MedChi
The Maryland State Medical Society

DECEMBER 1 IS WORLD AIDS DAY

BALTIMORE, December 1, 2016 — This year marks 35 years since the first published report of what is known today as HIV/AIDS. One in 5 of the more than one million people living with HIV are unaware of his or her infection. This year, in recognition of World AIDS Day on December 1, MedChi encourages all citizens of Maryland to get tested for HIV.

The only way to know for sure if you have HIV is to get tested. You could have HIV and still feel healthy. Many doctors recommend HIV testing for all teens and adults between the ages of 13 and 64.

It's especially important to get tested regularly if you are at high risk of infection. Get tested for HIV at least once a year if you:

- Have unprotected sex (sex without a condom) with someone who might have HIV
- Have sex with men who have sex with men
- Use drugs with needles
- Have a sex partner who is HIV-positive
- Have had a sexually transmitted disease (STD)

Dr. Stephen Rockower, President of MedChi, states "AIDS is the final stage of the HIV infection. It can take many years for a person infected with HIV to reach this stage. HIV is becoming a chronic disease with newer treatments and therapies. Everyone should know their HIV status."

About MedChi
MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. 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.