

Center for a Healthy Maryland Celebrates MedChi Building Centennial and Announces History of Maryland Medicine Campaign

On May 13, 1909 dignitaries from the fields of medicine, clergy and government gathered to dedicate the *MedChi Library Building and Osler Hall*. The Center for a Healthy Maryland, charitable affiliate of MedChi, hosted a reception and program in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of this historic event. While recognizing the importance of MedChi's activities in the areas of physician advocacy, the Center emphasizes the Medical Society's goals of providing physician and patient education, promoting public health, and public service.

More than 100 guests gathered at the MedChi Building on May 13, 2009 to honor this important date in the history of Maryland medicine. Those in attendance included MedChi Past Presidents and members and officers and members of the boards of both MedChi and the Center. Guests also included prominent members of the clergy, state and local elected officials, and representatives from neighboring cultural organizations, colleges and universities.

Dr. Allan D. Jensen, President of the Center for a Healthy Maryland, served as the emcee for the evening. The program included an invocation by Rabbi Emeritus, Mark Loeb, greetings from the Deans of the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University Schools of Medicine, greetings from elected officials, and the benediction and re-dedication of the MedChi Building by His Eminence, William Cardinal Keeler. Mr. Johns Hopkins of Baltimore Heritage Inc. spoke of the historic significance of the MedChi Building and Osler Hall and its importance to the local community. Dr. George Bone recounted the 210 years of MedChi history, and quoted Sir William Osler at the dedication of the building in 1909 when he acknowledged MedChi having "accomplished the task of maintaining that subtle force by which men of the past influence us today, that intangible, mysterious force, hard to define but best expressed by the words **noblesse oblige** – that obligation to act in a certain way, to foster certain habits, to conform to certain unwritten rules, - a sacred obligation, as potent now as in the time of Hippocrates, the alchemy of which at once turns **to gold** whatever may be **leaden in the new** of today."

The program included the announcement of the History of Maryland Medicine Campaign, in honor of the rich medical history of Maryland, by Dr. Meena Abraham, Executive Director of the Center. The Campaign is dedicated to the preservation of the MedChi Library Building, its wide array of portraits and medical artifacts; and education about the history of medicine in Maryland. The campaign launch included the announcement of the newly established Thomas E. Hunt, Jr. M.D. Lectureship on the History of Maryland Medicine. Dr. Hunt gave homage to Sir William Osler. Also in attendance were representatives from the three major medical museums in Maryland: the Office of NIH History and Museum, the National Museum of Dentistry, and the William P. Didusch Center for Urologic History. The expertise of these institutions will be an excellent resource as the campaign evolves, culminating in the History of Maryland Medicine library and museum.

The Center for a Healthy Maryland would like to thank all the speakers and participants who helped commemorate this historic event and hopes that everyone will be involved in preserving the medical history of Maryland as the campaign moves forward. The Center also wishes to gratefully acknowledge the generous gift made by an anonymous donor that made the event itself possible.

The History of Maryland Medicine Campaign needs your support! The Center is accepting donations to support the campaign, which includes researching, cataloging, and displaying items representing the history of medicine in Maryland. Please visit www.healthymaryland.org to make a contribution and learn more about the Center's programs and activities.