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MAY IS MELANOMA/SKIN CANCER DETECTION & PREVENTION MONTH

BALTIMORE, May 5, 2015 — As warm weather approaches and millions of Americans prepare to enjoy the outdoors, the risk of ultraviolet (UV) damage to the skin increases. Skin cancer is on the rise in the United States, and the American Cancer Society estimates that one American dies every hour from skin cancer. This year alone, the American Cancer Society estimates there will be more than 73,870 new cases of malignant melanoma, the most serious form of skin cancer, and more than two million new cases of basal cell and squamous cell skin cancers in the U.S.

MedChi, along with the Center for a Healthy Maryland (CFHM), is proud to participate in Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month. The Center for a Healthy Maryland is a member of the National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention. To help reduce rising rates of skin cancer from overexposure to UV rays of the sun, the National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention has designated the Friday before Memorial Day as “*Don’t Fry Day*” to encourage sun safety awareness and to remind everyone to protect their skin while enjoying the outdoors. Take simple steps today to protect your skin:

- Do Not Burn or Tan
- Seek Shade
- Wear Sun-Protective Clothing
- Generously Apply Sunscreen
- Use Extra Caution Near Water, Snow, and Sand
- Get Vitamin D Safely

Gene Ransom, CEO of MedChi, states, “Everyone can help spread the word about strategies for preventing skin cancer. Encourage family members to adopt good habits together, like wearing sunscreen and limiting their time in the sun.”

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.

About the Center for a Healthy Maryland

The Center for a Healthy Maryland is an affiliate of MedChi. The Center’s mission is to advance the practice of medicine, enhance the quality of medical care, and promote the health of the citizens of the State of Maryland. The Center’s programs are directed at the public to improve health status, and also focus on quality improvement and education, with programs for physicians to help them to better serve their patients. For more information, visit www.healthymaryland.org.