

Timeline of MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of the State of Maryland (“the Faculty”)

- 1798** The charter of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty granted the Faculty the authority to license physicians.
- 1799** On January 20, 1799, the state legislature passed “an Act to establish and incorporate a medical and chirurgical faculty or society in the state of Maryland.” The organization’s goal was to improve medical education, maintain professionalism (ensure medical standards and eliminate unprofessional providers), and regulate fees. The first meeting was held on June 3, in Annapolis.
- Seven members were elected from the Western Shore and five elected from the Eastern Shore to serve as the organization’s Board of Examiners who tested prospective medical candidates, issued licenses upon payment of a fee, and prosecuted unlicensed doctors. This practice continued for 12 years.
- Upton Scott elected first President; Ashton Alexander elected first Secretary; John Schaaff elected first Treasurer.
- 1802** Dr. James Smith, with the support of the Faculty, opened a Yellow Fever vaccine institute at his house in Baltimore, the first in America. In 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, and the State of Maryland was divided into seven districts.
- In December, a legislative bill established the College of Medicine of Maryland, forerunner to the University of Maryland School of Medicine. The first deans and lecturers were all Faculty members.
- 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 fifth-oldest medical school in the country.
- Davidge Hall, which was constructed in 1812, is the oldest medical teaching facility in the northern hemisphere. The founder and first Dean was Faculty Member, Dr. John Beale Davidge.
- 1814** Physicians from the Faculty played key roles in the War of 1812, and the Battles of Bladensburg, North Point and Baltimore. Faculty member, William Beanes, MD, was taken prisoner and rescued by Francis Scott Key, who then wrote the Star-Spangled Banner.
- 1830** The Medical & Chirurgical Faculty established a paid lending library. The Library Committee’s first chairman was Dr. Samuel Baker and its First Librarian was Dr. John Fonerden. The first collection of 274 books was comprised of donations from Faculty members. The first catalogue was printed in 1833.

- 1839** Baltimore College of Dental Surgery founded by Horace Hayden. Although the lectures were given at the University of Maryland, it was not officially affiliated with the school until a later date. All of the teaching staff at the Dental School were also members of the Medical & Chirurgical Faculty.
- 1839** 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** The Faculty purchased a building at 47 North Calvert Street, the first permanent hall for Faculty meetings. The building also housed the growing library collection. After renovations, the Faculty assembled for the first time in their own hall in June of 1858.
- 1869** The Faculty moved, purchasing a quieter location, a building at 60 Courtland Street. Over the next 20 year, there were several more moves, first to West Fayette Street in the late 1870's, and then to Eutaw Street in 1896.
- 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** In response to the female and African-American members, Medical and Chirurgical Faculty's Constitution the wording for members was changed 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.
- 1893** Johns Hopkins School of Medicine was opened, and faculty were gathered from across the world, including Sir William Osler, MD, who became active at the Medical & Chirurgical Faculty during his tenure in Baltimore.
- 1896** The Frick Memorial Library opened at the Faculty's Eutaw Street location. The first trained, full-time librarian, Marcia C. Noyes, was hired. Noyes developed a cataloging system for the medical library and was the Faculty's librarian until her death in 1946.
- 1899** The Faculty celebrated the centennial with a series of dinners, orations and other celebrations.
- 1906** The Faculty was instrumental in legislation promoting sewage management.
- 1908** The *Bulletin* began publication.
- 1909** The newly-built Cathedral Street building was opened in May, and the Assembly Room was named after Sir William Osler, who was then living in Oxford, England. He gave an oration on "Old and New".

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- 1912** The Doctors Orchestra and Chorus is formed with a string and brass section. The orchestra entertains at Faculty and other events.
- 1914** Centennial of National Anthem. Members of the Faculty placed a plaque placed on Wm. Beanes' grave in memoriam.
- 1919** Sir William Osler, MD, died in Oxford, England.
- 1928** Radio broadcasts on health begin, followed years later by television broadcasts and then recorded phone messages.
- 1929** Stacks library and elevator installed in time for the Library's 100th anniversary
- 1935** Dr. John Rührhah died and left a bequest of \$100k for the library.
- 1941** WWII begins; committee on medical preparedness is established.
- 1946** Marcia Noyes dies, funeral held at MedChi
- 1948** First Executive Director hired, membership tops 2,000
- 1976** MedChi establishes a separate non-profit foundation, later named the Center for a Healthy Maryland.
- 1983** Dr. Roland T. Smoot became the first African American president of the society.
- 1999** The organization began operating under the name "MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, although the legal name continues to be the "Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of the State of Maryland".
- 2000** Library was officially closed, many of its valuable and rare books were sold at auction. The manuscripts collection was transferred to the Maryland Historical Society. The Archives, Portrait, and Artifact Collections remain at MedChi.
- 2001** Dr. Catherine Smoot-Haselnus became the first woman president of the society.

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. Richard Y. Meier.
- ["Treasure Trove, Uncovering Scientific Gems in the MedChi Library."](#) MdHS News.