



The Maryland State Medical Society

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MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE SOCIETY SELECTED FOR COLORECTAL CANCER (CRC) SCREENING INITIATIVE FOR UNDERSERVED IN MARYLAND

BALTIMORE, January 19, 2024 – MedChi has been selected by the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) to administer developmental projects in Maryland that are designed to increase the follow-up colonoscopy rate for uninsured and underinsured people who have a positive or abnormal stool-based colorectal cancer (CRC) screening test. Community Health Care Systems, Inc. (CHCS) has also been selected for similar projects in Georgia.

“We are both proud and excited to be working with these exceptional organizations on this crucial project, one we believe has the potential to save countless lives,” says ASGE President Jennifer Christie, MD, FASGE. “CHCS and MedChi have great reputations and proven and demonstrable track records of working with underserved populations.”

Dr. Christie believes that “this project is going to address a critical need because the number of underserved patients who have a positive or abnormal CRC screening test result who get a *timely* follow-up colonoscopy is just 50 to 70 percent, and keeping in mind that colonoscopy is the best and most certain way to detect and prevent colorectal cancer.”

MedChi CEO Gene Ransom agrees, saying, “ASGE’s project is a natural extension of our mission and an important public health initiative that presents a unique opportunity to reach a diverse demographic and geographic patient base across Maryland. We are thrilled to participate in this important and innovative effort.” MedChi will be working with physicians in a mix of urban and rural settings in Maryland.

In the next year, CHCS and MedChi will each identify and assist hundreds of uninsured and underinsured patients get screened for colorectal cancer using a stool-based DNA test. CHCS and MedChi will support these patients with “navigators” who will guide them throughout the full continuum of care. Plus, these patients will receive this care at no cost to them.

ASGE will use the results of this project to develop a roadmap and model public policy that can be used in other states.

ASGE, CHCS and MedChi will be collaborating with key stakeholders, including physicians and allied health care professionals, patient navigators, legislators and regulators, state and local advocacy organizations and community leaders.

This project is mainly funded by an unrestricted grant from Exact Sciences, with additional support from Ironwood Pharmaceuticals and Sebela Pharmaceuticals' Braintree Laboratories affiliate.

[View](#) additional details on ASGE's CRC Screening Project.

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.