Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi)
Formerly, Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of the State of Maryland ("the Faculty")

Historical Timeline

1798 Charter of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty granted the Faculty the authority to license physicians.
In 1799, seven Board of examiners elected from the Western Shore and five elected from the Eastern Shore.
1798-1838: 12 faculty examined candidates, issued licenses upon payment of a fee, and prosecuted unlicensed doctors.

1799 Jan 20, the state legislature passed “an Act to establish and incorporate a medical and chirurgical faculty or society in the state of Maryland.”
Founders’ leaders: Dr. Charles Wiesenthal & Dr. Samuel Coale.
Officers elected in 1799: Upton Scott elected 1st President; Ashton Alexander elected 1st Secretary; John Schaaff elected 1st Treasurer.
Goals: to improve medical education, maintain professionalism (ensure medical standards & eliminate unprofessional providers), and regulate fees.
Jun 3, 1st meeting of the Faculty held at Annapolis.

1802 Dr. James Smith, with the support of the Faculty, opened a vaccine institute at his house in Baltimore, the first in America.
1810 a Vaccine Society was organized in Baltimore and vaccine virus was provided for free.

1807 The Medical and Chirurgical Faculty formed district Medical Societies.
Maryland State divided into 7 districts.
Dec, the College of Medicine of Maryland established through a legislative bill, forerunner to the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

1810 The first class of students graduated from the College of Medicine.
1812 The College of Medicine re-chartered as the University of Maryland, the 5th oldest medical school in the country.
Davidge Hall (building constructed in 1812) is the oldest medical teaching facility in the northern hemisphere; founder and 1st Dean: Jr. John Beale Davidge.

1830 Medical & Chirurgical Faculty Library established.
Library Committee, first chairman: Dr. Samuel Baker.
First Librarian: Dr. Fonerden
First Collection of books (274) comprised of donations from Faculty members.
1833 Library’s first catalogue printed.
Holdings: 45,000 volumes by 1930s.

1839 Baltimore College of Dental Surgery founded.
1839-1843 The Maryland Medical and Surgical Journal was published quarterly under the editorial management of a committee of the Faculty to present research and advances in Maryland. It was adopted as the official publication of the medical departments of the U. S. Army and Navy.
1848  The Medical and Chirurgical Faculty hosts the first annual convention of the American Medical Association (AMA).
1857  Building purchased at 47 North Calvert Street, the first permanent hall for Faculty meetings and to house the library.
       June 1858, the Faculty assemble for the first time in their own hall.
1869  The Faculty moved, purchasing a quieter location, a building at 60 Courtland Street.
1874  Library moved to a house on Fayette Street.
1878  The Faculty leased a hall at 122 W. Fayette Street.
1880  Amanda Taylor Norris, a Faculty member, becomes the first woman to practice medicine in Maryland.
1882  Dr. Whitfield Winsey of Baltimore became the first African American physician admitted to the Faculty.
1885  Medical and Chirurgical Faculty’s Constitution changed wording concerning members from gentleman to person.
1886  State Board of Medical Examiners created to standardize licensure and evaluate diplomas of new physicians.
       The Faculty endorsed an act to increase the rights of the insane.
1895  Building at 847 N. Eutaw Street (Hamilton Terrace) purchased as the Faculty’s permanent location.
1896  Eutaw Street building opened, Frick Memorial Library reading room opened.
       First trained full time librarian, Marcia C. Noyes, was hired. Noyes developed a cataloging system for the medical library. Noyes was the Faculty’s librarian until 1946.
1906  The Faculty were instrumental in legislation promoting sewage management.
1908  The Bulletin began publication.
1211 Cathedral Street building purchased.
1909  The Faculty were instrumental in legislation promoting purification of food and drugs.
       March, the Faculty move to Cathedral Street building.
       May 13, Building dedication, Assembly room named Osler Hall, Osler gave oration, “Old & New”.
1976  Medical Society founds the Center for a Healthy Maryland.
1983  Dr. Roland T. Smoot became the first African American president of the society.
1999  the organization’s name was changed, after years of debate, from the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of the State of Maryland (“the Faculty”) to the Maryland State Medical Society (“MedChi”).
       Library closed, many of its valuable and rare books were sold, and its manuscripts collection was transferred to the Maryland Historical Society. The Archives, Portrait, and Artifact Collections remained at MedChi.

Sources:
Center for a Healthy Maryland. “Vignette on the History of MedChi” (typed document).
       Undated.
Cordell, Eugene F. “A Brief Sketch of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, 1799-1899.” Maryland Medical Journal (Vol. XLI), No. 17: 261-184. 1899.