

Update president (y)MWIA march 2018

woensdag, 04 april 2018

Dear colleagues,

After some period of silence, we are pleased to bring an update to you. First of all, we would like to share our regrets with you for being less active than promised.

After bringing my input and thoughts to president-elect Clarissa Fabre to construct a survey, I must say thank you for responding! Especially Northern Europe and Africa/Near East actively participated, and I am pleased to see that about 50% were aged between 25 and 40 which again inspired me. The top 3 most important issues are; violence against girls and women (67%), leadership and mentoring (57%) and work-life balance (53%). As you have noticed, I have been struggling with my own work-life balance. Being a resident in intensive care with the ambition of being an anesthesiologist with pediatric interests, a new mom of a beautiful daughter, wife of a great woman and active member of different organizations like the MWIA, it has been an interesting challenge to keep my head above the water. As you might have read in a previous update, this is my first time being president of an international board and NGO. A great learning school on its own. And as a curious young doctor and enthusiastic colleague the upcoming Centenary urges me to ask you for your input and help.

As you know the MWIA was founded in New York in 1919. The very inspiring Centenary of the UK Medical Women's Federation in London last year, gave a great overview of the history of women doctors. The lack and denying of women the chance to chase their academic ambition was worrying, especially because to some extent nothing has changed. The recent great movie *The Post*, starring Meryl Streep, displayed the discrimination against a female leader in the early 1970's. Dutch studies show that fewer than 10% of women doctors reach the top of the academic ladder, and this is not exclusive for the healthcare system nor for the Netherlands.

With the (y)MWIA we have a great opportunity to empower each other and fight for women's rights across the world. I would love to hear your stories and how the yMWIA can help you. As you might have noticed, we are active on Twitter (@youngMWIA) and Facebook (MWIA young doctors and medical students), so feel free to visit us there! Recently MWIA launched a 'violence against women module'. 50% of the respondents to the MWIA survey say 'a good visible platform' is key for the yMWIA. If you have any suggestions to improve this, do not hesitate to contact us. A great presentation at the Vienna conference in 2016 and following discussion, taught us that mentoring is beneficial for both the mentor and the mentee. The MWIA has great intellectual and academic power, let's exchange what we know to empower each other. And could you please share any research/publications you're working on? It would be great to share young academic output at the Centennial July 25th-28th 2019. See you there?

Kind regards,

Geneviève Koolhaas

President young MWIA, National Coordinator the Netherlands, Northern Europe