December 2017

MESSENGER

Membership Newsletter for the Baltimore City Medical Society

PRACTICE NEWS…*Important dates for you and your practice.*

- Providers are part of a Quality Payment Program (MIPS/APM) in 2017 if in an Advanced APM or if they bill Medicare more than $30,000 a year AND provide care for more than 100 Medicare patients a year. Both the billing and the patient number thresholds must be met to be in the program.
- Performance data can be collected anytime between ***January 1, 2017*** and October 2, 2017. This data must be submitted by ***March 31, 2018.*** The first payment adjustments based on performance go into effect ***January 1, 2019.*** The payment adjustment can be positive or negative!
- If you attest to meaningful use, your practice may also qualify for a state-level incentive. This is a one-time incentive for an eligible practice calculated per payor available ***October 7, 2014 through December 2018.***
- Practitioners authorized to prescribe controlled dangerous substances must be registered with the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) by ***July 1, 2017.*** As of ***July 1, 2018,*** prescribers must, with some exceptions, query and review their patient's PDMP data prior to initially prescribing an opioid or benzodiazepine AND at least every 90 days thereafter as long as the course of treatment continues to include prescribing an opioid and benzodiazepine. You must also document the PDMP data query and review in the patient's medical record.
- The Maryland Board of Physicians now requires Criminal History Record Checks (CHRCs) for renewals, reinstatements, and initial physician license applications, effective ***October 1, 2016.***
- If you are dispensing medications, you must complete Continuing Medical Education credits on dispensing to apply for your permit, effective July 2013.

Contact Colleen George at cgeorge@medchi.org or 410-539-0872, ext. 3360 for further information on any of these important practice issues and key dates.

Certificate Program in Physician Leadership – This program will equip you with the practical tools in finance, practice improvement, strategic planning and decision making, empowering you to participate in the leadership of your organization in this rapidly changing world of health reform. Graduates of the program will receive 16 continuing education credits. For enrollment information, contact the Center for a Healthy Maryland, an affiliate of MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society; 1-800-492-1056 or 410-539-0872, ext. 3337.

Baltimore City Medical Society
2017 Leadership

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James S. Novick, M.D.
President
Michele A. Manahan, M.D.
Immediate Past President
Padmini D. Ranasinghe, M.D.
President-Elect
Thomas L. Edmondson, M.D.
Vice President
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Secretary
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Anurada D. Reddy, M.D.
Robert W. Thomsen, M.D.
John T. Thompson, M.D.
Jos W. Zebley, III, M.D.

Ex-officio Delegates (MedChi HOD)
James S. Novick, M.D.
Padmini D. Ranasinghe, M.D.

Alternate Delegates (MedChi HOD)
Paul T. Barbera, M.D.
Donald H. Dembo, M.D.
Thomas L. Edmondson, M.D.
Anwar Mumtaz, M.D.
Gary L. Rosenberg, M.D.

BCMS
Baltimore City Medical Society / 1211 Cathedral Street, 3rd Floor / Baltimore, MD 21201-5516
410-625-0022 phone / 410-385-0154 fax / www.bcmsdocs.org / info@bcmsdocs.org

Pre-Med Intern Update

2015 BCMS pre-med intern, Sanjana Prassad began her first year of medical school in August, at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She noted in a recent e-mail: *"I'm very excited to be on the path to becoming a physician! Thank you and all the doctors at BCMS for your help and support; I can honestly say that I could not have made it here without the valuable experiences I had as an intern".*

NECROLOGY

We recently learned of the passing of these members.

Daniel B. Harris, M.D.	May 22, 2015
Arthur L. Haskins, M.D.	January 14, 2016
Edward J. Hinman, M.D.	March 18, 2016
Lydia L. Pauli, M.D.	December 21, 2016

MedChi Insurance Agency, Inc.
Insurance and Financial Services

Medical Marijuana!

Are you covered?

Will you be screening patients to see if they may benefit from medical cannabis? The MedChi Insurance Agency can help answer your insurance coverage questions and make certain that you have proper coverage for this potential new malpractice exposure.

For additional information and a no obligation malpractice insurance review, please contact Ron Kendall, Sales Executive today!

Phone: 443.449.2334
Email: rkendall@medchiagency.com

MedChi Insurance Agency
1204 Maryland Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21201
Phone: 410-539-6642
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BCMS MEMBERS

PLACE YOUR LEASE/SUBLEASE OR EMPLOYMENT AD HERE AND RECEIVE

20%

DISCOUNT.

Contact BCMS Staff
to reserve your space:
info@bcmsdocs.org
or
410-625-0022

5 REASONS YOU SHOULD HAVE CYBER LIABILITY INSURANCE

1. You are probably not covered for cyber exposures under your general liability policy.
2. Healthcare is the most targeted and the least prepared industry in the United States, when it comes to cyber attacks.
3. The costs of recovering from a data breach can be devastating without insurance.
4. Cyber liability insurance can cover more than you might think.
5. Help with planning and prevention may also come with the policy.

Learn more by contacting the MedChi Insurance Agency, Inc., on 410-539-6642 or 1-800-543-1262 and speak with Ron Kendall (ext. 4431); Peggy Fields (ext. 4416) or Keith Mathis (ext. 4422).

Care Options FOR YOUR LOVED ONES!

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Did you know

that your 2018 BCMS/MedChi dues are 80% tax deductible?

Save time and money and renew your BCMS/MedChi dues today online at www.medchi.org. Please call our membership team if you forget your login details at 410-539-0872, or email us at members@medchi.org.

We are the only association representing all physicians; offering a forum where physicians from all specialties can communicate to promote democracy and influence policy. Timely payment frees us up so we can fulfill our mission to advocate on behalf of you, your patients, and the public health.

Help us continue to deliver successes such as higher Medicaid payments, state EMR incentives, reduced fees, and countless other legislative measures including protecting your scope of practice!

2018 LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY AGENDA

for Maryland Physicians and Their Patients

The mission of MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society, is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health. To that end, during the 2018 General Assembly Session, MedChi shall work on the following objectives:

AS AN ADVOCATE FOR PATIENTS

Opioid Crisis: MedChi will promote physician, resident and medical student education regarding the opioid crisis in Maryland and the services available for patients through the HOPE Act and other legislative initiatives.

Protect Medicaid and the Uninsured: MedChi will work to incentivize physician participation and to protect the integrity of the Medicaid program, including continuing to advocate for full restoration of E&M payment to Medicare rates for all physicians who serve Medicaid enrollees.

Defend the Scope of Medical Practice So Patients Are Seen By a Physician: MedChi will fight to ensure that all patients have access to physicians and that physician extenders have appropriate training and physician oversight. It is critical that patients have access to physicians and that non-physicians do not use increased demand for services to inappropriately increase their scope of practice.

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

@medchiupdates facebook.com/MedChiupdates

1211 Cathedral Street • Baltimore, MD 21201-5516 / 1.800.492.1056 Ph / 410.547.0915 Fx / www.medchi.org

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AS AN ADVOCATE FOR PHYSICIANS

Defend Physician Rights:

- *Monitoring the regulatory and disciplinary actions of the Board of Physicians;*
- *Protecting and enhancing the integrity of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and its use by physicians;*
- *Preventing workers compensation insurers from limiting a physician's right to dispense medications to an injured worker;*
- *Supporting continued efforts to address network adequacy and formulary practices; and*
- *Working to further standardize credentialing requirements.*

Strengthen Medical Liability Reform: MedChi will continue to strongly oppose trial lawyer attempts to increase the "cap" on damages in medical malpractice cases and to abolish the defense of contributory negligence; support efforts to extend the "cap" on damages to physician assistants; establish a pilot project for specialized health courts; limit repeated continuances in medical malpractice cases; establish a birth injury fund; and otherwise work to protect and strengthen the legal liability environment for physicians in Maryland.

Enhance Physician Payment and Insurance Reform: MedChi will continue its efforts to improve Maryland's payment climate by working to ensure that gain-sharing and other payment mechanisms for system reform are developed through a stakeholder process that includes broad physician participation and that will have a positive impact on physicians.

FREE
PRESCRIPTION DRUG CARD

For complete details visit, www.medchi.org.

AS AN ADVOCATE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Protecting Maryland's Children: MedChi will support initiatives to protect children including initiatives to:

- Address childhood obesity including efforts to reduce the consumption of sugary beverages and other unhealthy food choices;
- Increase HPV immunization rates for children at the CDC recommended ages;
- Strengthen child safety seat and young driver laws;
- Address homelessness, affordable housing and its impact on public health;
- Require schools to provide parents with information about the risks of skin cancer and strategies and behaviors to reduce the risk; and
- Ban minors access to tanning beds

Ending Health Disparities: MedChi will continue to support legislative and regulatory initiatives to reduce health disparities.

Making Maryland a Tobacco Free State: MedChi will advocate for continued increases in the Tobacco Tax to discourage smoking and to help fund Medicaid and maintain and restore enhanced E&M payment for all physicians serving Medicaid enrollees. MedChi will also support legislation prohibiting the sale of tobacco products by businesses which provide health care or dispense medications.

Drug Transparency: MedChi will support initiatives that address drug price transparency for name brand and generic pharmaceutical manufacturers, pharmacy benefit managers and insurers.

HIV Prevention: MedChi will support policies and initiatives that encourage needle exchange sites throughout Maryland to provide education and referral for consideration for HIV PrEP

Crisis Treatment Center Expansion: MedChi will advocate for expansion of Maryland's crisis treatment centers throughout the state.

HOW DO I HELP CREATE POSITIVE LEGISLATIVE REFORM FOR PATIENTS, PHYSICIANS, AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH?

JOIN MEDCHI and your local component medical society at www.medchi.org.

JOIN YOUR COMPONENT SOCIETY in Annapolis by attending "Physician House Call on Annapolis" lobbying days for an opportunity to discuss important issues with your legislators. RSVP by emailing Kevin Hayes at khayes@medchi.org.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES to discuss important issues with legislators.

STAY INFORMED on legislative issues affecting your practice and profession by reading MedChi's weekly e-newsletter, *MedChi News*, and visiting www.medchi.org. All members are welcome to attend the legislative council meetings.

EMAIL OR PHONE your delegates when MedChi or your component sends you a legislative alert about a bill. Visit the Legislative Action Center at www.medchi.org. Remember to donate to the MMPAC and help keep physician-friendly legislation in Annapolis.

TESTIFY AT A COMMITTEE HEARING. Contact your component medical society for details.

VOLUNTEER TO SERVE. As Physician of the Day in the Maryland State House during the legislative session. Email Kevin Hayes at khayes@medchi.org.

BCMSF
BALTIMORE CITY MEDICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION

2017 Scholarship Recipients

Derick Ansah – Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

My family and I immigrated to America from Ghana when I was young. Despite having family members in the medical field, I was not certain on my desire to pursue medicine until I gained personal experiences while at the University of Maryland. I started off college as a chemical engineer and planned to pursue either pharmacy or engineering as a career. Nonetheless, a career in medicine was always at the back of my mind. I was a bit hesitant to enter the medical field because of the challenges I knew I would face on that track. I signed up as a volunteer for the American Red Cross at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, resulting in experiences that would change my outlook on medicine forever.

I saw wounded warriors, many around my age, who had lost limbs in battle. It was a very sobering experience, and I constantly did all I could to comfort them. Through their stories, I could feel their pain and had a strong desire to help them in any way possible. My time working in the oncology and hematology clinic was the hardest, because I saw soldiers, young and old, tenaciously fighting a battle against cancer. I saw some make it out alive, and some lose that battle; however, I have never seen a stronger display of strength and resilience than I did there. The doctors there were truly doing the most amazing work. The way they were able to comfort the patients and ease their pain was truly remarkable. I knew from then on that I wanted to be able to help people in a similar way. Nothing compares to the joy one receives when they are able to alleviate another's pain or suffering.

After getting more medical experiences, seeing the upsides and downsides of medicine, and shadowing doctors domestically and abroad, I realized that I could not be as happy doing anything else. I changed majors to Neurobiology and Physiology and applied to medical school. Having since completed a year of medical school, I have come to find even greater appreciation for having the privilege of getting a medical education at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Laura Sirbu – University of Maryland School of Medicine

In the summer before my senior year of high school, I was set on being a marine biologist and I had a full-time internship lined up for those months off. My mother, however, wanted to have her family practice open on Saturdays and thought of enlisting me as help. Although I wanted to help, the thought of waking up early on one of my days off was not appealing to me. Still, she persisted. And I am glad she convinced me; it was that summer that put me on the path that I am on today.

At the clinic, I was a receptionist and a Spanish interpreter. As a receptionist, I was always amazed to see patients come in feeling sick, irritable, and tired, and also see them after they saw the doctor. In most cases, they would not have received any medications. They might have had a prescription in hand or some instructions. Yet they would leave the office differently: relieved. They were not yet "cured," but knowing that a physician listened to their problems and cared about their well-being, the patients would come out feeling better. I forgot all about being a marine biologist. I knew then that I wanted to be part of this transformation.

As an interpreter, however, I quickly noticed how useful it is to speak other languages. Patients felt instantly more at ease once they realized that they could talk about their problems in their native tongue. I also noticed how uncommon it was to have bilingual staff. Once, I had to find a neurologist for a Spanish-speaking patient. I called several clinics, even one that had eight different locations, and not one office had a Spanish-speaking doctor or medical assistant. I was shocked.

After arriving at college, I decided to learn French in addition to improving my Spanish. I was even fortunate enough to have studied abroad in France during my undergraduate years. Although I prepared intensively for my trip, it was immediately clear after I arrived that there was a lot I could improve. In day to day conversations, I would find myself getting frustrated at my lack of knowledge or my cultural slips. I would also be very easily stressed when I felt out of place. Yet after a few months abroad, I had an epiphany: this is what it must feel like to be in a country where most people do not speak your native language. This is how my parents felt when coming to the U.S. more than twenty years ago. This is how some immigrants must feel, anywhere in the world. I instantly felt more empathetic to their situation.

As a student at the University of Maryland, I have been able to use my language skills in a variety of settings, not only locally (at St. Clare Medical Outreach, a clinic that primarily serves undocumented immigrants), but also globally (on an interprofessional trip to Rwanda, to analyze pediatric dosing of HIV medications). Yet although I have had a variety of experiences, in the end, Maryland is my home, and I am looking forward to practicing here as doctor in the future!

AMA NEWS

Focus on Opioids

The AMA has developed a new opioid microsite to highlight the efforts of the nation's physicians and medical societies to reverse the epidemic – www.ama-assn.org.

Also, read MedChi's "A Study of Prescription Opioid Scripts in Maryland from 2013-2016" – www.medchi.org and www.medchi.org/Education/Opioid.

Health Care Innovation and Physicians

Why join the Physician Innovation Network?

- Connect with health tech companies that match your interest and expertise
- Influence the development of emerging solutions in health care
- Learn about health tech entrepreneurship from like-minded peers
- Explore both paid and volunteer opportunities with health tech companies
- Become a thought leader by sharing your experience and knowledge with others
- Access to experts through virtual panel discussions on topics such as "Giving Physicians a Seat at the Health Care Innovation Table"

Your ideas and your input are needed to improve emerging solutions for patients and physicians - join today.

THANK YOU!

Special Thanks to our 40-Year and Emeritus Members for their contributions to BCMS during our 2017 Special Donor Campaign.

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Annual Business Meeting
of the Baltimore City Medical Society
Thursday, November 30, 2017 - 6:00 p.m.
MedChi/Baltimore
Nominating Committee Report

Proposed Officers for 2018

Joining President Padmini D. Ransasinghe, M.D.**

President- Elect:	**Thomas L. Edmondson, M.D.****
Immediate Past President:	**James S. Novick, M.D.**
Vice President:	**Kavita B. Kalra, M.D.**
Secretary:	**James F. Burdick, M.D.****
Treasurer:	**Renee J. Blanding, M.D.**

Proposed Directors

Richard Bruno, M.D. ~ Sarah Nelson, M.D.

Proposed Delegates **(term 2018-2019)**

1. Beverly A. Collins, M.D.
2. Tyler C. Cymet, D.O.
3. Willarda V. Edwards, M.D.
4. Allan D. Jensen, M.D.
5. Benjamin H. Lowentritt, M.D.
6. Michele A. Manahan, M.D. (Speaker, HOD)
7. Anuradha D. Reddy, M.D.
8. Robert W. Thomsen, M.D.
9. John T. Thompson, M.D.
10. Jos W. Zebley, III, M.D.

Proposed Alternate Delegates (term 2018-2019)

1.Paul T. Barbera, M.D.
2. James F. Burdick, M.D.
3. Donald H. Dembo, M.D.
4. Thomas E. Hunt, Jr., M.D.
5. Anwar Mumtaz, M.D.
6. Sarah Nelson, M.D.
7. James S. Novick, M.D.
8. G. Edward Reahl, Jr., M.D.
9.Gary Rosenberg, M.D.

Ex-Officio Delegates**

Thomas Edmondson, M.D.
Padmini Ranasinghe, M.D.

Michele Manahan, M.D., Chairman

** Delegates and Alternate Delegates serve a term of one year, beginning at the end of the next MedChi Annual Meeting (September 2018) following their election or until their successors are elected.*

*** According to BCMS Bylaws, "The President and President-elect shall be ex-officio delegates to the House of Delegates of MedChi, and the Secretary shall be an alternate delegate."*

BCMS
Baltimore City Medical Society
1211 Cathedral Street, 3rd Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-5516

Annual Holiday Reception

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

MedChi Building
Historic Krause Room
1211 Cathedral Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

RSVP by December 7
410-625-0022 or info@bcmsdocs.org

The socks will be donated to the McKim Center, located at 1120 East Baltimore Street in the area of the main post office. Founded by the Stony Run Friends Meeting and the United Presbyterian Churches, McKim has been serving Baltimore for 186 years, first as a free school, then as a home for delinquent youth, later as a community outreach center, and now as an education and recreational center. McKim has influenced the lives of thousands of children. With a philosophy of "Structure, Discipline, and Love," the McKim Center hopes to continue making positive changes in the lives of Baltimore's children for many years to come (www.mckimcenter.org).