

# 2021 Annual Report

**MedChi**  
The Maryland State Medical Society



**Your Advocate.**

**Your Resource.**

**Your Profession.**

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.

## 2021 Advocacy Highlights

- **PROTECTED ACCESS TO PHYSICIAN SERVICES AND THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE** Successfully lobbied for an increase of \$92 million in the state budget to maintain Medicaid physician E & M Codes reimbursement rates and an additional \$3.2 million for FY2022 to fund the extension of Medicaid coverage for pregnancy.
- **ENSURED TIMELY DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND PAYMENT** Collaborated successfully to pass telehealth legislation to continue payment for and access to telehealth post-pandemic, including audio-only telehealth.
- **PROTECTED THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE** Defeated legislation advanced by podiatrists which would have allowed them to use the deceptive term "podiatric physician", the persistent efforts by the naturopaths to gain prescriptive authority that would endanger patients, and legislation authorizing a pharmacist to order and administer laboratory tests without an authorized prescription.
- **ADDRESSED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT AND RECOVERY NEEDS** Successfully lobbied to decriminalize possession of drug paraphernalia used to inject, ingest, inhale or otherwise administer a controlled dangerous substance. Also successfully lobbied to require the Maryland Department of Health to include mental health first aid as one of the behavioral health services for eligible veterans and to enhance and expand Maryland's crisis response system.
- **STRENGTHENED PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES** Helped establish a framework for the establishment of Health Resource Communities in areas of Maryland with demonstrated health inequities and disparities. Successfully advocated authorizing an employer to file a petition for a peace order of an employee who alleges violence against another employee in the employer's workplace and to strengthen the testing thresholds for elevated levels of lead in school drinking water outlets that threaten the health of children.
- **ADDRESSED REGULATORY ADVOCACY IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19** Supported a framework that would make it easier for school-based health centers to offer telehealth and successfully defeated legislation that would have authorized out-of-state physicians and other practitioners to register to provide telehealth services in Maryland without a requirement for licensure in the state.

## 2021 Award Recipients

### PRESIDENT'S AWARD

- **Benjamin Stallings, M.D.**, for his dedication and leadership as Chair of MedChi's Committee on Ethics and Judicial Affairs
- **Renee Bovelie, M.D.**, for her enthusiastic volunteerism in organized medicine
- **Willarda Edwards, M.D.**, for her dedication and talents as a role model and mentor to so many colleagues in organized medicine
- **Jack Gatti**, for his dedicated leadership in helping fellow medical students find their voice in organized medicine

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

- **Debbie Sciabarrasi, Executive Director, Center for a Healthy Maryland**, for her dedication and leadership as Executive Director of the Center for a Healthy Maryland

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

- **Michele Manahan, M.D.**, for the outstanding contribution of her time and talents as a member of the MedChi Board of Trustees Executive Committee and as Founder and Chair of the IDEA Task Force

### DR. HENRY P. AND M. PAGE LAUGHLIN DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE CHAIR AWARD

- **Benjamin Lowentritt, M.D.**, for the outstanding contribution of his time and talents as Chair of the Legislative Council

### DR. HENRY P. AND M. PAGE LAUGHLIN DISTINGUISHED MEMBER AWARD

- **Richard Bruno, M.D.**, for his leadership and dedication to organized medicine and Maryland's public health as a member of MedChi.

### DR. HENRY P. AND M. PAGE LAUGHLIN DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC OFFICER AWARD

- **Travis Gayles, M.D.**, for his outstanding leadership and dedication as Montgomery County Health Officer



# Services and Resources 2021 Overview

- **UNITY INSURANCE** celebrated its one-year anniversary under its new brand. The name and logo have been well received as it represents the culture of their team – working together with and for their clients. They continue to serve the house of medicine, working closely with physicians and practice groups. In addition, they have added numerous industry segments to their client portfolio including technology, manufacturing, and contractors to name a few. Their full-service insurance agency brings “one-stop shopping” to their clients, offering expertise, top-notch service, and peace of mind.
- **THE CENTER FOR THE PRIVATE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE** has actively assisted all practitioners to 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, which was established in 2000 to identify and review all maternal death cases in Maryland, to determine preventability, develop recommendations, and disseminate the findings and recommendations to policymakers, healthcare providers, and the community. The data and recommendations for maternal deaths occurring in 2017 can be found in the 2019 annual report at [www.healthymaryland.org](http://www.healthymaryland.org). The Center also continues to partner with The Maryland Health Care Coalition Against Domestic Violence which was formed in 1998 to provide leadership within the health care community to promote a proactive and effective response to domestic violence through screening, identification, education, intervention, and treatment of domestic violence victims. The Coalition has created a series of educational brochures, for health care providers focused on responding to patients, as well as brochures to provide patients. Coalition members also provide training around the state in various health care agencies, seminars on domestic violence-related topics, and technical assistance to health care agencies looking to improve their policies, screening, and intervention. Over the past year, the Coalition conducted 16 trainings to 410 participants, held 3 seminars with 185 participants, updated its brochures, and created new Professional Guidance Sheets on relevant topics such as substance abuse and intimate partner violence, pregnancy, TBI's, strangulation, and more available at [www.healthanddv.org](http://www.healthanddv.org). In addition, they updated the [healthymaryland.org](http://www.healthymaryland.org) website and added biographies of MedChi's past presidents and all 101 founders, dating back to 1799, to the MedChi Archives blog.
- **THE MEDCHI DEPARTMENT OF CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)** conducted over 48 local and national CME activities and added 9 new jointly provided programs with new partners while retaining and maintaining relationships with 31 returning organizations. MedChi's CPD Division continued to improve and enhance online options as the nation and the state continue to deal with the pandemic. Topics for these educational events were focused on practicing medicine in the COVID-19 environment, telemedicine, and other important clinical and non-clinical topics. The CPD Division assisted physician members and others, in finding resources to support their continuing education needs, as live meetings continued to be postponed or canceled which limited more traditional opportunities to access CME. At the same time, the Division worked with hospitals and other organizations in its accrediting system to assist them in finding and expanding alternative ways of providing education to physicians, working with providers in that system to maintain the accreditation process during the pandemic.

## MedChi 2020 - 2021 Board of Trustees

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Shannon P. Pryor, M.D.

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Loralie D. Ma., M.D.

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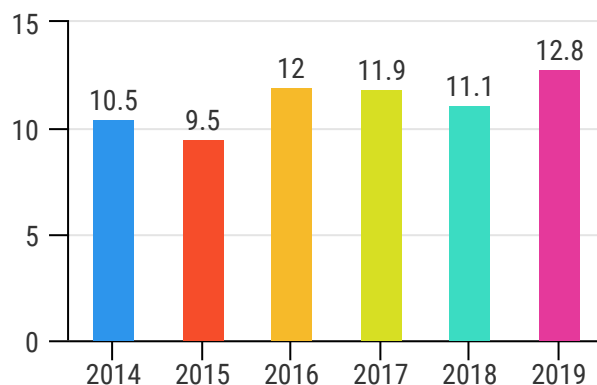
**Resident & Fellow Section Trustee**  
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**Chief Executive Officer**  
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## Membership and Financial Trends

Net Assets (\$ in millions)



Membership

