



The Maryland State Medical Society

News: For Immediate Release
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March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

BALTIMORE, March 31, 2023 – March is observed across the nation as colorectal cancer awareness month. Many survivors, patients, caregivers, and others whose lives have been affected by colorectal cancer come together to generate awareness of the importance of getting screened and also encouraging loved ones to get screened.

According to the American Cancer Society, excluding skin cancers, colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer diagnosed in both men and women in the United States. In 2023, the American Cancer Society estimates 106,970 new cases of colon cancer and 46,050 new cases of rectal cancer. Colorectal cancer also is the second leading cause of cancer death among both genders, combined, and is expected to cause about 52,550 deaths during 2023.

Colorectal cancer (also referred to as colon cancer) almost always develops from precancerous polyps (abnormal growths) in the colon or rectum and is almost always preventable through screening tests. These screening tests can find the polyps, so they can be removed before they turn into cancer.

This past month, the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) was recognized by both the House and the Senate for its continued efforts to promote awareness of colorectal cancer and its commitment to early detection and prevention. Maryland Senator Clarence K. Lam, MD, sponsored a [citation](#) and a [resolution](#), followed by a [citation](#) sponsored by Delegate Terri L. Hill, MD.

“The American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy thanks and applauds lawmakers in Maryland for their vision and leadership,” said ASGE President-elect Jennifer Christie, MD, FASGE. “Encouraging their constituents to get screened for colorectal cancer on a regular basis when it’s applicable is going to save lives, keeping in mind that this disease has a 90 percent survival rate when it’s detected early enough.”

MedChi leadership echoed this sentiment. “We are thrilled that Senator Lam and Delegate Hill recognize and support the importance of colorectal cancer awareness,” noted MedChi President James York, MD. “We are proud to lock arms with ASGE and other stakeholders to push for more screening, more funding, more research, and more lives saved.”

While the month of March is used to draw attention to this disease, MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society wants the public to be aware of this cancer all year long.

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.