (R), Wayne A. Hartman (R)
39. Montgomery	Nancy J. King (D)	Gabriel Acevero (D), Lesley J. Lopez (D), Kirill Reznik (D)
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41. Baltimore City	Jill P. Carter (D)	Dalya Attar (D), Tony Bridges (D), Samuel I. Rosenberg (D)
42. Baltimore	Chris West (R)	Stephen Lafferty (D), Nino Mangione (R), Michele Guyton (D)
43. Baltimore City	Mary Washington (D)	Curt Anderson (D), Regina T. Boyce (D), Maggie McIntosh (D)
44. Baltimore City & Baltimore County	Shirley Nathan-Pulliam (D)	Keith E. Haynes (D), Charles E. Sydnor III (D), Pat Young (D)
45. Baltimore City	Cory V. McCray (D)	Talmadge Branch (D), Cheryl Glenn (D), Stephanie Smith (D)
46. Baltimore City	Bill Ferguson (D)	Luke Clippinger (D), Robbyn Lewis (D), Brooke E. Lierman (D)
47. Prince George's	Malcolm Augustine (D)	Diana M. Fennell (D), Julian Ivey (D), Wanika Fisher (D)

## Component Societies Will Make House Calls on Annapolis

Legislative Days (All of these events will take place in MedChi's Annapolis Office):

- Prince George's/Howard County Medical Societies, Monday, February 11 (Evening event). For more information, call Teresa Healey-Conway, Executive Director, at 410.544.0312, or email at [thealey-conway@medchi.org](mailto:thealey-conway@medchi.org).
- Anne Arundel County Medical Society, Monday, February 25 (Evening event). For more information, call Teresa Healey-Conway, Executive Director, at 410.544.0312, or email at [thealey-conway@medchi.org](mailto:thealey-conway@medchi.org).
- Baltimore City Medical Society, Wednesday, February 27. For more information, call Lisa Williams, Executive Director, at 410.625.0022 or email at [info@bcmsdocs.org](mailto:info@bcmsdocs.org).
- Baltimore County Medical Association/Harford County Medical Association, Wednesday, February 27. For more information, call Russ Kujan, Executive Director, at 1.800.492.1056 or email at [rkujan@medchi.org](mailto:rkujan@medchi.org).
- Montgomery County Medical Society, Wednesday, March 6. For more information, call Susan D'Antoni, CEO, at 301.921.4300 or email at [sdantoni@montgomerymedicine.org](mailto:sdantoni@montgomerymedicine.org).

### Have You Ever...

- *Noticed while at work that a physician colleague smelled of alcohol?*
- *Been concerned by a physician who was so upset and angry with colleagues that it interfered with patient care?*
- *Been plagued with worry or concern because a colleague "just doesn't seem right?"*

### Do You Know Where To Turn If...

- *You think a physician friend might have a drinking problem?*
- *A colleague is self-prescribing pain-killers or other controlled medications?*
- *A colleague seems depressed, is experiencing mood instability, or is overly anxious to the point that their performance is being affected?*



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## 2019 Maryland Legislature Sees Changes in Senate and House Leadership

Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr. (D-Calvert) announced the full committee lineup for his chamber, and other key assignments, for the upcoming General Assembly session.

- **Senate Budget & Taxation Committee:** Sen. Nancy J. King (D-Montgomery), Chair; Sen. William C. Ferguson IV (D-Baltimore City), Vice Chair
- **Senate Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs Committee:** Sen. Paul G. Pinsky (D-Prince George's), Chair; Senator Shirley Nathan-Pulliam (D-Baltimore County), Vice-Chair
- **Senate Finance Committee:** Sen. Delores G. Kelley (D-Baltimore County), Chair\*; Sen. Brian J. Feldman (D-Montgomery), Vice-Chair
- **Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:** Sen. Robert A. Zirkin (D-Baltimore County), Chair; Sen. William C. Smith Jr. (D-Montgomery), Vice-Chair
- **Senate Executive Nominations Committee:** Sen. Ronald N. Young, Chair; Sen.-elect Pamela G. Beidle, Vice-Chair
- **Senate Rules Committee:** Sen. Joanne C. Benson, Chair; Sen. Craig Zucker, Vice-Chair

### Joint Committee Chairs

- Investigation Committee: Sen. Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., Chair
- Joint Audit Committee: Sen. Craig Zucker, Chair
- Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review: Sen. Cheryl C. Kagan, Chair
- Joint Committee on Behavioral Health & Opioid Use Disorders: Sen.-elect Antonio Hayes, Chair
- Joint Committee on the Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area: Sen.-elect Sarah Elfreth, Chair
- Joint Committee on Children, Youth, & Families: Sen.-elect Mary L. Washington, Chair
- Joint Committee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, & Biotechnology: Sen.-elect Katie Fry Hester, Chair
- Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness: Sen.-elect Mary L. Washington, Chair
- Joint Committee on Fair Practices and State Personnel Oversight: Sen.-Elect Clarence K. Lam, Chair
- Joint Committee on Federal Relations: Sen.-elect Jeff Waldstreicher, Chair
- Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight: Sen.-elect Obie Patterson, Chair
- Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics: Sen. George C. Edwards, Chair
- Joint Committee on the Management of Public Funds: Sen. James C. Rosapepe, Chair

- Joint Committee on Pensions: Sen.-elect Melony G. Griffith, Chair
- Joint Committee on Program Open Space & Agricultural Land Preservation: Sen. Ronald N. Young, Chair
- Joint Committee on Unemployment Insurance Oversight: Sen. Katherine A. Klausmeier, Chair
- Joint Committee on Workers' Compensation Benefit and Insurance Oversight: Sen. Katherine A. Klausmeier, Chair
- Spending Affordability Committee: Sen. Craig Zucker, Chair

## 2019 House of Delegates News

Del. Kathleen Dumais has been promoted to majority leader in the Maryland House of Delegates, one of more than a dozen leadership changes announced recently by Speaker Michael E. Busch (D-Anne Arundel). Dumais (D-Montgomery County) replaces C. William Frick (D-Montgomery County). Among the other promotions announced by the speaker:

- Del. Vanessa Atterbear (D-Howard County) becomes vice chairman of the Judiciary Committee.
- Del. Eric Bromwell (D-Baltimore County) becomes the vice chairman of the House Economic Matters Committee.
- Del. Joseline Peña-Melnyk (D-Prince George's, Anne Arundel) becomes the vice chairman of the House Health and Government Operations Committee.
- Del. Kris Valderrama (D-Prince George's) becomes the deputy speaker pro tem.
- Del. Keith Haynes (D-Baltimore City) becomes the deputy majority leader.
- Del. Eric Luedtke (D-Montgomery) becomes chairman of the House Democratic Caucus.
- Del. Jazz Lewis (D-Prince George's) becomes vice chairman of the House Democratic Caucus.
- Del. Darryl Barnes (D-Prince George's) becomes assistant speaker pro tem.
- Del. Cheryl Glenn (D-Baltimore) will serve as vice chairman of House Rules and Executive Nominations.
- Del. Michael Jackson (D-Prince George's) will serve as chairman of the Joint Committee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology and Biotechnology.
- Del. Samuel I. Rosenberg (D-Baltimore) becomes chair of the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee.



*Del. Kathleen Dumais*

For a complete list of legislative committees and their members, visit <http://www.mgaleg.maryland.gov>.

## Member Profile: Brooke Buckley, MD, and Harry Ajrawat, MD

MedChi Past Presidents Brooke Buckley, MD, and Harry Ajrawat, MD, are among the most highly engaged members of MedChi and the American Medical Association (AMA).



In addition to serving on the Maryland Delegation to the AMA and on various councils, committees, and other workgroups, Dr. Ajrawat currently serves as Chair of the Maryland Medical Political Action Committee (MMPAC), and Dr. Buckley is a board member for the American Medical Political Action Committee (AMPAC).

Dr. Ajrawat believes that “when you’re in the medical profession, you’re in politics. And when you’re in politics,

you have a responsibility to your patients and your colleagues to not only be informed, but also engaged in the political process.” Drs. Ajrawat and Buckley exemplify this philosophy of engagement and lead by example in their roles with MMPAC and AMPAC.

Peer-to-peer engagement is critical to the mission and grass-roots growth of political advocacy efforts, and Drs. Ajrawat and Buckley understand the commitment required. They invite you to join them by visiting [www.medchi.org/MMPAC](http://www.medchi.org/MMPAC) and [www.ampaonline.org](http://www.ampaonline.org).



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## MedChi's Newest Physician Members

*MedChi welcomes the following new members, who joined between September 12, 2018, and December 4, 2018.*

Cheryl A. Aylesworth, MD — Maryland Oncology Hematology, P.A.  
 Kaitlin B. Baron, MD — Associates in Cardiology, PA  
 Adey Berhanu, MD — Arthritis & Rheumatism Associates, PC  
 Terence R. Bertele, MD — Chesapeake & Washington HeartCare  
 Andrew B. Block, MD — Capital Women's Care  
 Samuel F. Boles, MD — Anne Arundel Eye Center  
 Roy J. Carls, MD — Peak Performance Orthopedics, PC  
 Emily M. Clarke-Pearson, MD — Emily Clarke-Pearson, MD, PC  
 Erica Contreras, MD — University of Maryland Community Medical  
 Anita S. Everett, MD — Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center  
 Todd Feathers, MD — Garrett County Orthopaedics  
 Ari D. Fishman, MD — Maryland Oncology Hematology, PA  
 Dov Frankel, MD — Greater Baltimore Medical Center  
 Roy E. Fried, MD — Premier Senior Care  
 Joseph M. Fuscaldo, MD — Greater Baltimore Medical Center  
 Aaron George, DO  
 Michael A. Gnat, MD — Gnat Medical Associates  
 Melvin R. Gonzaga, MD — Gonzaga Health Center  
 Joseph F. Goodman, MD — GW Medical Faculty Associates  
 Joseph Greene, MD — Maryland Bariatrics  
 Amy L. Hapip, MD — Bethesda Pediatrics  
 Thomas F. Hattar, MD — Anne Arundel HealthCare Center  
 Stephen L. Hoffman, MD — Sanaria  
 Patrick A. Holt, MD — Peninsula Orthopaedic Associates  
 Dwight D. Im, MD — Mercy Medical Center  
 Jennifer Jagoe, MD — OB/GYN of Greater Washington  
 B. Eric Jones, MD — Baltimore Eye Physicians  
 Geoffrey R. Kaplan, MD — The Retina Group of Washington  
 Dan D. Kessler, MD  
 Amanda Ketterman — Peninsula Eye Center, PA  
 Daniel A. Kim, MD — Cardiovascular Specialists of Central Maryland  
 Joyce E. King, MD — MedStar Health, Inc.  
 Jon D. Koman, MD — Koman Orthopedics and Sports Medicine

Thomas Martin, MD — Simmonds, Martin, & Helmbrecht, Chartered  
 Kathleen McHugh, MD — MedStar Health, Inc.  
 Leia M. Medlock, MD — Simmonds, Martin, & Helmbrecht, Chartered  
 Sara Mirghani, MD — Capital Women's Care  
 Monica Olego — Maryland Bariatrics  
 Chike G. Onwuka, MD — Clinton Primary Care  
 Chukwuma Onyewu, MD — Choice Pain & Rehabilitation Centers LLC  
 Rajal A. Patel, MD — Associates in Radiation Medicine  
 Jill Remick, MD — Johns Hopkins School of Medicine  
 Marcos Roffe, MD — Allegany Imaging  
 Susan Hersker Rubinstein, MD — Family Health Centers of Baltimore  
 Lawrence Schainker, MD — Privia Health LLC  
 Geoffrey Sirockman, DO — Emergency Service Associates, P.A.  
 Douglas Spotts, MD — Meritus Medical Group  
 Matthew Stensland, DO — Emergency Service Associates, P.A.  
 Albert J. Steren, MD — Privia Health LLC  
 Kevin L. Stitely, MD — Anne Arundel Medical Center  
 Michael A. Tolino, MD — Frederick Medical & Pulmonary Associates  
 Justin H. Wasserman, MD — The Pain Treatment Center of Greater Washington  
 Michael D. Webb, MD — Anesthesia Company, LLC  
 Eric D. Weichel, MD — The Retina Group of Washington  
 Thomas C. Yu, MD — The Dermatology Center

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**Potomac Physician Associates: Outpatient primary care practice is seeking Board Certified IM/FP physicians** to join the team to serve our Bethesda/Chevy Chase/Germantown, MD patients. Office-based practice. Quality focus versus quantity. We are seeking practitioners who follow evidence-based practices. Understanding of ACO and PCMH models helpful. EHR experience required. This position has opportunity to become a shareholder within three years. Please contact vroberts@ppa.md to apply.

## **Baltimore County Medical Association Addresses Timely Topics at Meetings**

The first day of the coming Maryland General Assembly Session on is less than a month away. The 2018 midterm elections had a number of nail-biters and upsets that few could have predicted. Several elections were not decided until several days after Election Day. With the election still fresh in the minds of pundits, politicians, and physicians, the Baltimore County Medical Association held its annual Legislative Breakfast on Friday, November 30 at the Conference Center at Sheppard Pratt.

At this meeting, Baltimore County legislators and BCMA members are invited to discuss legislative priorities for the coming session. Gary Pushkin, MD, MedChi's immediate past president, moderated the meeting. Drs. Loralie Ma, Shawn Dhillon, and Neri Cohen covered physician disciplinary process, Medicaid access, and medical liability. New and reelected county legislators were present to listen and ask questions.

The BCMA had two successful medical cannabis CMEs this fall dealing with the Maryland medical cannabis system and legal considerations regarding cannabis. At the September meeting, a panel discussion called "Current State of Medical Cannabis in Maryland" was moderated by Francisco Ward, MD, co-chair of the MedChi Medical Cannabis Task Force. The panel discussed that cannabis certifying providers have little control over the amount of cannabis product or the amount of THC, the principal psychoactive constituent of cannabis, patients ultimately receive from a dispensary. Panel members acknowledged the considerable control the marijuana industry has over the Maryland regulatory process.

The following month, Gene Ransom, MedChi's CEO, addressed "Legal Considerations of Medical Cannabis" at Greater Baltimore Medical Center grand rounds. We were able to record both of these meetings for online CME. Mr. Ransom's presentation is already on MedChi's website. The BMCA is developing a way for these and other CME meetings to be placed online for CME through the BCMA website at [www.bmcamed.org](http://www.bmcamed.org).

On other legislative and CME topics, Steven Crawford, MD, presented "Recognizing, Diagnosing and Treating Eating Disorders" at the BCMA membership meeting on November 14. Dr. Crawford, co-director of the Center for Eating Disorders at Sheppard Pratt, is one of the nation's leading programs for the treatment of eating disorders. Earlier in the year, he raised the concern that the Center for Disease Control dropped eating disorder monitoring from their national disease surveillance efforts. He worked with the BCMA to write a resolution asking the American Medical Association to lobby the CDC to reintroduce these questions to their Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System. The resolution was passed by the MedChi House of Delegates and was subsequently passed at the AMA House of Delegates for action.

We welcome you to contact Russ Kujan or Patricia Keyser at the BCMA at 410.296.1232 or [bcma@medchi.org](mailto:bcma@medchi.org).

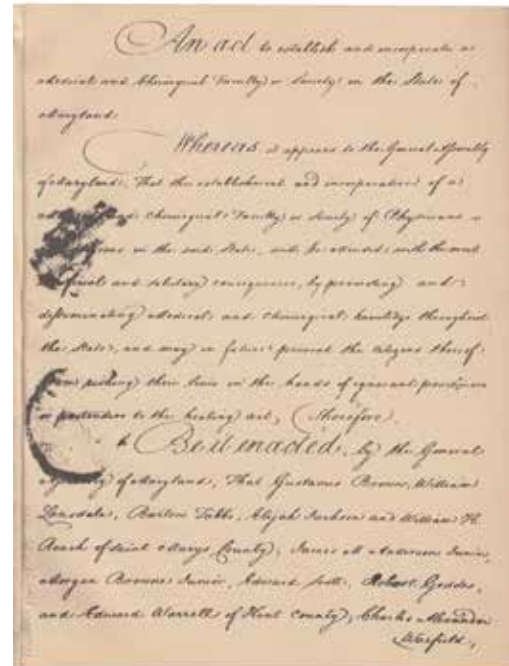
## **Carroll County Medical Society Features Medical Cannabis CME**

On October 24, 2018, the Carroll County Medical Society enjoyed an evening of education, camaraderie, and good food at Liberatore's Restaurant in Westminster, MD. Gene Ransom, MedChi's CEO, was the featured speaker, addressing the topic of "Medical Cannabis, The Legal and Practice Considerations for Physicians." This CME program drew the rapt attention of more than forty physicians from the area. Joining in the presentation was Carroll County's Delegate Susan Krebs, who discussed her thoughts about medical cannabis in the legislative arena. Gary Pushkin, MD, immediate past president of MedChi, also joined the discussion. This meeting was deemed successful by the majority of physicians who provided feedback to MedChi.

The Carroll County Medical Society is looking for physicians who can accept a leadership role in the area. You must be a member in good standing and willing to be the face of the Carroll County Medical Society, during the term of leadership as President, VP, or Treasurer. Please contact Cathy Peters should you be available for this opportunity ([cpeters@medchi.org](mailto:cpeters@medchi.org) or 800.492.1056 ext. 3369).

## MedChi Celebrates Its 220th Year of Serving Patients & Physicians

On January 20, 1799, the Medical & Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland was established and incorporated by an act of the General Assembly of Maryland. The purpose was to prevent the citizens of Maryland “from risking their lives in the hands of ignorant practitioners or pretenders to the healing art.” One-hundred physicians, from each county in Maryland, met in Annapolis to become the founding members of the Faculty. The first official meeting was held in June of 1799. The original founding documents are held at the Maryland State Archives in Annapolis.



## CRISP FREE Services for Ambulatory Practices

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CRISP is a regional health information exchange (HIE) serving Maryland and the District of Columbia. CRISP is a non-profit organization advised by a wide range of healthcare industry stakeholders. All of the following services are available for FREE to ambulatory practices. For more information, visit the CRISP website at [www.crisphealth.org](http://www.crisphealth.org).

### Clinical Query Portal

The CRISP Portal is a free tool available to clinical staff. As clinical information is created and shared with CRISP, it is made accessible in real time to participating health care providers through the CRISP Portal.

### Encounter Notification Service (ENS)

ENS allows primary care physicians, care coordinators, and others responsible for patient care to receive real-time alerts when patients are admitted/discharged at hospitals. Proactively coordinate your patients' care and schedule any necessary follow-up treatment or visits.

### Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)

The Maryland Prescription Drug Monitoring Program gives prescribers, dispensers and other licensed staff access to prescription information for all Schedule II-V drugs filled in Maryland, Virginia and some neighboring states.

For more information and to sign up for any of the **CRISP User Services** contact MedChi at **888.507.6024** or email [info@medchiservices.org](mailto:info@medchiservices.org).



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## Events

For a complete list of MedChi and component events, visit <http://www.medchi.org/Events>.

### January 17

MedChi Board of Trustees Meeting. MedChi Building.  
Catherine Johannesen, 410.539.0872, ext. 3308.

### January 28

Maternal Mortality Review Meeting. 5:30–7:30 pm.  
Malouf Board Rm, MedChi Building. Shayna Banfield,  
410.539.0872, ext. 3341.

### January 30

Physician Compensation CME Course, sponsored by the  
Baltimore City Medical Society Women in Medicine Com-  
mittee. 6 pm. Osler Hall, MedChi Building. Lisa Williams,  
410.625.0022.

### February 12–13

American Medical Association National Advocacy Confer-  
ence.

### February 20

Baltimore County Medical Association and Baltimore  
City Medical Society CME Activity. 6 pm. GBMC, 6701 N  
Charles St, Baltimore, MD. Patricia Keiser, 410.296.1232.

### February 21

MedChi Board of Trustees Meeting. Zoom Teleconference.  
Catherine Johannesen, 410.539.0872, ext. 3308.

### February 25

Maternal Mortality Review Meeting. 5:30–7:30 pm. Ma-  
louf Board Room, MedChi Building. Shayna Banfield,  
410.539.0872, ext. 3341.