

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MWIA



Update

No. 72 December 2017

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MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

THEME OF THE 2016-2019 TRIENNIUM

“MEDICAL WOMEN: AMBASSADORS OF CHANGE”

I. MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

1. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Professor Dr. Dr. Bettina Pfleiderer, Germany



The focus of the discussions of the MWIA executive over the last 3 months was centered on the question what MWIA can offer to their members or in other words:

“What are the benefits of being a MWIA member?”

The following is a summary of our discussions:

To have a global political voice on health issues

- Join forces, co-develop campaigns, stand up for women's rights
- Create sustainable change as a member of a NGO active at the UN and WHO
- Form regional platforms, increase outreach and combine forces

Strengthen and increase the role of medical women

- Spread sisterhood across countries when politics fail to do so!

- Participate in MWIA committees and working groups to directly influence the work and strategic direction of MWIA

Participation in international research activities

- Be part of multicenter studies and grant proposals.
- Participate in surveys initiated by MWIA on topics of interest such as violence against women, sexual harassment as valuable input for national campaigns
- Development of region-specific educational material such as manuals and workshops on adolescent sexuality, gender mainstreaming and the teaching module on violence.

However when analyzing the results of the recently completed MWIA membership survey we had to acknowledge that the benefits and MWIA's achievements were not seen by our membership. It became obvious that MWIA needs to modernize its webpage, as well as being more active on social media e.g. twitter, and starting a Facebook page to increase its visibility and impact.

The MWIA executive decided therefore to overhaul our website completely, which is work in progress. We have received great ideas for restructuring our website from members of our MWIA committees. We are looking forward to 2018 when those ideas will come into life!

I am so pleased to let you know that the process of overhauling our new MWIA flyer is completed and you will receive our new MWIA flyer very soon.

As you all know, in about 1.5 years our centennial congress will be held in New York. We are currently planning exciting activities for our members centered on our centennial celebrations. You can therefore looking forward to many opportunities for member engagement coming in the near future! Please make sure that you consult our MWIA website on a regular base to be updated.

Last but not least the **sexual harassment questionnaire is online** and will be open till the end of December. We have already received about 850 responses, but we hope to receive many more. We are greatly indebted to Dr. Maite Sevillano for translating our survey into Spanish, Dr. Michiko Suwa from Japan for translating the survey into Japanese and Dr. Khatuna Kaladze for translating the survey into Georgian to increase member participation rate.

The data obtained will provide MWIA and its members with descriptive data that can be used to sensitize the medical community to sexual harassment to reduce this form of violence. Also supportive measures for women doctors who experience sexual harassment will be suggested based on responses to the survey.

I invite you all to take part in this survey to support this important project.

The link to the survey can be found here.

https://monashmns.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7WBnTKZkIgOlaF7

All data is completely anonymous and cannot be traced to any particular person. Please see also my accompanying letter and the explanatory statement on our MWIA website.
<http://mwia.net/news/>

I am closing with a nice snapshot from the Regional MWIA western pacific meeting in Hong Kong illustrating nicely the sisterhood in MWIA:



2. REQUESTS FROM THE SECRETARY- GENERAL

Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada

Please mark your calendars for MWIA’s Centennial Meeting July 25-28, 2019 in New York.

The website will be up in the spring. Please remember that it is important for such congresses to have attendees stay at the congress hotel. The **First Special Update** will be circulated the end of January, 2018, and will contain a call for nominations. **If you are thinking of nominating a candidate please make sure your dues are paid up for the 2017-2018 year.**

There is a **time-limited opportunity** to submit essays, poems, non-fiction stories, and drawings to be included in the book being written by the executive director of AMWA, Dr. Eliza Chan. This book is a sequel to her first book, *This Side of Doctoring: Reflections from Women in Medicine*. However, the deadline for these submissions is December 31, 2017. Your **submissions** should go to thissideofdoctoring@yahoo.com.

There are **three regional meetings** planned for 2018. The North American Regional Meeting will be held in Philadelphia, USA, in March, the Southern European Regional Meeting in Palermo, Italy, in April and the Central Asian Regional Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, in September. Please check the calendar of events later in the Update for details.

For those of you unable to attend the Southern European Regional meeting in Italy, MWIA is partnering with **Active Communications International (ACI)** on their Second Women’s Health Conference to be held in Denver, Colorado, April 25-26, 2018. They have offered MWIA members a 15% discount on the registration fee. Please see details in the calendar of events.

With Time Magazine’s awarding **#MeToo** as the winner of person of the year for blowing the whistle on sexual harassment, **MWIA’s sexual harassment survey** is certainly timely. It will stay

open until the end of January so please take a moment to complete it at https://monashmnhs.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7WBnTKZkIgOlaF7.

The **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)** is meeting at the United Nations in New York from March 12-23. MWIA has a limited number of spots for registrants so please write the Secretariat at secretariat@mwia.net if you are interested in attending. The theme this year is “Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls.” The Commission will also evaluate progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions from its forty-seventh session in 2003 on “Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women.” For those new to CSW The NGO CSW/NY has created an online orientation video series, which can be accessed at **Look for videos on the [NGO CSW/NY YouTube Channel](#)**.
Follow NGO CSW/NY on twitter at @NGO_CSW_NY and [Facebook](#) for updates.

MWIA has an extensive workplan with **WHO**. Please let the secretariat know if you are working with migrant women, particularly those who were health care workers in their home land, as there is an interest in how they access health care. WHO has recently released a document on the topic publication ‘Women on the Move: Migration, care work and health’ <http://www.who.int/gender-equity-rights/knowledge/women-on-the-move/en/>. MWIA was able to connect our member organizations with those countries leading the work on the Quality Agenda.

Under news from the regions, please take a look at the successful **HPV Prevention Week** initiated by the Federation of Medical Women of Canada this year and consider developing such an event through your national association.

Hot off the press is the development of **MWIA’s facebook** page:
<https://www.facebook.com/mwia.network>
and facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mwia.network>

To keep abreast of **news**, please visit the MWIA website at <http://mwia.net/news/>

As a reminder to National Coordinators, it is anticipated that you will circulate this newsletter to your membership. In addition, if you have not accessed the secure site for NCs please let the Secretariat know. The Updated **MWIA Flyer** is available in English, Spanish and Portuguese to National Coordinator’s on the NC secure site at www.mwia.net.

Contact information for MWIA:

Website is www.mwia.net
Email is secretariat@mwia.net
Phone is **1-604-522-1960**
Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/mwia.network>
Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mwia.network>

3. 2016-2019 EXECUTIVE with email addresses:

President	Prof Bettina Pfleiderer, Germany	president@mwia.net
Past President	Prof Kyung Ah Park, Korea	past_president@mwia.net
President Elect	Dr. Clarissa Fabre, UK	president_elect@mwia.net
Secretary-General	Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada	secretariat@mwia.net
Treasurer	Dr. Gail Beck, Canada	treasurer@mwia.net
VP Northern Europe	Dr. Tuula Saarela, Finland	VP_northerneurope@mwia.net
VP Central Europe	Prof Khatuna Kaladze, Georgia	VP_centraleurope@mwia.net
VP Southern Europe	Dr. Antonella Vezzani, Italy	VP_southerneurope@mwia.net
VP North America	Dr. Padmini Murthy, USA	VP_northamerica@mwia.net
VP Latin America	Dr. Maite Sevillano, Brazil	VP_latinamerica@mwia.net
VP Near East/Africa	Dr. Mabel Aboah, Ghana	VP_africa@mwia.net
VP Central Asia	Dr. Piyanetr Sukhu, Thailand	VP_centralasia@mwia.net
VP Western Pacific	Dr. Cissy Yu, Hong Kong	VP_westernpacific@mwia.net



The Medical Women's International Association Executive 2016-2019
Front row left to right Kyung Ah Park, Clarissa Fabre, Bettina Pfleiderer, Shelley Ross
Back row left to right: Piyanetr Sikhu, Mabel Aboah, Padmini Murthy, Maite Sevillano, Cissy Yu, Khatuna Kaladze, Tuula Saarela, Antonella Vezzani (absent: Gail Beck)

4. Message from the President-elect

Dr. Clarissa Fabre, UK

Hamlin Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Visiting the Hamlin Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa recently was an inspiring experience. Founded in 1974 by Drs Catherine and Reginald Hamlin, it now has 5 satellite sites in Ethiopia as well as the main hospital in Addis Ababa. Young girls in rural Ethiopia often marry in their teens, are poorly nourished, have poorly supervised pregnancies, develop obstructed labour, form

fistulae between vagina and bladder or between vagina and rectum. They leak urine or faeces, they smell, are consequently rejected by their husbands, and become social outcasts. They walk miles to get to medical care. At the Fistula Hospital, they are strengthened and nourished, their fistulas are repaired, and they are rehabilitated. Some of them become nursing assistants when they are well again, and help with the care of future patients. It is astonishing that around 4000 patients with fistulae are still treated each year (the phenomenon is virtually unknown in high income countries). The problem is poor access to medical care in labour, and especially access to Caesarean sections if indicated (in rural communities 90% of births are outside a healthcare facility). The Hamlin Fistula Hospital now trains 20 midwives each year on a four year degree course. The midwives come from these poor rural communities and will return there once their course is completed.

How could MWIA become involved with the Fistula Hospital? All treatment for these girls is free of charge. They arrive at the hospital as social outcasts after days of walking. Once their treatment is complete, each girl is discharged with a clean new dress and a bus ticket home. What a transformation! Charities in the U.K, Australia, Canada and the US are very successful in raising funds. I would like MWIA to publicise the wonderful work of the hospital, with links from our website. Our members, who are trained uro-gynaecologists might consider a placement as volunteers.

The Hamlin Fistula Hospital is a wonderful oasis of medical care. It is set among trees and flowers, the staff are dedicated to holistic care. Dr Catherine Hamlin is now 93 years old (her husband died over 20 years ago) and she lives on site. She is known as 'the mother of all mothers' and has created a unique centre of excellent medical care, combined with a loving and caring environment. I would highly recommend that MWIA supports the whole concept in any way that we can.



Hospital Staff at Hamlin Hospital

5. Message from the Treasurer **Dr. Gail Beck, Canada**

At this time of year, when many are celebrating holidays that permit us to be grateful for what we have, I want to take an opportunity to thank those National Associations and members who pay their dues annually and regularly. You help MWIA to fund important initiatives. The Executive Committee continues to explore ways in which our dues might be fairer to all members, but it is difficult to arrive at consensus on such matters at General Assembly, as we all know.

That being said, a big THANK YOU to all who dues pay their dues regularly and promptly. Here are the initiatives funded by your dues:

- A presence at the World Health Organization, including representation at the World Health Assembly.
- A presence at the United Nations, including representation at the Commission on the Status of Women.
- Representation by the President once every triennium at the World Medical Association.
- Representation by the Executive Committee at 2 regional meetings during the triennium. In 2014, the Executive Committee attended the Northern European Regional Meeting near Copenhagen and this September they will attend the North American Regional Meeting in Toronto.
- Support for the virtual Secretariat (less than 2000 US dollars annually, which is all we can afford).
- Support for our triennial projects.
- Support for MWIA's Centenary celebration.

It is important to note that all of our Executive Committee Members volunteer their time, as do our WHO representative, Dr. Clarissa Fabre and our UN representatives, Dr. Satty Gill Keswani and Dr. Padmini Murthy. Most of our representatives to UN and WHO meetings finance their own travel and donate their time. All of the Executive Committee members donate a significant amount of personal funds to the organization in order to complete their work on behalf of MWIA. MWIA is fortunate to be served by such dedicated volunteers. I want to thank the members of MWIA, especially the Executive Committee members and UN/WHO representatives who give so much to MWIA.

Throughout history, women and women's organizations have self-funded so that others' lives might be improved. The members, National Associations and MWIA representatives continue in this tradition. I hope you all join me in thanking them.

6. NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGIONS

Australia

Following is a summary of the activities around the country with the various branches and the national organization.

- Triennial AGM of the Australian Federation of Medical Women was held on Saturday 11th November 2018 in Sydney. Dr Cissy Yu was a guest at the meeting.

- Currently updating the AFMW and states website, with planned online membership processing.

New Executive:

President: Associate Professor Deborah Colville VMWS

Imm. Past President: Dr Sharon Tivey NSW

Vice President: Dr Lydia Pitcher QLD

Secretary: Dr Marjorie Cross ACT

Treasurer: Dr Marissa Daniels QLD

National Co-ordinator: Associate Professor Deborah Colville VMWS

Victoria Medical Women's Society:

- The VMWS AGM was held on Saturday 16th September 2017. Professor Jan Coles delivered the Constance Stone Oration.

-Dr Clarissa Fabre, MWIA President Elect joined us as a guest at the AGM.

-Advocating for financial assistance for students to take study leave for parental reasons.

-VMWS has updated its Wikipedia text.

-Advocating for superannuation funds to divest from fossil fuels

-Dr Magdalena Simonis presented at the AMA Build Your Practice conference on Women in medicine.

-Dr Magdalena Simonis was on keynote speaker panel discussing the digital future of healthcare at AMA Build Your Practice Conference.

New Executive:

President: Dr Magdalena Simonis

Imm. Past President: Associate Professor Deborah Colville

Vice President: Acting VP Dr Desiree Yap for Dr Kasia Michalak

Secretary: Dr Anne Stanaway & Dr Elysia Robb

Treasurer: Dr Rosalie Cooper

New South Wales Medical Women's Society:

AGM held on 16 November 2017.

New Executive:

President: Gabrielle Casper

Secretary: Monique Atkinson

Treasurer: Sharon Tivey

Australian Capital Territory & Region Medical Women's Society:

AGM was held on 15th November 2017

Queensland Medical Women's Society:

Our year will conclude with a Christmas Party, to enjoy with partners, speakers, sponsors and other supporters throughout the year, to be held on the riverfront at Medley Bar and Restaurant.

We are looking forward to 2018, to continue the momentum of 2017, and with a succession plan to sustain QMWS into the next decade including aspirations to take a delegation to the MWIA Centennial meeting in New York in 2019, and to celebrate the centenary of AFMW in 2027 and QMWS in 2029.

New Executive:

President Dr Lydia Pitcher

Vice-President Dr Ira van der Steenstraten
Secretary Dr Nancy Huang, and
Treasurer Dr Emily Shao

Belgium



The Belgian Medical Women’s Association marked the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women to hold their annual symposium in the Auditorium of the Brussels Parliament. One of the members, Dr. Marleen Temmerman who has been working in Kenya, presented on the WHO objectives in the African Projects. Rape as a weapon of war and the psychological aspects of rape were on the agenda. Practical advice on how to question children who are victims of violence was also discussed.

Brazil

The Brazilian Association of Medical Women was represented by Marilene Melo, our vice-president, and by Irene Abramovich, director of ABMM, at the opening Ceremony of the Congress of Medical Students of the Medical School of Sorocaba (Catholic University of São Paulo). They spoke about women in medicine, generation Y, medical residency and gender differences in specialties.

There was a very successful presentation at the Parana state section of ABMM about: “Women Doctors and Maternity.” There were two scientific events organized by ABMM in São Paulo: “Impact of judicial decisions on health” and “Highlights of annual meeting of OSSD” held in Montreal in May, 2017 (Elizabeth Alexandre, Anna Maria Martits and Marilene Melo).

During the 51st Congress of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Marilene Melo received the title of Honorary Member for Life for services rendered to the specialty. Dr Melo and Dr. Elizabeth Alexandre, our director and president-elect and a cardiologist (director of feminine cardiology of Brazilian Society of Cardiology) presented speeches: Dr Melo: Gender differences in dyslipidemia and Dr Alexandre: Its influences in cardiovascular risks.

During the administrative meeting of October, the executive of ABMM decided to include an item about gender medicine in every meeting. During the meeting was decided that Brazil will not enter a bid to be a candidate for the venue of the International Congress of MWIA in 2022, considering the political, economical and security issues that Brazil is going through. This resolution was communicated to everybody interested by a letter of our president Fatima Alves. There was a meeting and organization of a Democratic Front in Defense of SUS (Brazilian public health system in great financial crisis), in the House of Representatives of the City of São

Paulo. ABMM and ABMM were represented respectively by Marilene Melo and Ivone Meinão, president of São Paulo section of ABMM.

Marilene Melo is a director for Latin America of WASPaLM (World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine), and is attending the 29th World Congress of WASPaLM in Kyoto, Japan, representing Brazil in the House of Delegates and was chair on symposium on Global Pathology.

On November 3rd, Fátima Alves, our president, took part in the organization of the First Meeting of Women Otorhinolaryngologist in Brazil during the Brazilian Congress of Otorhinolaryngology. She presented the speech: "Who are we, how many. Personalities and inspirations."

There was a meeting organized by Dr Nise Yamaguchi, director ABMM, "Challenges and Good Practices in Employment and Entrepreneurship for Young people." ABMM was also represented by Fátima Alves.

On November 30th there was the Election Assembly for the executive of ABMM 2018-2020:

President: Fátima Alves

Vice president: Marilene Melo

President Elect: Elizabeth Giunco Alexandre

Secretary: Elisa Garcez

As well as 9 more directors. I, Anna Maria Martits, will remain as director of international affairs.

After the assembly there was a social meeting with cheese and wine organized by Maria de Fátima Caetano Pinto (ABMM- first treasurer).

ABMM with the support of APM (Medical Association of São Paulo), The Children's Institute of the São Paulo University Medical School, and the Association of Presbyterian Bishops of São Paulo are working on a pre-project of law, with the support of members of chamber of representatives of the state of SP, to include Gender Specific medicine in the Curriculum of medical schools of SP and maybe Brazil.

The project will be officially launched on March 8, 2018 with a folder to be distributed to the population. The folder was written by members of ABMM with the title: "Main diseases that have different aspects in men and women." There are items about cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, obesity and pediatrics.

Canada

The Federation has become an organization member of the **Women Peace and Security Network**. Dr. Nahid Azad will act as the liaison and an interest group will be formed. Dr. Kathee Andrews (2018 AGM Planning Committee Chair) has kindly agreed to a "Women and Peace Talk" at the AGM. Dr. Azad's interest group, in consultation with Dr. Andrew's, will find the speaker/topic. This will be a regular feature at the annual convention.

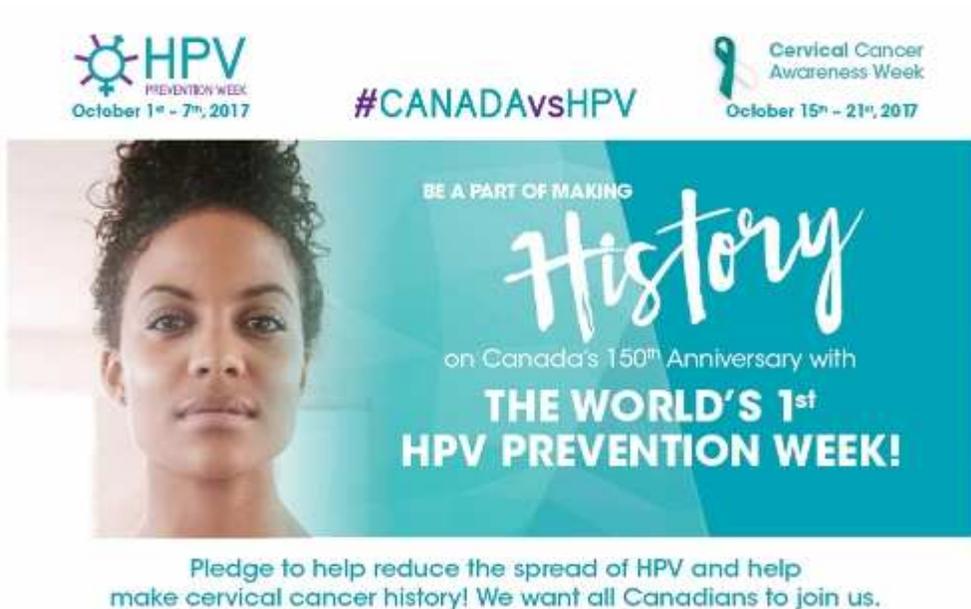
Dr Vivien Brown, past president of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada reported that for the first time in history, Canada led the world in declaring a national **HPV Prevention Week**, to be held the first week of October of every year. The launch of this HPV Prevention Week was announced at Parliament on May 30, 2017 and was unanimously supported by all parties. For this inaugural year, HPV Prevention week was held on October 1-7, 2017.

The HPV Prevention week provided an open forum for public dialogue amongst Canadians on the prevention of HPV-related diseases and cancers. Events for the week were designed to increase awareness of an infection that is estimated to affect as many as 75% of sexually active men and women in their lifetime, and can cause genital warts and up to 6 different types of cancer (i.e. Oropharyngeal, Penile, Anal, Vaginal, Cervical, and Vulvar).

The Federation of Medical Women of Canada (FMWC) spearheaded this initiative and collaborated with various stakeholders, organizations, politicians and partners, to develop a joint effort for this inaugural week. We reached out both nationally and locally via media outreach campaigns (i.e. YouTube, Twitter), webinars, traditional in-office posters, as well as educational programs to align both health care professionals and the public with information.

This was a huge success with many other organizations participating, including the MWIA. Plans are underway for 2018. Join the fight #HPV2018. And while we used #CANADAvsHPV, you can lead in your country too!! For information on how to do this, please contact fmwcmain@fmwc.ca.

Poster for #CANADAvsHPV



Finland

The Finnish Medical Women Association celebrated its 70th anniversary. We were 52 women doctors present in the beautiful Jugendstyle building Kansallissali, Helsinki, on Oct. 13th, 2017.

Our first speaker was Dr. Sirpa Asko-Seljavaara, Professor Emerita of Plastic Surgery of Helsinki University and a former parliament member. She addressed the ongoing changes in the Finnish health and social care system. The government aims to provide citizens more choice to select the primary caregiver and promotes the health care system movement toward a more businesslike functioning. Our speaker made critical comments on challenges the new model might bring for the health and social system and encouraged women doctors to actively participate in the planning process as the the final model has not yet been approved.

The second speaker was Dr. Taina Autti, a professor of radiology of Helsinki University. She gave a very interesting talk on brain magnetic imaging and presented results of recent studies. She focused on the harmful effects of alcohol and narcotics on the developing brains of children and adolescents now documented by MRI studies.

The members attending the anniversary banquet enjoyed an entertaining music program arranged by Dr. Kirsi Kelhä.

A former MWIA Vice-President, Dr. Anna Maria Seppäläinen, was named an honorary president of our association. She was given the silvery club originally belonging to late Dr. Kaisa Turpeinen, a former FMWA President and a well-known MWIA vice-president.

Our association has recently amended its rules. The woman medical students who have studied for four years may now become full members of the Finnish Medical Women's Association.



Dr. Anna Maria Seppäläinen

Italy

The Italian Medical Women Association (AIDM) has held numerous conferences all over the country.

"Health Science and Woman-Scientific Innovation in Gender Medicine" was the title of the 37th

AIDM National Congress that took place from 26 to 28 May 2017 in Trieste. Upon the WHO statement, the Ministry of Health and the Higher Health Institute, together with the scientific societies (of which AIDM is part), founded scientific observers to foster the practice of both research and pharmacological testing directed at 'individual in its diversity.'

Catanzaro, on July 1, 2017 hosted the Training conference on Autoimmune Rheumatic Diseases and Cardiovascular Risk. This day addressed the gender issues to guide the appropriateness of diagnostic and therapeutic interventions.

Following the severe episode of physical assault and sexual violence suffered by a female doctor of the Medical Guard in Catania, AIDM issued a Press Release on September 20, 2017, in which it requests Great Worth Attention from the Central Government to the theme of Violence in Workplaces.

Catanzaro, on September 26, 2017 - "Provisions for the end of life and organ donation between individual rights and responsibility of the doctor."

Treviso, on 4 October – "The trafficking and exploitation of human beings: The role of associations"

In Parma on 19 and 26 October, AIDM organized two medical conferences for medical students at the University of Parma.

Turin 21 October - Gender, Environment and Reproductive health

Trapani 28 October 2017 - Pathology and Genetic Medicine

Ascoli Piceno 11 November: Sexually Transmitted Diseases: new diagnostic and therapeutic guidelines

Salerno November 24-25 - Conference on Global Benefit and Anti-aging: The role of plastic surgery and aesthetic medicine for the individual's psychological well-being.

Ferrara 18 November - Women doctors and Economy. This course is intended as a day of studies to address the criticalities of the women-economy binomial in its different declinations.

Mexico

The Mexican Medical Women's Association has had numerous meetings in its branches in Mexico City, Chihuahua, Guerrero, San Luis Potosi, and Mexicali. Topics have ranged from liposuction for obesity, bio-identical hormones, women's cancers, and medico-legal aspects of emergency medicine, to mention just a few.

Dr. Veronica Rodrigues, President, arranged a donation for those affected by the earthquake in Mexico

Thailand

On September 13, 2017, TMWA lost one of its great colleagues, Dr. Auraya Suriya. Although a relatively new member of the association, she had made great contributions. She arranged the Hotel Montien Riverside for a charity dance in 2015 and was instrumental in securing the Montien Surasongsre for the upcoming 8th Central Asia Regional Congress in 2018. We will miss her greatly as we gather for the congress in September.

At its yearly meeting on October 1, 2017, TMWA was pleased to greet major donors who were supporting medical students. Dr. George Curuby and Jason Rousso Foundation have been donating since 2005. Mr. Sermvut Suwanroj, President and owner of the famous grass jelly

dessert in Thailand has been a donor. The Supreme Court judge, Mr. Ahlek Junyasupkit spoke on the topic of handling violence in children. Mr. Prajak and Mrs. La-or Tangkaravakul donated eight scholarships per year for six years until the student graduated.

The following two pictures were taken during the awards ceremony with donors and members of the Thai Medical Women.



United States

Dr. Eliza Chin, Executive Director of AMWA, writes that in 2014, I read in the MWIA newsletter about the Australian Federation of Medical Women and their work to commemorate Australian women physicians who served in WWI. Thus began the work of the American Medical Women's Association to do the same. In 2016, we launched our exhibition, Women Physicians in World War I (amwa-doc.org/wwi-exhibition) which has continued to grow with

additional materials being added every month. We have a section for women physicians from other countries and are happy to include information about your WWI history if you send it to us.

In 2017, we have been celebrating the centennial of the American Women's Hospitals Service, AMWA's group which did serve in France during the war. To that end, we have partnered with Raw Science Foundation on a short documentary (running time 15 minutes) about women physicians in the WWI. The film premiered at the French Embassy in Washington, DC last week. Please enjoy the film here: <https://app.frame.io/f/keFvZcD1>

If you are interested in having the film captioned in your language, we can send you the text for translation. Please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Dr. Chin also wants to remind you that not only is AMWA organizing the 2019 Centennial Congress, but they are also organizing the **MWIA North America Regional Meeting**. This will be held March 22-25, 2018, in Philadelphia, PA, and will include a special visit to the AMWA and MWIA archives. Please register at amwa-doc.org/amwa103.

Dr. Murthy, VP for North America goes on to report on AMWA activities:

On September 12 at 12:00 p.m. Central time, the AMA hosted a webinar “**How to Position Yourself as a Physician Leader**” (1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits TM), a timely and empowering webinar for women physicians.

September 15-17 AMWA interim meeting was held in Kansas City
September 26-28th 8th Biennial national conference on health and domestic violence was held in San Francisco and AMWA was a sponsor of this event

On October 4-7 The 12th annual cardio metabolic conference with AMWA as co sponsor was held in Chicago

October 4 Impacts of Sexual Harassment in Academia held an information gathering meeting in Cambridge, MA and AMWA was a co-sponsor

October 12- 20- Bone action week was observed by AMWA

On November 6th AMWA film At Home and Over There: American Women Physicians in World War 1 premiered at the French Embassy in Washington DC

We look forward to celebrating the MWIA centennial with you in 2019.

7. REPORT FROM MWIA’S REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UN

Dr. Satty Gill Keswani and Dr. Padmini Murthy, USA

The following activities occurred from September to November, 2017.

September

Dr Mini Murthy and Aishu Narasimhadevara represented MWIA at several events at the 72nd United Nations General Assembly in New York. Some of the noteworthy events attended were the following 1. Every women Every child event where Dr Mini Murthy got the opportunity to comment about the work MWIA has been doing in the arena of maternal health during the discussion.

2. Aishu and Dr Murthy met with Priyanka Chopra Indian Bollywood star and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador during the GA

3. Aishu Narasimhadevar represented MWIA as a youth panelist in conversation with Scott Kelly Astronaut (please see enclosed photo)



4. Dr. Murthy was invited to attend the Taiwan National day celebration organized by TECO in New York

5. Dr Murthy was one of the few health NGOs invited to attend the premier of the movie *Trafficked* held at the United Nations

October

Drs. Keswani and Murthy and Aishu Narasimhadevara have been participating in the DPI NGO UN briefings regularly

Dr Murthy was invited to attend the UN Day concert on October 24th held at the UN General assembly Hall to commemorate the formation of the United Nations

Dr Murthy had the privilege of representing MWIA at the Bahai reception organized in New York City and had a discussion with the Panama ambassador to the UN HE Laura Flores and Bani Duggal Bahai Rep to UN. (please see enclosed photo)



November

Aishu Narasimhadevara has been representing MWIA at as a member of the DPINGO youth rep committee at several meetings and events at the United Nations.

8. REPORT FROM MWIA'S REPRESENTATIVE TO WHO

Dr. Clarissa Fabre, UK

I was delighted that Dr Cissy Yu, MWIA Vice President of the Western Pacific region, and Dr Piyanetr Sukhu, Vice President of the Central Asia region were able to attend the WHO Regional meetings in Brisbane and the Maldives respectively earlier this year. Dr Shafika Nasser has represented us for many years in Cairo. WHO has 6 regional offices – in Africa (the Congo), the Americas (Washington), South-East Asia (New Delhi), Europe (Copenhagen), Eastern Mediterranean (Cairo), and Western Pacific (Manila). It would be wonderful if an MWIA member could attend these meetings annually. They occur between August and October, and the aim is to set policy, approve budgets and outline programmes of work. See <http://mwia.net/about/activities/> for details of how these meetings work in Dr Cissy Yu's full report.

Current concerns and activities of the WHO include the cholera outbreak in Yemen, a plague epidemic in Madagascar, the adverse health effects of air pollution, highlighted by the recent thick smog in Delhi, and a new initiative in Uganda – the National Action Plan on the Elimination of Gender-based Violence www.who.int/features .

Of particular interest to MWIA is a new WHO publication 'Women on the Move: Migration, care work and health' <http://www.who.int/gender-equity-rights/knowledge/women-on-the-move/en/> 'A global paradox is emerging in which care workers - who are largely migrant women, often working in informal home settings - make a considerable contribution to public health in many countries but are themselves exposed to health risks, face barriers to accessing care, and enjoy few labour and social protections.' The head of the Department of Gender, Equity and Human Rights, who led on this report, is MWIA's chief contact point at the WHO. Please contact MWIA at secretariat@mwia.net if you would like to be involved with this project.

9. REPORT FROM WHO Regional Committee Meeting for the Western Pacific

Dr. Cissy Yu, VP for Western Pacific Region of MWIA

I was pleased to represent MWIA at WHO's 68th session of the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific that was held in Brisbane, Australia, 9-13 October 2017. For a copy of my full report please visit <http://mwia.net/about/activities/>.

The Regional Director is Dr Shin Young-soo, a global health expert who led a series of reform of the WPRO in his first term and changed the way WPRO works.

The Director General of WHO is Dr Tedros who is an Ethiopian with a foreign affairs background.



Dr. Cissy Yu at the Western Pacific Regional Committee Meeting
with medical students

10. EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY

Dr. Edith Schratzberger Vecsei and Prof. Bettina Pfliederer

November 25th saw the launch of **#HerNetHerRights** to analyze the current state of online violence against women and girls. More information can be obtained at www.womenslobby.org or contact Pierrette Pape at pape@womenslobby.org.

11. CIOMS

CIOMS is pleased to announce the establishment of an **annual award** of 1500 US dollars for the best scientific article published in the areas of pharmacovigilance and research ethics. Award applications have to be submitted annually by 1 March. <https://cioms.ch/>

CIOMS has set up a new **working group** on clinical research in resource-limited settings. Clinical research is the basis for knowledge creation with the aim of enabling better health for people. In order to assess challenges and opportunities for all parties willing to conduct clinical research in Resource Limited Settings (RLS). CIOMS has started a new Working Group (WG) dealing with the hot topics. A [new section on CIOMS web site](#) is now available to reflect the activities of this WG.

12. CALENDAR OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS MWIA AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS - CONGRESSES AND MEETINGS

2017

- 1. November 15-16, 2017, Mumbai, India**
Annual meeting of the Association of Medical Women in India
vandanawalvekar723@gmail.com

2018

- 1. March 12-23, 2018**, New York, NY, USA
Commission on the Status of Women in New York
Priority theme: Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls;
Review theme: Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women (agreed conclusions of the forty-seventh session);
www.unwomen.org
- 2. March 21-23, 2018**, Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown
5th International Indigenous Women's Health Meeting hosted by American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Contact jjoo@acog.org
- 3. March 22-25, 2018**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
North American Regional Meeting hosted by the American Medical Women's Association with a visit to the AMWA and MWIA Archives
amwa-doc.org/amwa103
- 4. April 25-26, 2018**, Denver, Colorado, USA
Active Communications International (acius.net) hosts the 2nd Women's Health Conference
Register at <http://www.wplgroup.com/aci/event/womens-health-2/>
For the discount use code WHC2YL or email/call Y Lee at ylee@acius.net / 414-221-1700 ext. 142
- 5. April 27-28, 2018**, Palermo, Italy
Southern European Regional Meeting of MWIA
Vp_southerneurope@mwia.net
- 6. May 21-29, 2018**, Geneva, Switzerland
World Health Assembly of WHO
www.who.int
- 7. September 6-8, 2018**, Bangkok, Thailand
8th Central Asia Regional Meeting of MWIA
Theme is "Women's wellbeing-a global perspective"
Montien Hotel, Bangkok
www.carc2018.com
www.tmwa.or.th
2018carc@gmail.com
- 8. September 21-23, 2018**, Toronto, Canada
Annual general meeting and scientific session of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada
www.fmwc.ca

9. **October 1-6, 2018**, Geneva, Switzerland
Eighth Session of the conference of the parties to the
WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
Rue de Varembe 17, 1211 Geneva
www.who.int/fctc
10. **October 3-6, 2018**, Reykjavik, Iceland
World Medical Association General Assembly
www.wma.net
11. **October 17-21, 2018**, Coex, Seoul, Korea
WONCA International Congress, Primary Care in the Future: Professional Excellence
<http://www.globalfamilydoctor.com/Conferences/WONCAWorldconference2018.aspx>
12. **November 11-15, 2018**, Nairobi, Kenya
Near East and Africa Regional Meeting of MWIA
Theme is Accelerating Women's Health Agenda: Priorities and Opportunities through SDGs
www.mwia.net

2019

1. **June 3-6, 2019**, Vancouver, Canada
Women Deliver Conference
<http://womendeliver.org/conference/2019-conference/>
2. **July 25-28, 2019**, New York City, USA
Centennial Congress of the Medical Women's International Association
www.mwia.net
3. **Autumn, 2019**, Cruise still in the planning stage
Federation of Medical Women of Canada 95th anniversary meeting

13. NAMES IN THE NEWS

Dr. Eliza Chin of the American Medical Women's Association is compiling a book as a sequel to her first book, *This Side of Doctoring: Reflections from Women in Medicine*. Submissions of essays, poems, non-fiction stories and drawings are welcome by December 31, 2017 at thissideofdoctoring@yahoo.com

Dr. Gayatri Devi of the American Medical Women's Association has published a book, [*The Spectrum of Hope, An Optimistic and New Approach to Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias*](#)

Elizabeth Iro from the Cook Island was appointed Chief Nursing Officer by WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros.

Dr. Genevieve Koolhaas, co-chair of MWIA's Communications and Social Media Committee welcomed her beautiful daughter, Isa-Gaia Stéphanie Martis, to the world on October 23, 2017 – no doubt a future member of MWIA!

Dr. Marilene Melo of the Brazilian Medical Women's Association received the title of Honorary Life Member for services rendered to the specialty of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the 51st Congress of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

Dr. Mini Murthy, Vice President for North America for MWIA, received an award for her work as chair of scientific programs in the International Health Section at the American Public Health Association annual meeting in Denver in October, 2017.

Dr. Anna Maria Seppäläinen, of the Finnish Medical Women, was named an honorary president of the Finnish Medical Women's Association 70th anniversary celebration.

14. OBITUARIES

Dr. Margaret Henderson, of the Australian Federation of Medical Women, was the first female senior medical staff appointed to the Royal Melbourne Hospital. She also served with the Australian Military Forces with the rank of Captain, and directed the Red Cross Medical Unit in Perak, Malaya from 1945-1947. She is known for her brilliance, tenacity and perseverance and was awarded the Order of the British Empire in 1976 for services to medicine.

Dr. Auraya Suriya of the Thai Medical Women passed away on September 13, 2017.

15. PUBLICATIONS

a. EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 at Year One: European Implementation Assessment

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS_STU%282017%29603256 **Direct Link to Full 88-Page 2017 Report:**

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2017/603256/EPRS_STU\(2017\)603256_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2017/603256/EPRS_STU(2017)603256_EN.pdf)

b. Update on the first female genital mutilation court case in the USA <https://www.theahafoundation.org/update-first-female-genital-mutilation-case-u-s-trial-postponed-charged-case/>

c. The Global Gender Gap Report 2017 benchmarks 144 countries on their progress toward gender parity. **Direct Link to Full 361-Page 2017 Report:** http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2017.pdf

d. A New Vision for Global Health Leadership, Lancet Article on Global Health Volume 390, No. 10112, p 2536-2537, 9 December 2017

e. Canada – The Best and Worst Places to be a Woman in Canada 2017—The Gender Gap in Canada’s 25 biggest cities. https://www.policyalternatives.ca/best-worst2017?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=our%20annual%20ranking%20of%20the%20best%20and%20worst%20cities%20to%20be%20a%20woman%20in%20Canada&utm_campaign=Newsletter%2007/28/17

f. Violence in the Lives of Children and Adolescents: A Familiar Face --UNICEF

Direct Link to Full 100-Page 2017 UNICEF Report:

https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Violence_in_the_lives_of_children_and_adolescents.pdf

II. OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

1. World Health Organization (WHO)

a. WHO recently released the publication ‘**Women on the Move: Migration, care work and health**’ <http://www.who.int/gender-equity-rights/knowledge/women-on-the-move/en/> MWIA has this project as part of its workplan with WHO and if your organization is interested in participating, please contact secretariat@mwia.net

b. On November 21, 2017, WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra’ad al Hussein signed an agreement to deepen collaboration between their agencies. The agreement – formally called a **Framework for Cooperation** – responds to the recommendations of the High Level Working Group for the Health and Human Rights of Women, Children and Adolescents.

c. WHO’s new Assistant Director General for Family, Women, Children and Adolescents, **Dr. Princess Nothemba Simelela** announced on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the WHO launch of a new manual for health managers and policy-makers to strengthen health systems to deliver better quality of care to women who are subjected to violence, [*Strengthening health systems to respond to women subjected to intimate partner violence or sexual violence: A manual for health managers*](#)

d. The **GCM/NCD Progress Report** for 2014-2016 has been released. The electronic version of the report has been published on the WHO GCM/NCD website.

e. WHO has updated its recommendation on using Tranexamic acid (TXA) for the treatment of **postpartum hemorrhage**.

2. United Nations

a. **UNICEF** has released its report on Building the Future: Children and the SDGs in rich countries. One in five children in the world’s 431 richest countries lives in relative poverty. Direct Link to Full 58-Page UNICEF 2017 Report: https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/RC14_eng.pdf

<https://medium.com/world-economic-forum/these-rich-countries-have-high-levels-of-child-poverty-a3e1bdb5fb31>

- b. **Human Development Report** comments on women's reproductive rights as human rights. <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/women%E2%80%99s-reproductive-rights-are-human-rights> <http://report.hdr.undp.org/>
 - c. UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1325\(2000\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1325(2000))
 - d. Up to three quarters of children and youth face abuse, exploitation and trafficking on Mediterranean migration routes as they try to reach Europe, according to a [new UNICEF and IOM report](#).
3. **WONCA extends** an invitation to colleagues to join them at the innovative *1st International Perinatal TOTAL Health Congress*, in Sinaia, ROMANIA, from 27th to 30th June 2018. This will look at the first one thousand days of life, and the theme is proving popular with family doctors globally. WONCA is one of the scientific partners to the congress and President, Professor Amanda Howe, will be one of the plenary speakers. <https://www.perinatal2018international.org/>
- The **WONCA Working Party on Women in Family Medicine** encourages all women to attend the pre-conference meeting and workshops that will be held prior to the WONCA World Conference in Seoul in October, 2018.
4. The Canadian federal government has unveiled what it is calling "**Canada's first feminist international-assistance policy**," with plans to eventually ensure that at least 95 per cent of the country's foreign aid helps improve the lives of women and girls.
 5. **EveryWomanEveryWhere.org** is a grassroots organization with A Singular Goal to campaign for an international legal tool to help women and girls fight violence against women.
 6. **One Billion Rising** (www.onebillionrising.org/about/campaign) is the campaign to end the exploitation of women. This year, from 14 February to 8 March, we are calling activists from around the world to stage ARTISTIC UPRISINGS – focusing on revolutionary, transformative and radical art.
 7. The **Working Group on Girls** (WGG) is a coalition of over 75 national and international non-governmental organizations with representation at the United Nations dedicated to:
 - Promoting the human rights of the girl child in all areas and stages of her life,
 - Advancing the inclusion and status of girls and
 - Assisting them to develop their full potential as women.

8. International Prevention Research Institute – IPRI invites you to join the European Project ASSET (Action plan on Science in Society related issues in Epidemics and Total pandemics) through its stakeholder portal <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8607721>

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Update will be published in March, 2018, the seventh in the new triennium. Please send us your reports, comments or any other interesting information by February 28, 2018, at the latest. We are always interested to put your name and your accomplishments in the Update. We are pleased to post the meeting information for your national association's annual meeting.

Let me close by wishing you and yours a wonderful festive season and best wishes for all for 2018!