



2020 Annual Report



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

2020 Advocacy Highlights

- **TELEHEALTH** With the onset of COVID-19, MedChi supported a bill authorizing a health care practitioner to establish a practitioner-patient relationship through a synchronous or asynchronous interaction. MedChi also supported an emergency legislation which requires Medicaid to provide mental health services appropriately delivered through telehealth to a patient in the patient's home setting.
- **MEDICAID BUDGET** MedChi successfully secured an additional \$4 million in funding to maintain E&M Codes at the current level of 93 percent of Medicare. This success is particularly notable given that the General Assembly eliminated any further reductions to the hospital Medicaid Deficit Assessment after Fiscal Year 2021, setting it at \$294,825,000 for this fiscal year and each year moving forward.
- **TORT REFORM** MedChi, MHA, and other groups opposed lifting the limit on non-economic damages if the plaintiff proved that damages resulted from "willful, wanton, malicious, reckless or grossly negligent acts or omissions." MedChi supported legislation that would have adopted the Daubert standard for expert witness testimony, which is followed by federal courts and is generally regarded as providing a sounder and more reliable basis for expert testimony than the current Frye/Reed standard used in Maryland. Both bills failed.
- **BOARD OF PHYSICIANS** MedChi was able to use legislation introduced earlier this year to address two of the issues identified by the Board of Physicians Task Force. An agreement was reached with Board leadership to evaluate an expungement program for physicians with minor infractions. MedChi and the Board came to an agreement to resolve a longstanding issue involving the discipline of integrative medicine physicians.
- **SCOPE OF PRACTICE** MedChi opposed legislation that would allow naturopaths with no residency and limited pharmacology background to be the ability to prescribe drugs. MedChi also opposed legislation that would allow podiatrists to use the term "podiatric physician," and argued that the term "physician" should be reserved for MDs and DOs, as it has been under Maryland law.

2020 Award Recipients

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

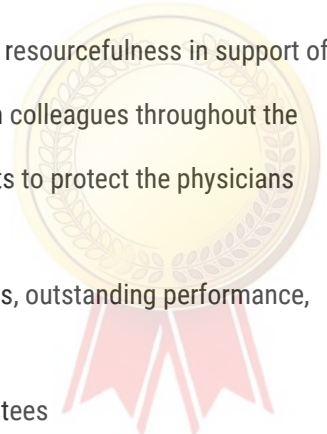
- **Gene Ransom, MedChi CEO**, in acknowledgment of his nimble leadership, tireless advocacy, and passionate resourcefulness in support of MedChi members and all physicians in Maryland
- **Howard Haft, MD**, in acknowledgement of his tireless efforts to educate, reassure, and support his physician colleagues throughout the COVID-19 pandemic
- **Governor Larry Hogan**, in acknowledgement of his intrepid leadership, support of science, and tireless efforts to protect the physicians and patients of Maryland

DR. HENRY P. AND M. PAGE LAUGHLIN ADMINISTRATIVE AWARD

- **Ron Kendall, Sales Executive, Property & Casualty at Unity Insurance**, in recognition of his exemplary results, outstanding performance, and client dedication for Unity Insurance

DR. HENRY P. AND M. PAGE LAUGHLIN DISTINGUISHED BOARD OF TRUSTEES AWARD

- **Benjamin Z. Stallings, MD**, in recognition of his dedicated leadership and service on MedChi's Board of Trustees



Services and Resources 2020 Overview

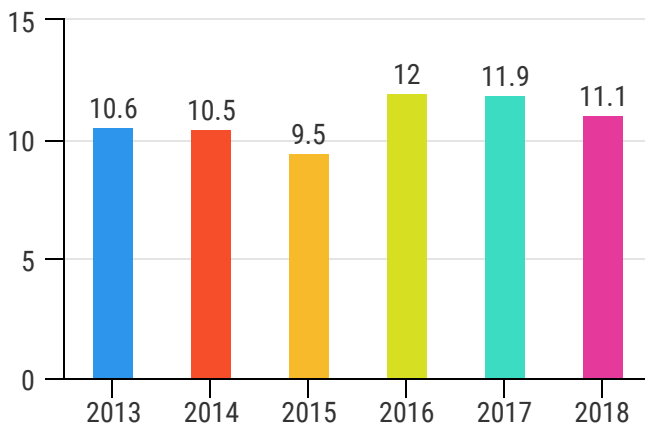
- **UNITY INSURANCE** has worked hard to support clients through the challenges of the pandemic while accomplishing a significant milestone as the agency was re-branded to Unity Insurance (formerly known as MedChi Insurance Agency). The name helps better identify who they are and what they stand for – a full-service insurance agency serving physicians, practice groups, and other industries. The definition of being united or joined together – Unity communicates the intent to work together with clients and give them confidence in Unity's ability to deliver solutions. Same team, same expertise, same level of quality service. Just under a new brand!
- **THE CENTER FOR THE PRIVATE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE** has actively assisted all practitioners navigate their way through Telehealth billing and coding requirements during COVID and also helped with practice reopening requirements after having been closed for weeks or even months. They also provided information and assistance in staying financially viable through a very difficult time. They expect to be doing the same for some time to come, and are happy and honored to help.
- **THE CENTER FOR A HEALTHY MARYLAND** collaborated with the Maryland Department of Health to administer the Maryland Maternal Mortality Review Program. In addition, they updated and redesigned the healthymaryland.org website and added biographies of MedChi's past presidents, dating back to 1799, to the MedChi Archives blog.
- **THE MEDCHI DEPARTMENT OF CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)** conducted over 47 local and national CME activities and added 10 new jointly provided programs with new partners. MedChi's CPD Division pivoted to online options during the pandemic using virtual platforms. Topics for these educational events were focused on practicing medicine in the COVID-19 environment. MedChi worked with physician members to assist them in finding resources to support their continuing education needs, as live meetings were postponed or canceled and more traditional opportunities no longer available. They also worked with hospitals and other organizations in its accrediting system to assist them in finding alternative ways of providing education to physicians and worked with providers in that system to maintain the accreditation process during the pandemic.

MedChi 2019 – 2020 Board of Trustees

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Membership and Financial Trends

Net Assets (\$ in millions)



Membership

