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MedChi
The Maryland State Medical Society

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Additional Information Contact:
Gene M. Ransom, CEO
Office: 410-539-0872 x 3305

MEDCHI ANNOUNCES DR. JAMES M. WILLIAMS AS ITS 179TH PRESIDENT

Experienced emergency medicine physician, educator, researcher, and healthcare leader to lead Maryland's statewide physician organization

BALTIMORE – October 20, 2026 — MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is pleased to announce the election of James M. Williams, MS, DO, FACEP, as its 179th President. Dr. Williams brings extensive experience in clinical medicine, healthcare leadership, medical research, and physician advocacy to the role.

A longtime MedChi member, Dr. Williams has served on the organization's Board of Trustees since 2022 and previously served as President of the Baltimore County Medical Association from 2021 to 2022. His election reflects a longstanding commitment to organized medicine and advancing the interests of physicians and their patients.

Dr. Williams is a Clinical Professor of Emergency Medicine at Meritus Medical Center in Hagerstown, where he oversees research initiatives at a trauma and stroke center serving approximately 85,000 patients annually. He established the Emergency Department's clinical research program in 2019, successfully expanding its participation in multisite national clinical trials, including research conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

His distinguished career spans more than three decades in emergency medicine, academic medicine, hospital administration, and pharmaceutical development. Most recently, Dr. Williams served as Senior Medical Director of the Acute Care Hospital Team at AstraZeneca, where he led national medical initiatives, collaborated with leading academic institutions, and advanced research partnerships involving artificial intelligence and clinical care.

Prior to returning to Maryland, Dr. Williams spent nearly a decade as a Clinical Professor at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. Earlier in his career, he practiced emergency medicine within the Methodist Healthcare System in San Antonio, Texas, serving in several leadership capacities, including Chief of Staff and Chair of Quality Improvement and Resuscitation Committees.

His leadership experience also includes serving as President of the Texas College of Emergency Physicians from 2010 to 2011 and Chair of the Emergency Medicine Foundation from 2024 to 2025. During his tenure with the foundation, he spearheaded $1.4 million in emergency medicine research grants, supporting research initiatives nationwide.

"I am honored to serve as MedChi's 179th President and grateful for the opportunity to represent Maryland's physicians," said Dr. Williams. "My career has been shaped by a commitment to patient care, medical education, research, and physician leadership. This is particularly important from my perspective as a Physician in the Emergency Department, the front door of acute care and the safety net for the healthcare of Americans. I look forward to

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working with MedChi, its members and leadership to strengthen our profession, support physicians across Maryland, and ensure that the physician voice remains central to conversations shaping the future of healthcare."

Dr. Williams earned his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, a Master of Science from the University of Maryland, and a Bachelor of Science from Loyola University Maryland. He completed his postgraduate training at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas.

He also served in the United States Army, including as Brigade Surgeon for the First Armored Division in Germany, and received the Army Commendation Medal for his leadership and quality improvement initiatives.

"Dr. Williams brings a unique combination of clinical experience, research expertise, and organizational leadership to the presidency," said Gene Ransom, CEO of MedChi. "His longstanding involvement with MedChi, coupled with his experience leading medical organizations and advancing patient care, will be an important asset as we continue advocating for Maryland physicians and the patients they serve."

As President, Dr. Williams will help guide MedChi's efforts to advocate for physicians, strengthen the practice of medicine in Maryland, promote physician engagement, and address the evolving challenges facing healthcare delivery.

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. Formed in 1799, it is still the largest physician organization in Maryland today. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients, and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.