

MedChi NEWS

COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAIMED IN MARYLAND

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

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Gov. Wes Moore has proclaimed March as Colorectal Cancer Month in Maryland.

The proclamation puts a much-needed spotlight on this disease, which (excluding skin cancers) is the leading cause of cancer death in men under 50 and the second leading cause of cancer death in women under 50.

When it is detected early enough, there is a 90 percent survival rate.

Colorectal 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 polyps, so they can be removed before they turn into cancer.

For its own part, MedChi has teamed up with the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) and the Menocal Family Practice in Frederick to address low screening rates in some of society's most vulnerable populations. This initiative — developed by the ASGE, works with MedChi Network Services to guide patients who have an abnormal stool-based CRC test result through the continuum of care, including getting a timely follow-up colonoscopy or other applicable care.

Indeed, ASGE was recognized by both the Maryland House and the Senate for its commitment to early detection and prevention. Maryland Senator Clarence K. Lam, MD, sponsored a resolution and Delegate Terri L. Hill, MD sponsored a citation and resolution.

The ASGE project will cover the costs associated with the stool-based tests and follow-up colonoscopies.



JENNIFER CHRISTIE, MD AND FELLOW MEDCHI
MEMBERS RAISE COLORECTAL CANCER
AWARENESS IN ANNAPOLIS

Dr. Alpha Banks, MD, is one of the gastroenterologists who has agreed to perform the follow-up colonoscopies.

"We are beyond proud and excited to be working with MedChi Network Services, the Menocal Family Practice, and Dr. Alpha Banks on this important and innovative project — one that will serve as the basis for a playbook that ASGE will develop to help increase CRC screening in the U.S." Jennifer Christie, MD, MASGE, said, who serves as chair of ASGE's CRC Screening Project Advisory Council.

Dr. Christie is featured in Season 3 of MedCast which launches today. In her interview with host Stephen Rockower MD, she talks about the rising incidence of colorectal cancer cases in young adults nationwide, the latest in treatment options, and the importance of awareness and outreach.

For more information on ASGE's CRC Screening Project, visit ASGE.org/CRC.