

Maryland Medicine

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 6

**MedChi's 2020
Legislative Priorities**

**10 Ways to Become
a More Engaged
Grassroots Constituent**

**Hot Topics: Medicaid,
Medical Cannabis & More**

MedChi Holds Presidential Gala to Honor Michele Manahan, MD

MedChi leadership, supporters, and honored guests gathered in Baltimore on Saturday, December 7 to celebrate the inauguration of our 172nd President, Michele A. Manahan, MD, MBA, FACS. Dr. Manahan is an Associate Professor of Plastic Surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital where she performs aesthetic and reconstructive plastic surgery. She has previously served in various leadership positions on MedChi's Board of Trustees and the Baltimore City Medical



Society's Board of Directors, including serving as MedChi's Speaker of the House.

Dr. Manahan was honored with General Assembly and Governor's Citations, presented to her by Senator Clarence Lam, MD, and Delegate Terri Hill, MD. In her remarks, Dr. Manahan expressed her passion for organized medicine as a vehicle for improving patient safety, health care quality measurement, personalization of medicine, the patient experience, and physician well-being.

Learn How to be a Better Constituent: Participate in MedChi's Grassroots Skills Workshop Webinar

Are you interested in being more involved in advocacy this year, but aren't sure where to start? On Friday, January 3, 12–1 p.m., or Wednesday, January 8, 6:30–7:30 p.m., MedChi presents a webinar workshop with J. Steven Wise, Esq., of Schwartz, Metz & Wise, MedChi's lobbying firm. Mr. Wise will share his fifteen years of experience in Annapolis as he introduces participants to the basics of the law making process in Maryland and MedChi's Legislative Agenda. He'll also discuss grassroots skills and connect you with advocacy tools crafted by MedChi. For more information, contact Karissa Miller at MCMS, 301.921.4300 or kmiller@montgomerymedicine.org.

What You Need to Know

1. The Maryland General Assembly convenes at noon on Wednesday, January 8, 2020, and adjourns Monday, April 6, 2020.
2. To find your Maryland State Legislative Representative go to: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite>.
3. MedChi Legislative Council updates can be found at <https://www.medchi.org/TakeAction>.

MedChi Will Make Annual House Call on Capitol Hill in February — Join us!

In conjunction with the AMA's National Advocacy Conference, join us for MedChi's House Call on Capitol Hill, Tuesday, February 11, 2020. Now is your chance to meet with members of the Maryland Congressional delegation, on behalf of MedChi and the AMA! A briefing breakfast is followed by appointments with members of Maryland's Congressional delegation and/or their health care legislative aides. If you are interested in participating, please contact Susan D'Antoni at sdantoni@montgomerymedicine.org or call 301.921.4300.



From the President...

Michele Manahan, MD, President, MedChi



On November 2, I was honored and privileged to be sworn in as the 172nd President of MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society. As I settle into this leadership role, I want to share my sincere appreciation for all of my fellow members who sacrifice their time and energy toward furthering our mission to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, patients, and the public health. I am inspired by my colleagues' efforts to promote health and protect our ability to practice the healing arts.

I look forward to this year as your President for many reasons. I hope to serve you and your needs at all times. I pledge to be a good listener. I promise to be a caring mediator. I give my word that I will be a strong advocate for the issues that the members of MedChi prioritize. I am a fervent supporter of a democratic and inclusive approach to decision making, working to protect the voice of the minority and execute the will of the majority.

My dearest hope is that we can use the next year to take back our profession. I'd like us to redefine what it means to be a physician in this modern age. I want to cement our role as scientists, thinkers, healers, caregivers, and educators in the minds of our patients. I'd like us to once again be the first thought for comfort in the minds of the ill. I'd like our patients to view us as their protectors, not a source of danger from which to be saved by litigators and government regulators.

I'd like MedChi to be seen as the doctor for doctoring. Our organization should wear the white coat for doctors and treat the ills that we face in the day-to-day execution of our calling. We have done this so very well through history. We are challenged now by rapidly shifting landscapes in health care delivery. Many of the functions we served in the recent past are being served by others. New generations of practitioners are joining our ranks with diverse talents and unique needs. As we navigate the quicksand of the medical environment, we must look forward and upward to generate blue-sky thinking and maximize innovation. As we redefine ourselves as physicians and MedChi's services to our new selves, we will shore up our organizations' foundations on this shaky ground of modern health care.

We will empower physicians. We will strengthen our core. We will enlighten the masses. We will work long and hard as we have always done. We will not give up, and we will make doctoring great again.

MedChi's Legislative Council Ensures Your Voice is Heard

Chip O'Neil

The function of MedChi's Legislative Council is to study proposed legislation and make recommendations regarding policy on state legislation and regulations; to serve as a reference council through which legislative issues are channeled prior to decisions concerning MedChi legislative and regulatory policy; and to recommend changes to MedChi's House of Delegates to help achieve MedChi's goals.

All bills are assigned to a specific subcommittee for review and recommendation. There are three sub-committees that meet weekly during the legislative session, each headed by a vice-chair: Boards & Commissions, Health Insurance, and Public Health.

The Legislative Council is a voluntary position. Meetings begin after the first of the year and are held every Monday at MedChi's Baltimore office or via web conference.

Legislative Council members enjoy being a part of the deliberative process that is used to review bills that significantly influence the lives of physicians and/or patients. MedChi benefits greatly from the perspectives and expertise provided by our members.

"I've been involved with the Legislative Council for the past five years," says Sarah Merritt, MD, Legislative Council co-chair, "and I'm honored to work for the good of physicians and their patients, who are in great need of advocacy. Many doctors think they have nothing to contribute to this process, but all physicians have a powerful voice and need to use it." Dr. Merritt started advocating on the local level, and now participates at the state and national levels. "It's incredibly rewarding, and MedChi is a wonderful platform for this work. I encourage everyone to get more involved; even students and residents can really have an impact."

Benjamin Lowentritt, MD, Legislative Council co-chair, describes the Council as a cohort of professionals from all specialties and from every stage of practice. "I truly love to be part of the Legislative Council," Dr. Lowentritt says. "While I may not necessarily agree with my fellow members' viewpoints, I feel personally connected to them through our shared experiences. Our policy-making work is all collaborative; we come together to discuss important issues, and I feel a sense of solidarity with my peers from all over the state in our dedication to making a difference."

Chip O'Neil is MedChi Political Advocacy Coordinator. To participate in the Legislative Council, please contact him at 410.539.0872 x6001, or at coneil@medchi.org.

2020 LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY PRIORITIES



As the Statewide professional association for licensed physicians, we are dedicated to our mission to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients, and the public health.

- Protecting Access to Physician Services
- Ensuring Timely Delivery of Health Care Services and Payment
- Protecting the Practice of Medicine
- Addressing Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery Needs
- Strengthening Public Health Initiatives



"Our mission directly informs our advocacy efforts and drives us to pursue a broad spectrum of initiatives that directly impact Maryland's patients and public health in addition to our physician members."

Benjamin Lowentritt, MD
Co-Chair, MedChi's Legislative Council



"Much of MedChi's legislative advocacy priorities are driven by efforts to reduce physician stress by easing administrative burdens such as prior authorization."

Sarah Merritt, MD, Co-Chair, MedChi's Legislative Council



"MedChi works hand in hand with state specialty societies to advocate for physicians and patients because we all understand that we are stronger together."

Renee Bovelle, MD
President-Elect,
Maryland Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society



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2020 LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY PRIORITIES



PROTECTING ACCESS TO PHYSICIAN SERVICES

- Advocating that the Fiscal Year 2021 Medicaid budget fund E&M reimbursement rates equal to the Medicare program to better support physician participation in the Medicaid program and ensure that Medicaid patients have adequate access to physician services.
- Opposing policies that would adversely affect patient care by inappropriately expanding the scope of practice of non-physician providers beyond their education and training, including the ability to independently diagnose, treat, and/or manage medical disorders or refer to themselves as physicians.
- Fighting initiatives to weaken Maryland's current medical liability environment and jeopardize Maryland's Total Cost of Care Model, including increasing the "cap" on damages in medical malpractice cases.

ENSURING TIMELY DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND PAYMENT

- Supporting initiatives that promote greater transparency of utilization management and physician rating system policies used by health insurance carriers and working to lessen the administrative burdens placed on physician offices for authorizing services and obtaining payment for services.
- Improving Maryland's payment climate by ensuring that gain-sharing and other mechanisms for system reform include broad physician participation and provide appropriate physician incentives.
- Working to address administrative challenges faced by physicians in querying, accessing and submitting data to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and Immunet.
- Supporting initiatives that address drug price transparency for name brand and generic pharmaceutical manufacturers, pharmacy benefit managers and insurers.
- Supporting continued efforts to address network adequacy and further standardizing credentialing requirements.
- Protecting the ability of physicians to dispense medications to patients and to prepare medications in physicians' offices without being subject to unreasonable and burdensome equipment and process requirements.

PROTECTING THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

- Monitoring the regulatory and disciplinary actions of the Board of Physicians to ensure the proper treatment of physicians.
- Working to ensure that Maryland licensed physicians who practice integrative medicine appropriately are treated fairly by the Board of Physicians.
- Ensuring that actions of the Board and its staff during the disciplinary process are transparent and that the laws governing the Board provide for accountability.

ADDRESSING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT AND RECOVERY NEEDS

- Advocating for expansion of Maryland's crisis treatment centers throughout the State and addressing access to care barriers for behavioral health services.
- Protecting the integrity of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and its use by physicians as a prescribing tool.
- Supporting innovative approaches to addressing the opioid crisis, such as the establishment of a pilot supervised injection facility.

STRENGTHENING PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES

- Investing in programs to address health disparities and the social determinants of health, including efforts on homelessness and affordable housing, encouraging needle exchange sites throughout Maryland, and providing education and referral for consideration for HIV PrEP.
- Advocating for a broad range of child health and safety initiatives, including repealing the religious exemption for immunizations, requiring background checks and gun safety educational courses for long guns, increasing HPV immunization rates for children at the CDC recommended ages; and requiring that all school personnel receive the seasonal influenza vaccine annually unless medically contraindicated.

MedChi is Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, patients, and the public health.

FOR EMPLOYED PHYSICIANS

- Model Employment Contract
- Compensation Survey and Recruitment Tools
- Online CME Presentations on Physician Employment

FOR PRIVATE PRACTICE PHYSICIANS

- Practice Support Services
- Complimentary Practice Assessment
- No-obligation Insurance Review from the MedChi Insurance Agency

FOR ALL PHYSICIANS

- Maryland Physician Health Program
- Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy
- Continuing Medical Education
- Public Health Advocacy & Resources

Top Ten Ways to be a More Informed and Engaged Grassroots Activist

Susan D'Antoni, FAAMSE

1 Read MedChi communications leading up to and during the state legislative session. In addition to this issue of *Maryland Medicine*, which is dedicated to the upcoming legislative session, read MedChi's weekly electronic newsletter,

MedChi News, which is sent to you every Monday. Your component society also sends communications to you on a regular basis. These communications provide

information about legislative issues and trends affecting the profession of medicine, patient care, and health care delivery, which are being debated in the state legislative session.

2 Become conversant in MedChi's 2020 Legislative Agenda. (See pp. 4–5 in this issue.) This agenda was developed through direction from MedChi's House of Delegates and includes public health, tort reform, health care financing, scope of practice, health insurance, and health care financing issues. Share what MedChi is advocating for with your colleagues!

3 Learn how to be a more effective grassroots activist by improving your own skills. (See pg. 2 for details.) Two sessions have been scheduled early in the legislative session and will be conducted by Zoom so improving your skills requires no travel and only an hour of your time. More details will be sent to members. The sessions are tentatively scheduled for Friday, January 3, 12 p.m., and Wednesday, January 8, 6:30–7 p.m.

4 Volunteer to serve on MedChi's Legislative Council. (See pg. 3 for details.) Meetings begin soon after the first of the year and are weekly on Monday evenings. Attendance can be in person or by phone. You'll witness and participate in the serious, deliberative process that is used to review bills that impact physicians and/or patients. You can volunteer for a subcommittee, which meets by phone to discuss bills assigned to the subcommittee that have to do with health insurance issues, scope of practice, or boards and commissions.

5 Email or call your legislators. From time to time MedChi and/or your component society will send out a legislative alert on a particular bill that MedChi either supports or opposes. You can go to the MedChi website and send an email via the Legislative Center to your senators or delegates, or make a phone call to the legislator's office. Encourage your colleagues to do the same.

6 Contribute to the Maryland Medical Political Action Committee (MMPAC). This helps to ensure that candidates who are supportive of Medicine and who are fighting to protect the interests of Maryland physicians and their patients are elected or re-elected.

7 Attend your component society's legislative breakfast in December or early January and your component society's Lobby Day in 2020. This is an opportunity to connect with elected leaders during the session to influence the outcome of bills that affect the practice of medicine, delivery of care, and health care financing. You'll quickly realize there is "power in numbers," the importance of the coordinated voice of medicine, and the importance of "putting a face with a name."

8 Become a key contact through your component society. This enables you to be assigned

to a delegate or senator from the district. By developing a relationship with your legislator(s) throughout the year, he or she will recognize you as a resource on a variety of medical and nonmedical issues during the session. Pay attention to the legislator's committee assignment(s) because it could be a committee of jurisdiction over medical issues. Even if the legislator doesn't serve on a jurisdictional committee, every vote counts on the floor!

9 Volunteer to be the Physician of the Day at the First Aid Room at the Maryland Statehouse. From papercuts to more involved medical issues, you can interact on a personal level with legislators. There is a nurse to support your efforts, and you get a special parking place for the day. You can also be recognized in the Senate or House chambers and be thanked for your commitment to being Physician of the Day.

10 Like Nike says, "JUST DO IT!" Being involved takes time, talent and resources. Every physician has one or more of these to give. Get involved. Start at the beginning. Do a few things on this list to reap rewards for you and your patients.

"I have been an active participant in the society's legislative events for years. While networking and visibility are important, our involvement is crucial to the survival of our profession. Don't believe that someone else will do it. Let's shape our own future." —Lynne Diggs, MD

"Speaking with our local legislators is one of the most important things you can do as a physician. These are the people making the laws that govern the way we can care for patients, protect our rights as physicians, as well as support a healthy Maryland! I have found lobby day to be an incredibly rewarding and meaningful day for both the legislators as well as the physicians." — Bailey Cannon, MD

Significant Leadership Changes in Maryland General Assembly

Danna Kauffman, Esq.

Michael E. Busch, Maryland's longest-serving Speaker of the House, passed away in April of this year. Delegate Adrienne Jones (D-District 10) was elected to fill the position in early May and assumed the position immediately upon her election.



Maryland's Speaker of the House Adrienne Jones.

Delegate Jones has served in the House of Delegates since 1997. Speaker Jones has made a number of changes to House leadership and Committee membership since her election. Of particular

note to the physician community is the appointment of Delegate Sheree Sample Hughes (D-District 37A) and Delegate Bonnie Cullison (D-District 19) as Speaker Pro Tem and Assistant Speaker Pro Tem respectively. Both Delegates have been very responsive to MedChi issues and will continue to serve on the House Health and Government Operations Committee in addition to their new responsibilities. Deleegate Kirill Reznik (D-District 39) has been appointed to chair the Joint Committee on Behavioral Health and Opioid Use Disorders. Del. Reznik is the 2017 recipient of MedChi's annual Legislative Award in acknowledgment of his advocacy on behalf of Maryland patients.

With respect to the Senate, President Thomas V. Mike Miller, who has been battling cancer, called a meeting in late October of the Maryland Senate Democratic Caucus to announce that he would not seek reelection as Senate President in the next Session. President Miller is the longest serving Senate President in the history of our nation. In response to President Miller's announcement, the Democratic Caucus unanimously elected Senator William C. "Bill" Ferguson from District 46 in Baltimore City to be their nominee for the next Senate President. Senator Ferguson has been a member of the Senate since 2011. His official election as the new Senate President will not occur until the full Senate votes in January 2020, but with the Democratic Caucus fully behind him, that election should be a formality. Senator Miller will remain a Senator representing Prince George's, Charles and Calvert counties. As President, Senator Ferguson will be able to choose his Senate leadership team and may make changes in committee assignments. No proposed changes have been announced to date.



Maryland State Senator William Ferguson.

MedChi looks forward to working with the new leadership in our continuing efforts to serve as the foremost advocate for physicians, patients, and the public health of Maryland.

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MedChi Has Important Role in Medical Cannabis Regulations in Maryland

Catherine Johannesen

While MedChi continues to have no position on the effectiveness and advisability of medical cannabis, MedChi understands that some practitioners and patients want to recommend and use the product. MedChi's Medical Cannabis Committee therefore focuses its endeavors on educating physicians on the continuously evolving rules and regulations surrounding the use of cannabis for medical treatment. The committee developed a series of tools and resources for those physicians that can be found at www.medchi.org/medcan.

In response to reports of patients and licensed dispensaries failing to follow recommendations given by certifying providers, MedChi's House of Delegates recently adopted policy that a licensed dispensary and a patient should comply with a certifying provider's recommendation with regard to medical cannabis. MedChi will pursue legislative and regulatory solutions to issues that could adversely affect medical cannabis patients.

MedChi's House of Delegates also directed MedChi to make a request to the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission that warning and dosage labels be on both the outer packaging and inner packaging for THC oils and other relevant products. This regulation would help to safeguard patients from negative health outcomes associated with the use of medical cannabis that are exacerbated by misunderstandings about dosage.

In acknowledgment of the potential for recreational cannabis to be legalized in Maryland, MedChi has established policy that medical cannabis should remain untaxed.

MedChi's House of Delegates also considered whether age limits should be applied to the purchase or use of recreational marijuana, should it be legalized in Maryland. The House agreed that further study is required and voted to refer the resolution back to MedChi's Medical Cannabis Committee for further study.

MedChi will continue to monitor the ever-evolving issue of medical cannabis and recreational marijuana and will continue to prioritize the health and safety of Marylanders.

A full report of MedChi's Medical Cannabis Committee can be found at www.medchi.org/medcan.

Catherine Johannesen is MedChi Chief of Staff. She can be reached at cjohannesen@medchi.org, or 410.539.0872 x3308.

Maryland Investment in Medicaid Parity

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer, Esq.

It is well recognized that adequate access to care is significantly constrained by lack of access to physician services. Inadequate access to medical care often leads to poor health outcomes and results in an increase in the cost of care for Medicaid recipients. When Medicaid payment rates are too low to cover the cost to provide care, physicians are unable to participate in the Medicaid program. Appropriate payment rates encourage private practice physicians to participate, which not only increases access to care for Medicaid recipients but also reduces the need for recipients to seek care in more expensive and often inappropriate hospital settings.

Medicaid Evaluation & Management Codes (E&M Codes) reimbursement rates equivalent to Medicare rates were established to address:

- The expansion of health care to thousands of Marylanders through the Affordable Care Act; and
- The significant lack of participation in the Medicaid program by Maryland physicians and other health care practitioners due to inadequate reimbursement. The enhanced reimbursement proved to be a success and physician participation in Medicaid significantly increased.

Unfortunately, on April 1, 2015, reimbursement for E&M Codes was reduced from 100 percent of Medicare to 87 percent of Medicare. Governor Larry Hogan has steadily increased rates, recognizing that the failure to increase E&M Code reimbursement would have a negative impact on physician participation and ultimately on patient access to care. However, they have not yet been restored to 100 percent parity with Medicare.

A full investment in Medicaid parity will support the work of the physician and provider workforce that is treating Maryland's most fragile and at-risk population. The return on this investment will result in more care being delivered in the community, the avoidance of unnecessary hospital utilization, and further alignment of the Maryland Total Cost of Care health care delivery system. Maryland can only solve the continuing problem of physician shortages in the Medicaid program by paying physicians at the same rate as they are reimbursed for Medicare.

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer, Esq., is an attorney with Schwartz, Metz, & Wise, PA. She can be reached at pmetz@smwpa.com.



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MedChi's 2019 Annual Meeting: A Showcase of National & State Medical Leadership

Catherine Johannesen

MedChi's 2019 Annual Meeting and Fall House of Delegates meeting was held on November 2 in Hanover, Maryland. Leaders from across the state gathered to discuss the myriad issues that impact the well-being of physicians and patients in Maryland.

Keynote Address

by AMA President:

MedChi was honored to be joined for a keynote presentation by Patrice Harris, MD, President of the American Medical Association. Dr. Harris shared the initiatives that have been developed by the AMA to address the many challenges that are faced by physicians in practice today, including the opioid crisis, the high cost of care, administrative burdens, and patients' access to care.



From left: Willarda Edwards, MD (AMA Board Member and MedChi Past President); Patrice Harris, MD (AMA President); Gene Ransom III (MedChi CEO); Senator Clarence Lam, MD (Maryland General Assembly Member and MedChi Member).

Presidential

Installation: The MedChi annual meeting marks a transition of leadership. Michele A. Manahan, MD, MBA, was installed as MedChi's 172nd President. In her inaugural address, Dr. Manahan spoke passionately about MedChi's role as "the doctor for doctoring," noting that the organization empowers physicians "to be well and thrive."

Awards Presented: Neal Naff, MD, a Baltimore neurosurgeon, was presented with MedChi's 2019 Henry P. and M. Page Laughlin Distinguished Member Award in acknowledgement of his leadership and activism on behalf of the physicians and patients of Maryland. MedChi's outgoing President, Benjamin Z. Stallings, presented MedChi's President's Award to James Elliott, MD, Adam Kane, and Teresa Healey-Conway for their contributions to organized medicine and health care in Maryland.

Focus on Legislation: MedChi's 2020 legislative priorities were cemented at the annual meeting. In addition to advocating for ongoing payment, tort reform, and regulatory priorities, the House of Delegates voted to support efforts to establish background checks, waiting periods, gun safety courses, and age limits for long gun purchasing in Maryland. MedChi's House of Delegates also sent a request to the American Medical Association to develop recommendations for guiding media toward "accurate and sensitive discussion of the purported relationship between mental illness and gun violence." These public health initiatives will be included in MedChi's advocacy efforts in 2020 and beyond. (See this issue, pages 4–5 for the full legislative agenda as adopted by the House of Delegates.)

Memorial Recognitions: Among the many notable losses in the Maryland medical community in 2019, MedChi lost two leaders for whom Gene Ransom, CEO, made a special dedication at the meeting. Donald "Ted" Lewers, MD, was a MedChi Past President and served as Chair of the AMA Board of Trustees. George Newman III, MD, served on the Board of Directors for Medical Mutual Liability Insurance Society of Maryland and served in hospital system leadership in western Maryland. Memorials for Dr. Lewers and Dr. Newman can be found online at www.medchi.org/HOD.

Catherine Johannesen is MedChi Chief of Staff. She can be reached at cjohannesen@medchi.org, or 410.539.0872 x3308.

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MedChi Will Continue Strong Advocacy Efforts on Medical Liability in 2020 Session

Steven Wise, Esq.

MedChi's medical liability goals are to protect and strengthen the legal liability environment for Maryland's physicians. In furtherance of this goal, MedChi's efforts during the 2020 General Assembly Session are likely to be focused on two proposals that may be introduced.

First, if recent years are any indication, the plaintiff's lawyers will seek legislation increasing the cap on non-economic damage awards. Non-economic damages are awarded to plaintiffs for pain and suffering, but because pain and suffering are difficult to value, these awards can be subject to the whims of a jury and be disproportionate. Recognizing this, the General Assembly enacted a cap on non-economic damages, currently set at \$815,000, which is one of the highest caps in the country. MedChi will work to keep the current cap intact.

Second, the trial lawyers may also attempt to abolish the defense of contributory negligence. This legal principle holds that if a plaintiff has contributed to their own injuries, they cannot recover in a negligence action. An example would be when a patient sues a physician for medical injury following a surgery, but it is later proven that the injury was due to the patient's failure to follow the physician's treatment instructions. The patient contributed to his or her own injuries and cannot recover under the defense of contributory negligence. MedChi will work to retain this defense, a longstanding policy that has helped control the costs of tort claims.

Steven Wise, Esq., is an attorney with Schwartz, Metz, & Wise, PA. He can be reached at swise@smwpa.com.

Physicians, Be Aware: Maryland Legislature Passed Laws That Went into Effect on October 1, 2019

On October 1, 2019, hundreds of Maryland laws went into effect, from criminal justice reform to election law to the state's medical cannabis commission. A large number of bills that were backed by MedChi fell under substance abuse and behavioral health.

House Bill 116 will require jails to screen all inmates for opioid use disorder, and establishes specified state-funded programs of "opioid use disorder" screening, evaluation, and treatment in local correctional facilities. The program will begin in four counties and phases in to eventually include all counties.

The age limit for purchasing tobacco products — including vapes — increased from 18 to 21 under House Bill 1169. An exception is made for military personnel. Furthermore, minors (individuals under the age of 18) will now be prohibited from using tanning beds (House Bill 124). The law surrounding a minor's right to be treated for the prevention of HIV has been further clarified, with respect to the minor's right to consent (House Bill 1138).

To review any bill in its entirety, please go to www.mgaleg.maryland.gov.

Call for Nominations: Margret Zassenhaus Profile In Courage Award

MedChi is seeking nominations for the Margret Zassenhaus Profile in Courage Award, a recognition that was established to honor a physician's actions related to exemplary conduct and improvement in health care delivery. To receive the award, the physician's work must have involved some risk to the physician's professional or personal status for the good of patient care and must have a social significance in keeping with the MedChi and AMA Principles of Medical Ethics. The nomination should meet the following requirements:

- The nomination must be made by a MedChi member.
- The nomination should be accompanied by a letter of nomination stating how the actions of the nominee meet the criteria.
- There must be at least one additional letter of support from a Maryland physician explaining how the nominee exemplifies the intent of the award.

Preference will be given to nominees who are MedChi members, nominees who were not compensated for their recognized activities, and for action done in the state of Maryland. To submit a nomination, please contact Chip O'Neil at coneil@medchi.org, or 410.539.0872 x6001. Deadline for nominations: Friday, January 31, 2020.

Strengthening the voice of **Maryland physicians**

Your membership in MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society and the American Medical Association (AMA) ensures you have powerful allies amplifying your voice and advocating for the needs of Maryland patients and physicians—in your community and across the country.

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Join the AMA at ama-assn.org/mmm-medchi.
Join MedChi at medchi.org/membership.

“ In Maryland, we are close to the federal government, and politics is our ‘home sport.’ MedChi and the AMA are experts at advocating for physician and patient interests in Annapolis and in DC. ”

Stephen Rockower, MD

AMA MEMBER SINCE: 1982

AMA House of Delegates



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?



MPHP is a private, confidential, non-disciplinary program that advocates for the health and well-being of all physicians and other allied health professionals who are licensed by the Maryland Board of Physicians to safeguard the public. MPHP is HIPAA compliant, and protects the confidentiality of participant records as set forth under state and federal law. MPHP is administered by the Maryland State Medical Society’s 501 (c)(3) affiliate, the Center for a Healthy Maryland, and is separate from the Maryland Board of Physicians.

For more information and/or a confidential consultation for you or a colleague who may benefit from our help, please call **800-992-7010** or **410-962-5580**.

MPHP

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Montgomery County Medical Society's Advocacy Fellowship for Physicians Who Want Deep Dive into Grassroots Advocacy

Susan D'Antoni, FAAMSE

Montgomery County Medical Society has initiated a new grassroots advocacy experience for physician members who want to become more informed about and engaged in the advocacy process.

The goals of the program are:

1. To develop physicians' awareness of the importance of engagement in the legislative process at the local, state, and federal levels;
2. To enhance physicians' grassroots legislative skills;
3. To enhance legislators' understanding of medical and medical practice issues from the perspective of a physician;
4. To provide physicians with an immersion advocacy experience by choosing an issue and/or bills that the physician will follow through the state legislative process;
5. To enhance physicians' understanding of the value of advocacy to physicians and patients that is gained through greater engagement with organized medicine; and
6. To increase physicians' interest in leadership in MCMS and MedChi, by raising awareness and enhancing skills.

The fellowship includes both preferred and encouraged activities starting in December through the completion of the 2020 state legislative session.

Montgomery County Medical Society is recruiting interested physicians to serve in the first fellowship class of up to five physicians. Contact Susan D'Antoni, MCMS CEO, if you are interested at sdantoni@montgomerymedicine.org.

Physicians of the Day Needed in Annapolis First Aid Room

MedChi will once again offer the Physician of the Day Program at the 2020 General Assembly. Your assistance is needed! This interesting and fun program allows you to observe the legislative process firsthand, meet with your state legislators, and leave a great impression about family medicine on the General Assembly. For more information, contact Chip O'Neil by email at coneil@medchi.org, or call 410.539.0872 x6001.



2019 Montgomery County Medical Society Lobby Day. From left: Brent Berger, MD; Shannon Pryor, MD; Tuesday Cook, MD; and Carolyn O'Connor, MD.

2020 Medical Society Lobby Days in Annapolis

Maryland Chapter, American Congress of Obstetrics & Gynecology: January 31

Maryland Psychiatric Society: February 4

Maryland Dermatologic Society: February 6

Maryland Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons: February 13

Prince Georges, Anne Arundel & Howard Counties:

February 24

Baltimore County, Baltimore City, Harford County:

February 26

Montgomery County: March 4

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Member Profiles

Duane Taylor, MD, Elected as President of AAO-HNS

Duane J. Taylor, MD, an otolaryngologist head and neck surgeon from Montgomery County became the new President of the American Academy of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS) in early September. AAO-HNS represents nearly 12,000 members nationwide.



Dr. Taylor is a former Montgomery County Medical Society President, and previously served on the boards of the National Capital Physicians Foundation, Montgomery County Health Commission, Montgomery Cares Advisory Board, MidAtlantic Permanente Medical Group, Medical Society of DC, and the National

Medical Association. He has also been on humanitarian medical missions in South America. Dr. Taylor has been in practice in the DC Metro area for more than twenty-seven years. MedChi congratulates him on becoming the new president of his specialty society.

David Myles, MD, Elected to Rockville City Council

David Myles, MD, a pediatric emergency medicine physician, won his race to become a City of Rockville councilmember on November 5, 2019. In a crowded field of thirteen candidates, Dr. Myles came in third with 11 percent of the vote. The Rockville City Council is comprised of the Mayor and four council members. Dr. Myles' inauguration was held on Sunday, November 17, and his first meeting as a new council member was on November 18. This election was the first election in the entire state of



Maryland to be conducted by mail, and saw an increase of almost 50 percent in voter participation.

Dr. Myles, a resident of the Tower Oaks neighborhood of Rockville, was active even before his decision to run for City Council. He was part of the City's Opioid Task Force, an important role given that Rockville has seen its share of opioid overdoses in recent years.

MedChi's Newest Physician Members

MedChi welcomes the following new members, who joined between September 13 and November 19, 2019.

- Frederik H. Bloem, MD
- Michael A. Cole, MD
- Randolph B. Gorman, MD — Physician Anesthesia Assoc, PA
- Jennifer E. Guyther, MD
- Kimberly Hickey, MD — Maternal Fetal Medicine Assoc of MD
- Min Kim, MD — Inpatient Surgical Consultants
- Chikao-dili Logie, MD — Community Radiology Associates
- Jasmine E. Malcolm, MD
- Isha Misra, MD — Suburban Hospital
- William Rollow, MD
- Warren M. Ross, MD — Crossroads Medical Associates
- Steven J. Saltzman, MD
- Shadid Shamim, MD — Privia Health LLC
- Rebecca F. Vickers, MD
- William E. Vickers, MD
- Sunila Walia, MD — Aesthetic & Dermatology Center
- Kenneth M. Wong, MD
- Salam Zughayer, DO

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Gary Pushkin, MD, Recognized with MedChi's Distinguished Committee Chair and Board of Trustees Awards

Russ Kujan

The MedChi Board of Trustees recognized Gary W. Pushkin, MD, Immediate Past President of MedChi, with the Dr. Henry P. & M. Page Laughlin Award for Distinguished Board of Trustees (BOT) Member, and the



Dr. Benjamin Stallings presents the Laughlin Award to Dr. Gary Pushkin.

MedChi House of Delegates gave him the President's Award.

The awards were given in recognition for his contributions leadership on both the BOT and on the MedChi Opioid Task Force.

Dr. Pushkin made Maryland's opioid crisis his main priority during his term as MedChi president from 2017 to 2018. He was the force behind the creation of the

MedChi Opioid Task Force. Through the task force he convened stakeholders and advocates throughout the state to focus on solutions to the crisis. He established partnerships with Governor Hogan's Opioid Operational Command Center, Maryland Department of Health, Board of Physicians, DrFirst, Maryland Patient Safety Center, University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, DEA, American Medical Association, and concerned physicians. He has been an advocate in the legislature, testifying for increased funding for treatment and education since the task force began two years ago.

As Immediate Past President, Dr. Pushkin volunteered to continue to speak at hospitals across the state for MedChi's CDS CME Roadshow this fall. The Roadshow covers how to effectively use the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) and stay in compliance with Maryland law. His presentations, delivered in his engaging and entertaining manner including interesting legislative anecdotes touching on the importance of advocacy, have been well-received. He also recorded an online version of the CME for those who are unable to attend any of the in-person meetings.

During the meeting that he received the BOT award, the Opioid Task Force was voted by Board members to become a permanent committee due to the continued importance of the task force mission. This was further recognition of his leadership on this serious medical crisis.

Russ Kujan is Executive Director of Baltimore County Medical Association. He can be reached at rkujan@medchi.org.

All Politics Are Local

Lisa B. Williams

We've all heard: "all politics are local," and while that sentiment can be debated, Baltimore City Medical Society has embraced it. BCMS leadership has revived its outreach with members of the Baltimore City Council. The City Council's Public Health Committee was re-established earlier this year with Councilman Kristerfer Burnett appointed chairman. BCMS board member and MedChi Public Health Council Chair, Richard Bruno, MD, and BCMS executive director, Lisa B. Williams, met with Councilman Burnett recently to share goals, public health initiatives, and areas for possible collaboration.

BCMS has a prolific history with City government and City public health initiatives. As early as 1908, BCMS began its advocacy for improving the public health by advocating for

passage of the Water Loan act to provide pure drinking water for City residents.

Other initiatives over the years have included: (1) urging Mayor Howard W. Jackson to develop an ambulance service (1927), the

first of its kind in the United States; (2) developing an emergency telephone response service (1950), staffed by some 350 physicians; (3) commissioning a study to identify strategies to improve availability and access to medical care (1980); (4) organizing a young physicians committee to provide medical care for individuals who were homeless (1991); participating in a bioterrorism exercise operationalized



continued on page 18

All Politics Are Local, continued from pg. 17

by the City Health Department (2003); (5) initiating a school-based obesity prevention program (2007); and advocating through the MedChi House of Delegates for a ban on selling tobacco and tobacco-related products in businesses providing medical care, such as pharmacies (2013).

Fast forward, BCMS has offered to serve as a resource to the Council's public health committee. Additionally, BCMS will monitor Council bills and provide testimony and other information. For the coming year, BCMS will revive its "mini internship" to allow City Council members to spend time with BCMS members to gain first-hand knowledge of the practice of medicine. Finally, it is anticipated City Council members will join forces with BCMS in advocating for public health initiatives that will be introduced during the 2020 Maryland General Assembly.

Lisa Williams is CEO/Executive Director, Baltimore City Medical Society and Baltimore City Medical Society Foundation. She can be reached at info@bcmsdocs.org.

IMG Section Plans Spring Social in 2020

Cathy Peters

The International Medical School Graduate (IMG) Section met at the MedChi House of Delegates meeting on Saturday, November 2, 2019. The group discussed how to proceed with a Spring Social in 2020.

IMG is currently a small group of physicians who eagerly seek to include other international medical school graduates in their section.



*IMG President,
Padmini Ranasinghe, MD*

Cathy Peters is MedChi's Membership Liaison. If you are interested in participating with this group, please contact Cathy Peters at cpeters@medchi.org, or 410.539.0872 x3369.

CRISP FREE Services for Ambulatory Practices

Connect. Share. Improve Patient Care

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.

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.

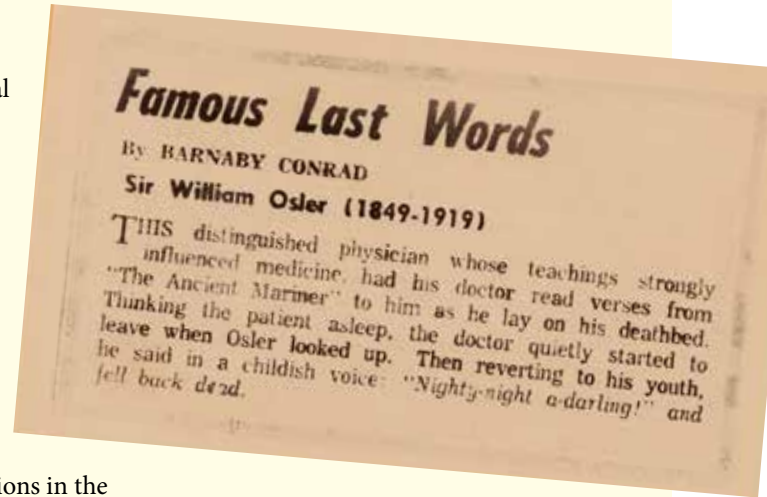
Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)

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 **410-878-9698** or email cgeorge@medchi.org.

Last Words of Sir William Osler, MD

On December 30, 1919, word reached Baltimore and the Medical & Chirurgical Faculty that Sir William Osler, MD, had died in Oxford. His death was hastened by the death in 1916 of his beloved only child, Revere, during World War I. Osler's body lay in the Lady Chapel at Oxford University in England until January 1, 1920, when a service was held. On the same day, at many places throughout the world, similar services took place. In Baltimore, at Old St. Paul's Church, many notables, including physicians and professors from Baltimore's medical community, attended the service. A contemporary account from the Baltimore Sun says the service was "in honor of the world-famous physician who so long made Baltimore his home, and whose career here has become one of the most prized traditions in the medical history of Maryland."



The "Last Words" piece was found in MedChi's archives and is not attributed.

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Events

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