

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MWIA



Update

No. 76 December 2018

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MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

THEME OF THE 2016-2019 TRIENNIUM

**“MEDICAL WOMEN: AMBASSADORS OF CHANGE”
MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

1. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Professor Dr. Dr. Bettina Pfleiderer, Germany

SEVEN MONTHS TO GO TO THE CENTENNIAL!

Time flies and the year 2018 is ending soon. Our centennial activities are rolling out as we count down to the MWIA centennial celebration in New York City. MWIA publishes historical articles and recipes on the MWIA website as monthly teasers in the run up to our Centennial celebration. In October and November already *two of our nine planned centennial historical articles* series which highlight MWIA's history till the centennial congress in New York in July 2019 were published. Also three centennial recipes were shared with MWIA's membership so far.

All MWIA members are invited to write and send in one lunch or dinner recipe from their home countries to share their culture and culinary arts. Please kindly send in your recipe with your name and country using the template provided with a PDF picture in high resolution. The template can be found here:

https://mwia.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/MWIA_October_teaser_call_for_Recipes_MWIA.docx

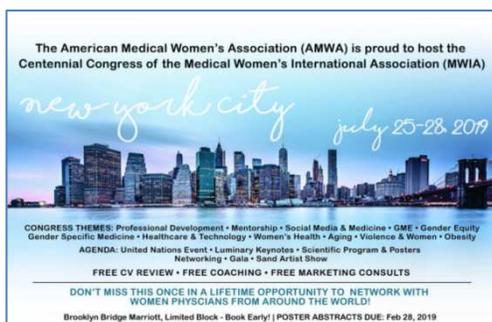
Under this link all teasers with pictures can be found: https://mwia.net/centennial_articles/

Would You Like Your Name to Appear in the MWIA Centennial Book?

Many exciting ideas have emerged to make our centennial a joyful and memorable occasion. A special Centennial Book '*100 years in 100 pages*' with photos and text contributed by many member countries is in its finishing stages. It will be distributed digitally and in hard copy. The digital book will be uploaded onto a memory stick and given free to all Congress participants. The hard copy will be published as a hardback souvenir book

All good ideas take money. MWIA would like to subsidize the cost of producing the hard copy of the Centennial Book to make it more accessible to all members throughout the world. We are therefore fundraising for this purpose and in return offering you the opportunity of seeing your name listed under "Donors" in the Centennial Book. Any size of donation is important and highly appreciated. All donors giving over 10 USD or 10 Euros will be acknowledged in the Centennial Book. A fundraising letter was sent to our membership on October 22, 2018.

The **MWIA centennial scientific committee** is working very hard to draft a spectacular congress program. In addition to luminary keynote speakers, a robust scientific program and



poster session, there will be hands on workshops, networking, free coaching, free resume/CV review, free marketing consults, paint night, a sand artist show, musical performances, a story slam, and options for tours, Broadway shows, and more!

Information and registration are available at <https://www.amwa-doc.org/mwial00/>

I am very sad to say that for personal reasons our treasurer, Dr Gail Beck has had to resign. She has worked tirelessly for MWIA for many years, and we appreciate very much all she has done. She will be greatly missed. Dr Tuula Saarela, Vice President of the Northern European Region and

co-Chair of the Finance Committee has very kindly agreed to stand in as interim treasurer until July 2019.

Modernizations of Statutes and By-laws

Since the Statutes and Bylaws had not been reviewed since 1989, the MWIA Executive undertook modernization of the Statutes and Bylaws. The Ethics and Resolutions Committee was asked to do the initial review and reported back to the Executive in July, 2018. The executive then spent considerable time at the annual Executive Meeting in Bangkok in September reviewing the recommendations of the Ethics and Resolutions Committee. We have now developed a draft set of updated Statutes and Bylaws for review by the membership, which have been sent to the MWIA membership for review and comments at the end of November. The revised Statutes and Bylaws will come to the General Assembly in July, 2019 for approval.

MWIA regional congress for Near East & Africa

The MWIA Regional meeting for Near East & Africa was held in Nairobi, Kenya, November 11-15, 2018. About 400 delegates from Uganda, Congo, Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Kenya, Mali as well as MWIA president Bettina Pfleiderer from Germany, MWIA president-elect Clarissa Fabre from the UK, MWIA VP Western Pacific Region Cissy Yu from Hong Kong and Beverly

Johnson, immediate past president of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada were in attendance.



Regional meetings are a wonderful way of meeting other delegates from one's own region to discuss important health issues e.g. such as sexual violence in conflict zones, lack of access to health care facilities and advancement of female physicians as leaders.

MWIA congratulates the Kenyan Medical Women's Association to their 35th birthday and congratulation to their chairperson Dr. Christine



Sadia and her team for organizing such a brilliant meeting with excellent speakers and timely topics!

I was much honoured to receive an award (picture to the right) at the closing ceremony of the meeting. Karibu! (Thank you!)

There was also a **successful premiere of a MWIA workshop on violence against women and children** at this meeting. Over 60 attendants participated at this first workshop conducted by me and MWIA Vice president Africa & Near East Dr. Mabel Aboah. Teaching materials of MWIA's online teaching module on violence were used. We focused on female genital mutilation (FGM) and violence against children. We presented two cases on these topics. There were lively debates and we shared valuable ideas on how to tackle violence in the region. We plan to hold region-specific workshops on violence at all of our regional meetings from now on in combination with a scientific evaluation with the goal to better assess the impact of the workshop and to improve our

training materials. A MWIA workshop on violence using our own training materials will also be held at the centennial congress in New York.

**I wish you and your families – on behalf of the Medical Women’s international association
- a peaceful and joyful festive season and a prosperous New Year 2019!**

2. REQUESTS FROM THE SECRETARY- GENERAL

Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada

I would like to draw your attention to the extended **early bird registration** deadline of December 31, 2018 for MWIA’s Centennial Congress July 25-28, 2019 in New York City. Posters will be accepted until the end of February, 2019. All information can be found at www.amwa-doc.org/mwiq100. An update from the local organizing committee appears later in this Update.

The **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)** is being held March 10-22, 2019. The priority theme is Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and the review theme is Women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session). MWIA has a parallel event scheduled for Wednesday, March 13th at 1030 hours at the Armenian Convention Centre. The topic is How women doctors provide infrastructure for gender equality. Please let me know at secretariat@mwia.net if you would like to attend.

International Women’s Day always takes place on March 8th and for 2019 the theme is “Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change.”

There is one **remaining regional meeting** planned for 2019. The Central European Regional Meeting is to be held May 17-18, 2019 in Tbilisi, Georgia. Information can be found at http://www.gmwa.org.ge/index_en.html

The **Second Special Update on the Centennial Congress** will be coming out in January. It will include calls for expression of interest in holding the 2022 congress as well as a request for the statistical and narrative information from national associations as well as the list of nominees for the 2019-2022 executive.

Social media has become such a daily part of our lives. MWIA has a twitter account and facebook pages for both our members and a special one for our yMWIA. Could you please let the Secretariat know if you have either twitter accounts or facebook pages and who is in charge (secretariat@mwia.net)

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.

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Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/mwia.network>
Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mwia.network>

YMWIA facebook group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/youngMWIA/>
Twitter [@MedWIA](https://twitter.com/MedWIA) Hashtag #MWIA100

3. CENTENNIAL CONGRESS OF MWIA

Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi, Chair of the Centennial Public Relations Committee

REMINDER! REMINDER! REMINDER!

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN MWIA CENTENNIAL FABRIC COLLAGE

The MWIA centennial celebration will take place July 25-28, 2019, in New York City, USA.

It promises to be an exciting time for MWIA members to commemorate this landmark occasion of one hundred years of our existence.

As part of the preparations towards the centennial, we are inviting National Associations and individual members where there is no national association to contribute to the MWIA centennial fabric collage. The fabric collage will be a symbol of our unity, sisterhood and diversity.

Each National Association is invited to submit a piece of fabric which will be 14 inches wide and 14 inches long in size. This is approximately the size of a regular handkerchief. The small square fabric may be cut out from a larger piece of fabric, hand woven or crocheted, patterned or beaded but should be indigenous or peculiar to a country. A National Association may decide to use a pattern indicating its national emblem. For example, Canada may decide to present a fabric with the maple leaf pattern which is cut out from a larger fabric or painted onto a handkerchief.

A ribbon needs to be attached to each of the edges of the handkerchief sized fabric, and these will be used to tie it to a similar sized square from another country. The name of the contributing country needs to be on the back, with a short description or history of the fabric. (Please see a sample in the picture above)

The fabric collage will be displayed at the venue of the Congress for participants and guests to view the front, and walk to the back, to view which country each of the small squares originated from.



A poster version will also be produced as a keepsake for participants. The fabric collage will be displayed at The Legacy Center: Archives & Special Collections Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia after the congress.

Submissions are to be made by National Coordinators onsite, at the Conference venue registration desk. Members of the Public Relations subcommittee will be available to receive your entries. For planning purposes, could you please let me know by January 25, 2019 if you will be bringing a fabric collage to the congress?

For further enquiries please contact the Chair of the PR Subcommittee at elenwad@yahoo.co.uk

We look forward very much to receiving your contributions to the centennial collage.

American Medical Women's Association Local Organizing Committee wishes to remind you of the following information.

By popular demand, we have extended early bird prices for the MWIA meeting through the end of the year. **Please remind your members to register before December 31 with the rate code "December" to take advantage of early bird rates.** Many exciting activities are planned and listed below. Information about these and other MWIA Centennial programs are on the MWIA meeting website – either as an individual tab or under the National Association tab.

amwa-doc.org/mwia100

Verbiage to use in your newsletters along with attached meeting prospectus and graphic:

Early bird registration for the MWIA Centennial Congress has been extended until December 31, 2018! Register now and save \$50! See the attached prospectus for the Congress. In addition to luminary keynotes, a robust scientific program and poster session, there will be hands on workshops, networking, free coaching, free resume/CV review, free marketing consults, paint night, a sand artist show, musical performances, a story slam, and options for tours, Broadway shows, and more!

This promises to be the largest gathering of women physicians in the world. Plans are also underway for a special event at the United Nations and a special educators' session. Poster abstracts will be accepted on a rolling basis. We encourage attendees to submit early. Deadline February 28, 2019. Participate in the MWIA Centennial film project and see yourself on the large screen! There will also be programming for trainees and students of all levels.

Information and registration are available at amwa-doc.org/mwia100.

[Centennial Congress Postcard](#)

<https://www.amwa-doc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/MWIA100-Postcard-8.5-by-11-v2-Generic.jpg>

[Centennial Congress Prospectus](#)

https://www.amwa-doc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/MWIA-2019-Program-Prospectus_final.pdf

Other news for national associations:

We would like to take group photos of current and past National Association Presidents

Please encourage all of your current and past leaders to attend the Congress.

Special Educator Session for Post-Medical School (Residency) Training

Please encourage your post-medical school (residency) educators to come to the MWIA meeting! There will be a special session for post-medical school (residency) educators to share best practices, innovations in medical education, and more in a multi-specialty forum. A special breakout dinner session is planned for Friday, July 26. Invitations will be sent to all registered attendees

MWIA Centennial Meeting Film Project

Instructions: Turn on a camera (your phone or computer), get a good background that represents where you're from, and read the following lines or share your thoughts. Each association should do the first one.

- “I am a woman physician” videos. I am a woman surgeon/physician/future physician from city/state, country. Feel free to include young girls saying they want to be a doctor when they grow up!
- Other optional videos:
 - Share advice for a young female physician
 - Share a quote or saying that inspires you followed by the name of the author.

Submit a link to the film (preferably a Dropbox link) [here](#). Deadline: Dec. 31, 2018.

[\[https://form.jotform.com/83031771584155\]](https://form.jotform.com/83031771584155)

[How to send videos from your iPhone](#). Send the video to yourself, then submit the link at the form above.

Digital Art Exhibit of Pioneer Women Physicians from Around the World

Inspiration for this project comes from Judy Chicago’s Dinner Party exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum in New York. See [here](#). To participate, create an image that represents the story, journey, or discovery of a pioneer woman physician. Images can be in any form (collage, charcoal, pencil, PowerPoint, photography, etc.), but they must be original! Submissions will be displayed on the MWIA meeting website and shared at the conference. Submit your design [here](#) by January 31, 2019. [<https://form.jotform.com/amwaconference/mwia-plate-entry>]

International Teddy Bear Exhibit

An International Teddy Bear Exhibit is inspired by AMWA delegates’ visit to the Teddy Bear Museum during the MWIA Congress in Seoul. We ask that each association bring a teddy bear

(up to 15 inches) that represents women physicians from that country and wears something representative of the country's culture. Please bring to the registration desk by 2pm, Thursday, July 25, 2019. Please RSVP below.

Association Journal

We ask each association to share a copy of their journal. Please bring to the registration desk before 2pm, Thursday, July 25, 2019. Please RSVP below so we can plan on space.

Object

We ask each association bring a small item (< 4 inches) representing their country. The items will be displayed at the meeting. Please bring to the registration desk before 2pm, Thursday, July 25, 2019. RSVP below.

MEMBER ASSOCIATION RSVP: <https://form.jotform.com/80561852984164>

4. NEAR EAST AND AFRICA REGIONAL MEETING

Reported by Dr. Clarissa Fabre, President-elect

Dr Christina Sadia and her team assembled a wonderful range of speakers, with input from every corner of African life. There were presentations from the past president of Malawi to national politicians, academics, medical students, community workers and survivors of gang rapes. It was an inspirational meeting.

Many problems were highlighted – poverty, lack of access to healthcare, disapproval of family planning by parts of the church, as well as families themselves (especially husbands), poor maternity care in many areas, sex and gender-based violence (gang rapes occur on a daily basis in some areas), and no access to safe abortions. One particularly harrowing problem was **detention in hospital** if one was unable to pay for healthcare. We heard from one woman who was detained in hospital in primitive conditions with her baby for a month after delivery. Her husband and 3 other children had to bring in food and other provisions for basic sustenance. Detention can last for up to a year.

However, **progress** is being made. The WHO is pushing for Universal Health Coverage, more of the population is getting Health Insurance, especially via their mobile phones (98% of the population have these). Access to education is improving, and women are becoming empowered. I was very pleased to have the opportunity to be taken to visit a primary health care facility in one of Nairobi's poorer areas, and to speak to two survivors of gang rape in the Mathare district of Nairobi. In spite of the poverty, the children were bright-eyed and sparkling. Prominently displayed in a primary school office was an impressive array of cups won by the primary school basketball team. Several children had won scholarships to the US.

Many congratulations to Dr Sadia and her team for an unforgettable conference, and to Dr Mabel Aboah, Vice president of the region. She provided exceptional leadership and inspiration to us all. The atmosphere was joyful, the enthusiasm of members was palpable and we all learned so much.



Dr. Mabel Aboah congratulates Dr. Christine Sadia on an excellent Near East and Africa Conference



Drs. Bev Johnson of Canada & Rosemary Ogu of Nigeria meet yMWIA members



Dr. Clarissa Fabre with health workers outside health clinic

5. NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGIONS

Australia

- The Australian Federation of Medical Women (AFMW) has updated its logo
- The AFMW held its annual face-to-face meeting on 10 & 11 November 2015 Supported the “DoctorsMakeChange” and “#KidsOffNauru” campaign
- ACT & MWS currently writing a Social media policy
- Recent event Women in Medicine Celebration dinner
- ACT & MWS are working on encouraging breastfeeding friendly/supportive workplaces continues
- ACT & MWS continuing to focus on bullying and harassment in medicine

-NSW held a CV/Interview workshop in June

-QMWS August Dinner Meeting, Theme: Indigenous Health Guest Speaker Leann Wilson, recipient of the Queensland Premier's Reconciliation Award

-QMWS August 23 Women in Medicine Breakfast: Seize the Day was really well subscribed and extremely interesting morning, with fantastic talks by the prominent invited guests.

-QMWS November 20 (5.45 pm canapés 6.30 pm oration) Jian Zhou Memorial Oration at the University of Queensland is delivered annually by a distinguished guest from the medical research sector, and honours the memory of Dr Jian Zhou, co-discoverer of the life-saving Gardasil vaccine for cervical cancer. Jian was a founding member of the Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research (now The University of Queensland Diamantina Institute). His warm personality and genuine interest in the welfare of others is fondly remembered by all who knew him.

-VMWS AGM held Sept 15 – Dr Lorraine Baker presented the Constance Stone Oration

-Website development in progress – membership has gone 'live'.

-Received Invitation to become Content Partners with Department Social Services Job Access

-Provided input to the Consulting on the Fourth Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce

-Violence Against Women and Their Children

-VMWS wrote letter to Prime Minister Scott Morrison to release the children from Nauru

-VMWS submitted their review and comments to the National Women's Health Strategy 2020-2030

-VMWS - Dr Magdalena Simonis has been invited to join the Sustainable Primary Care Family Violence Model Advisory Committee Meeting our first meeting was held on Thursday 11 October 2018, which she attended by teleconference.

-VMWS - Dr Magdalena Simonis will be delivering training to GPs starting November 2018 in the start of the National roll out of Sustainable Primary Care Family Violence Education.

Canada

The Gender Equity and Diversity Committee of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada wrote the following article to the Medical Post newspaper.

<http://www.canadianhealthcarenetwork.ca/physicians/discussions/forced-and-coerced-sterilization-is-a-violent-violation-of-human-rights-54786>

Dr. Beverly Johnson, past president of FMWC, attended the Near East and Africa Regional Meeting of MWIA in Nairobi.

MWIA Update Text – HPV PW

The **second annual HPV Prevention Week in Canada** took place October 1-7, 2018. Led by the Federation of Medical Women of Canada in collaboration with the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada (SOGC) the week harnessed the power of social media to reach Canadians about HPV and how to protect themselves against infection.

The week began with a kick off event on Canada's Parliament Hill led by Dr. Brown of the FMWC and Dr. Blake of the SOGC. They were joined by a patient speaker and parliamentarians, making HPV a National Event. A new website was created with materials and resources for anyone interested in learning more about HPV and its prevention. The materials are found at www.canadavshpv.ca and we're happy to share anything possible with any MWIA members interested in learning more, or even starting their own initiatives.

This year we also shared a terrific article and video featuring FMWC members. This video and article were housed on Chatelaine.com, the digital edition of a major Canadian women’s magazine. You can see the video or article here [link to:

<https://www.chatelaine.com/sponsored/hpv-causes-cancer-why-prevention-is-key/>]. We were also fortunate this year to share our message through traditional media, reaching over 6 million Canadians through articles and stories on radio, television, in print, and online.

We are always looking for opportunities to share the message of HPV Prevention and lessons learned to date to grow #CanadavsHPV to make it the #WorldvsHPV and to make all HPV Cancers, history. For more information about the second annual HPV Prevention Week and #CanadavsHPV please reach out, any time, to the FMWC National Office at fmwcmain@fmwc.ca.



Photo Caption:

On Parliament Hill for HPV Prevention Week 2018, our terrific speakers, from Left to Right: Dr. Jenny Blake of the SOGC, Dr. Vivien Brown of the FMWC, Liz Ellwood (crouched) founder of Fertile Future and HPV-related cancer survivor, and the Honourable Peter Kent, Member of Parliament for Thornhill and HPV-related cancer survivor.

France

The AFFM held a meeting at the Palace of Luxembourg on December 8 on “The Future of Medicine for Women.”

Georgia

The Georgian Medical Women's Association is pleased to be holding the last regional meeting of this triennium. This Central European Regional Congress of MWIA will be held in Tbilisi 17-18 May 2019. The Congress topic is "Actual Topics on Women's Health." The congress venue, opening ceremony and welcome party, will be held at Tbilisi Celebration Palace of Rituals www.ritualebissasakhle.ge on May 17. The second session of the Congress on May 18th, is planned at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University: <https://www.tsu.ge/en>.

Hong Kong

The 12th Annual General Meeting cum Annual Dinner of the Hong Kong Women Doctors Association (HKWDA) was held successfully on 26 October 2018. Professor Juliana Chan and Dr Rose Ting delivered a talk on "Global Epidemics of Diabesity—Challenges and Opportunities", which enlightened us on the recent advances and important features related to the prominent health issues of diabetes and obesity. It was also a night full of fun: many winners were able to take home spectacular prizes from our lucky draw, and we enjoyed performances from talented medical students.

The HKWDA is proud to announce our sponsorship programme for medical students to attend the MWIA's Centennial Congress in July, 2019. A total of thirteen students applied, and after a vigorous selection process including individual and group interviews, four applicants were selected.

India

The national conference of the Association of Medical Women of India was held in Kolkata on November 17-18, 2018, with more than 100 delegates. The theme of the Congress was "Women's Health—Everyone and Everywhere."

The highlights were the three orations:

- the Dr. Mary Catachoor Oration given by Dr. Vandana Walvekar
- the Dr. Nirmala Mukadam Oration given by Dr. Rajashree Khot
- the Dr Hemprabha Ghosh Macdonald Oration given by Dr. Gita Ganguly

In addition, Dr. Mandakini Megh, the VP-elect for Central Asia, delivered a guest lecture. The Young Women Doctors were given a platform to present papers for the Dr. Winifred Fernandes Competition.

The unique feature of the congress was the vast variety of subjects ranging from vascular surgery, cosmetic surgery and social justice, gestational diabetes and NSD, obesity and obstetric problems, menopause and vaccination at all ages, delivered by senior women specialists. It was inspiring and commendable to see Dr. Kalyani, age 93 years, take an active part in the meeting.

It was an enjoyable meeting with a cultural program and dinner and camaraderie, efficiently organized by President Dr. Sumana Sur, Dr. Bulbul Roy Choudhary and their team.



Japan

Dr. Yoshiko Maeda, President of the Japan Medical Women's Association has forwarded the Official statement for "Relief for the examinee who received discrimination on Tokyo Medical University."

Tokyo Medical University announced that it will confirm the intention to enrol for 101 students who passed the entrance examination in 2017 and 2018 according to the recommendation of the third party committee. When all the students wished to enrol in order from the top grades, it was explained that up to 63 people could enrol. The new dean of Tokyo Medical University repeatedly repeated that she would not know at all about the manipulation of the entrance examination until the incident was discovered, never again.

For at least the last two years, it is worth assessing that we have expanded the door to admission to inappropriately rejected candidates. It is an unprecedented response in the entrance examination of the medical university.

There are some disappointing points. First of all it is not clear that there is no response to students who have taken the exams before 2016. Students who are unable to obtain opportunities in the examination year that were the object of relief this year and one year difference must have a toothy feeling. To the second, the criteria for redetermination are uncertain. It is said that the new entrance examination committee made a re-judgment with the intention of newly entering

the entrance examination, but how did it re-judge on the evaluation of the interview which could not be reproduced?

The third thing is that some people have the possibility of failing even if they express their intention to enter the university. What is the mental burden that is said to be rejected again after being treated inappropriately in the entrance examination? Of the 101 people who express intent, what is the reason why all students wishing to enter can not enrol? The fourth is that there were no concrete proposals other than the word under consideration for various compensation including monetary.

However, attention of the media gathers only at the correspondence of Tokyo Medical University, and the essence of discrimination must not be forgotten. Originally from the entrance into the back door, this case was discrimination against gender, which gave the world a big deal of attention. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology ask voluntary countermeasures against universities other than Tokyo Medical University, but most universities keep silent. Regardless of whatever reasons, it is a fact that the acceptance rate of female students is lower in numbers than in other undergraduate departments of science. If it is not possible to explain the special reasons for such a difference only in the medical department, it is necessary to promptly clarify the facts and present remedial measures.

It is of greatest concern that the entrance examination in 2019 will begin as it is and the discussion of discrimination against women will be ruined. Unless a clear action is taken to eliminate the "unconscious bias" overcome by a senior female doctor, clues to the solution can not be seen.

Dr. Keiko Hamada, a long time member of JMWA died suddenly in a traffic accident on 24 September 2018. Thank you very much for your heartfelt condolences from members of MWIA. A funeral service of 2 days was held in Hokkaido, and total attendants were more than 700 people.

Korea

On 9 November 2018, we hosted an educational program for 30 children who are raised by grandparents under the title of 'My healthy body and diet'. The program was a part of 'the 9th Dreamers Camp (Pfizer campaign to help a family that grandparents and grandchildren without parents)' held in Anseong Nurigul Culture Village. The camp has been continued since 2010 as a part of the campaign called 'Building happiness in a family that grandparents and grandchildren without parents' sponsored by Pfizer Korea and Child Fund Korea.



The annual meeting of ‘the national convention of medical women's representatives’ has much contributed to the development of KMWA by interconnecting the regional associations, alumni, and faculties of women professors. This year, under the title of ‘120 year history of KMWA’, we had a chance to shed a light on the steps of our predecessors, and reached a consensus on how we can contribute to this nation and society as women leaders



Nigeria

Through Dr. Gabrielle Casper, a past-president of MWIA from Australia, the Medical Women's Association of Nigeria was able to receive almost 200 ultrasound machines from the DAK Foundation. Thank you for providing imaging equipment that will improve health care delivery to thousands of women in Nigeria.



From right Dr. Umar, (Financial Secretary) Dr. Miriami, (Auditor) Dr. Barber (President), Dr. Kokoricha (Secretary) Dr. Ohakwe (Coordinator Young Doctors Forum)

The Philippines

The Philippine Medical Women's Association (PMWA) has a new set of officers. The election was held on November 18, 2018 during its 69th annual convention at Marco Polo Hotel Ortigas, Pasig City, Philippines. The new PMWA president is Dr. Carmencita Lo and Dr. Vivina Chiu is the new vice president. They have already taken their oath of office during the Fellowship Night. They will assume office on January 1, 2019.

Thailand

On October 28, 2018 the Thai Medical Women's Association (TMWA) elected its new executive committee: Major General Dr. Jantra Chennavasini (President), Dr. Khun Swanya Dejudom (Vice President), Dr. Siraporn Sawasdivorn (Vice President), Dr. Mayura Kusum (General Secretary), and Dr. Darunee Bhuddhari (National Coordinator).

Congratulations to the new TMWA committee.



Encouraging news this year is that there are 14 new medical students from different parts of Thailand receiving scholarships from TMWA medical students scholarship program. This program was started about 10 years ago with the fund from Professor Jason Rousseau’s Foundation under management of Dr. George Curuby. Dr. Curuby himself continues to be advisor and supporter to the program. Aside from donating his own funds, he also persuades friends and family members. Additionally there are increasing numbers of philanthropists from Thailand as well.

Congratulations to the 14 medical students.

Dr. George and Mrs., Dr. n Atsuko Curuby, Dr. Nanta, Dr. Jantra, Dr. Siraporn , Dr. Pattariya and medical students.



November 7, 2018: Dr. Piyanetr Sukhu with Dr. Jantra Chennavasin, Dr. Khun Swanya Dejudom and Mr. Anthony J Tan at International Conference 2018 Next Gen Aging at Dusit Thani Hotel. Future plans and strategies on shaping a smart future for an aging society.

UN SDG: leaving no one behind include aging population and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goal.



November 25: UN designates International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and so as Thailand. For the whole month of November, the nation campaigns to stop violence against women and children with slogan “He for She.”

Dr. Piyanetr Sukhu with Dr. Janya Janeprasert and volunteers at Luang Por Thaweesak Hospital in Nhong Khaem, Bangkok. Hospital personnel educates patients and their family about existing



problems of violence against women and children and how society can help to eliminate the violence.

United States

The American Medical Women have been active this quarter.

October 2018

AMWA members actively participated in A Road for the Cure Foundation's 4th annual fundraising gala: Arabian Nights at Fort Lauderdale Florida to raise awareness for childhood cancers on October 4th

AMWA IUSM at Bloomington hosted a Women in Medicine night with the IUSM students and the AMWA premed IU Bloomington group in October 2018.

November 2018

AMWA co hosted the first summit on Artificial Intelligence at San Francisco on November 8th and 9th which was well attended

December 2018

Dr. Kanani Titchen, Co-Chair of AMWA-PATH, participated in the HHS Health and Human Trafficking Symposium on November 28-29th in Washington, D.C on December 2nd

AMWA is busy organizing the upcoming MWIA Centenary Congress in New York City in July 2019

The American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) presents a CME program on Myalgic Encephalopathy (Chronic Fatigue) through the award-winning, critically acclaimed **film *Unrest***. **VIEW THE FILM AND GET FREE CME HERE: amwa-doc.org/unrest**

The team from American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) and Global Initiative Against HPV and Cervical Cancer (GIAHC) and Indiana University is excited to host its very first **USvsHPV Webinar Series**, January 22 – 28, 2019. Learn more with this series of five, one-hour on-line, recorded and free webinars intended for anyone interested in the various aspects of HPV-related disease and HPV prevention, including HPV vaccination. Please register at https://iu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dIZtThsMQ0OX0aGh9wWxvQ

6. REPORT FROM MWIA'S REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UN

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

The MWIA NGO reps to the United Nations have been working with potential UN agencies and missions to organize a session for the upcoming MWIA congress in July 2019.

Drs Keswani and Murthy have been representing MWIA by regularly attending the NGO briefings being held by the DPI of the United Nations.

In October 2018 Dr Murthy attended the planning committee meetings held by the NGOCSW committee of New York as a member of the executive committee about organizing the parallel events for the upcoming CSW in March 2019 at the United Nations.

On November 19th Dr Murthy was honoured to represent MWIA at the special event organized at the United Nations headquarters to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women which was presided over by the UN Secretary General HE Antonio

Guterres. The event was attended by diplomats, high level UN officials, key members of New York Police Department, NGO community and youth.

On November 20th Dr Murthy co-chaired the UN Women Ambassadors' luncheon hosted by the NGOCSW committee at the Armenian Cultural center. This was a well-attended event where 11 women ambassadors and women leaders were honoured for their contribution to women's issues globally.

On December 5th MWIA was represented at the one on one conversation with HE Maria Fernanda Espinosa and the NGO community at the United Nations. MWIA will be continued to be represented by the NGO reps at the various UN year end events and take this opportunity of wishing all our colleagues Happy Holidays.

7. REPORT FROM MWIA'S REPRESENTATIVE TO WHO

Dr. Clarissa Fabre, UK

Universal Health Coverage, or the policy of Leaving No-one Behind, is a prominent theme of the current WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros, and I shall concentrate on this in my report. At the recent Africa and Near East Regional MWIA meeting in Nairobi, we heard that it is also very popular with the President of Kenya. The **Community Health Worker (CHW)** is key to the success of the idea. However, there are problems. Remuneration is ad hoc rather than regular, and most CHWs abandon the job when they realise there is no pathway to progression. There must be a formal rather than informal approach which is properly funded. This would include CHW programmes. In Kenya, there is the political will to achieve this. The Kenyan Medical Women's Association (KMWA) feel they could play a part in promoting the initiative, as could MWIA. The majority of those left behind are women and children.

Other major problems exist which stand in the way of universal health coverage – poor infrastructure including roads, inadequately equipped hospitals and primary care facilities, and a shortage of properly trained medical staff. Drugs are expensive, and blood is in short supply. There is talk of physician's assistants being trained to do caesarean sections, which is far from ideal.

Universal health coverage is a lofty ideal, but there is a long way to go.

8. EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY

Prof. Dr. Bettina Pfliegerer and Dr. Antonella Vezanni

EWL started their **16 Days of Activism Social Media Campaign** 25th November to raise awareness about violence against women amongst the general public and to highlight the EWL's recommendations and demands to key stakeholders and decision makers.

They shared with the results of a study being part of the European Women's Lobby (EWL) project "*Regional Forum for the Promotion and Monitoring progress of the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention in the Western Balkans and Turkey.*" The project included the countries of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYR Macedonia), Montenegro, Serbia, and Turkey. The reports describe the achievements and challenges, as well as good practices and lessons learned in each of the participating countries in relation to the implementation of the Istanbul Convention and CEDAW. Each country report

contains recommendations for improvement in prevention, policies, protection and prosecution of male violence against women.

The executive summary of the results can be found here:

https://www.womenlobby.org/IMG/pdf/ewl_executive_summary_web_spread.pdf

EWL also shared a **new report on gender equality in the Mediterranean region** from the Union of the Mediterranean (UfM):

These issues have been highlighted among others:

- “Women are strongly affected in their life course, and in all levels of society by the impact of stereotypes; this affects both their own decision-making and the support and opportunities available to them.
- Statistics on violence against women and girls (VAWG) remain high despite of policies and measures adopted at this regard by countries; the situation is even worse in conflict contexts which undermine progress towards eliminating VAWG and pose great challenges for individual countries.”

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/UfMS-Progress-report-on-Women-Empowerment1.pdf>

9. **CIOMS**

Dr. Christine Wieland, Switzerland

"Every person has the right to expect that when they use a medical product, whether medicine, vaccine or diagnostic kit, it works. But too often, that is not the case. Substandard medical products result from errors, negligence or poor practice in manufacturing, transportation and/or storage. In contrast, falsified products result from criminal fraud. Both innovative and generic products are affected." This is an extract from the Oxford Statement to fight substandard and falsified medical products that CIOMS, among several other organizations, signed recently.

Please read more about the Oxford statement on the [Meds We Can Trust website](#).

CIOMS is an observer member of the International Council for Harmonisation (ICH). ICH has been making efforts to increase transparency, for example it has started to post Reflection Papers in the public domain.

10. **CALENDAR OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS MWIA AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS – CONGRESSES AND MEETINGS**

2019

1. **April 5-7, 2019**, Sun City Resort, North West Province, South Africa
2nd Annual Medical Women’s Association of South Africa Conference
chantellj@foundation.co.za
2. **May 13-14, 2019**, Tel Aviv, Israel
World Medical Association Physician 2030: The future is around the corner - be prepared
www.wma.net

3. **May 17-18, 2019**, Tbilisi, Georgia
Central Asia Regional Congress of MWIA
http://www.gmwa.org.ge/index_en.html
4. **May 19-24, 2019**, Geneva Switzerland
World Health Assembly
www.who.int
5. **June 3-6, 2019**, Vancouver, Canada
Women Deliver Conference
wd2019.org
6. **June 13-14, 2019**, Tokyo, Japan
World Medical Association Health Professional Meeting (H20) 2019:
The road to Universal Health Coverage
www.wma.net
7. **July 25-28, 2019**, New York City, USA
Centennial Congress of the Medical Women's International Association
www.amwa-doc.org/mwia100/
8. **August 26-28, 2019**, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA
DPI NGO Conference-68th UN Civil Society Conference
<https://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/content/68th-united-nations-ngo-conference>
9. **November 30, 2019**, Brussels, Belgium
Medical Women's Association of Belgium Congress
Gender related perception of Pathology
<http://mwab.be/>

2020

1. **May 15-17, 2020**, cruise
Northern European Regional Meeting
vp_northerneurope@mwia.net
2. **November, 2020**, Mumbai, India
Central Asia Regional Congress of MWIA

11. **NAMES IN THE NEWS**

Dr. Monica McWeeney, individual member from Ireland, was named as one of the physicians in the Advent Calendar of Irish women physicians who have made a difference. The Advent

Calendar was a project of the new association of women physicians in Ireland, known as Women in Medicine in Ireland.

Dr. Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to end sexual violence in war.

Dr. Padmini Murthy of MWIA and AMWA was elected to the position of Chair of the International Health Section of the American Public Health Association and also received the Global Health Award from the Taiwan Medical Women's Association for health literacy.

Dr. Maite Sevillano, Vice President to MWIA from Latin America has had three activities of note. She was honoured with the invitation to join the board of LIBRA - the League of Women Voters chapter Brazil. She was also invited to the health board of the Women's Foundation which promotes different activities like health, help finding jobs, legal representation for cases of domestic violence, vocational courses and also the political bias of taking our ideas to the governments, indicating specific legislations for women. On November 26, she was invited to close the 16 days of activism against violence against women by the Brazilian Bar Association - São Paulo section.

Dr. Happy Tan, President of Taiwan Medical Women's Association was awarded Physician Model for the year of 2018. There are 19 physician models among 47847 physicians in Taiwan.

12. OBITUARIES

Dr. Keiko Hamada, of the Japan Medical Women's Association in a traffic accident on September 24, 2018

13. PUBLICATIONS

“Methodological development of tools to measure how women are treated during facility-based childbirth in four countries: labour observation and community survey”. <https://bmcmedresmethodol.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12874-018-0603-x>

Dianova Campaign on Violence Against Women 2018

<https://www.dianova.ngo/campaigns/unite-to-end-gender-based-violence/>

10 Ways to Prevent Violence Against Women – 4 Pages - <https://www.dianova.ngo/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/10-ways-to-end-gender-based-violence-en.pdf>

#TimesUp on Undervaluing the Work of Older Women

<https://blog.ageinternational.org.uk/timesup-undervaluing-work-older-women/>

Least Developed Countries by Gender

<http://unctad.org/en/Pages/ALDC/Least%20Developed%20Countries/UN-recognition-of-LDCs.aspx>

Skilled Girl Force and the SDG's Toolkit

<http://www.graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Graduate-Women-International-IDOG-Impactful-and-Easy-to-Use-Toolkit.pdf>

Men's Fear of Mentoring in the #MeToo Era-What's at Stake for Academic Medicine? NEJM
<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMms1805743>

Top Women Doctors Lose Out in NHS Pay Stakes

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-43077465>

The American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) presents a CME program on Myalgic Encephalopathy (**Chronic Fatigue**) through the award-winning, critically acclaimed **film *Unrest***.
VIEW THE FILM AND GET FREE CME HERE: amwa-doc.org/unrest

II. OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

1. World Health Organization (WHO)

Since the launch of the [Global Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents \(AA-HA!\): guidance to support country implementation](#) in May 2017, WHO and other H6 plus UNESCO partners have been working closely with countries to support them in updating and developing adolescent health policies and programmes using the guidance.

2. United Nations

- a. Newsletters from **DPI NGO** can be found at <http://ngodpiexecom.org/ngo-reporter/>
- b. The countries membership for **CSW** can be found at: [http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/63/membership%20csw_%2063%20\(2019\).pdf?la=en&vs=1831](http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/63/membership%20csw_%2063%20(2019).pdf?la=en&vs=1831)
- c. The **State of the World Population 2018** – Freedom of Choice on Reproductive Rights can be found at <https://www.unfpa.org/press/state-world-population-2018>
- d. The address to the **UN General Assembly** by the Secretary General, Antonio Guterres can be found at https://gallery.mailchimp.com/1a250af7608b18d124aa983a8/files/c95cf2bb-eae5-493a-9470-ac709fdb01f2/Address_to_the_General_Assembly.pdf
- e. The **Human Development Report on Violence Against Women: A Cause & Consequence of Inequality** can be found at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/violence-against-women-cause-and-consequence-inequality>

3. The **WONCA Working Party of Women and Family Medicine (WWPWFM)** has developed a research project consisting of a global survey about the working conditions and career satisfaction of women family doctors. This project has **IRB approval** from the American University of Beirut. Please join the survey at:

<http://survey.aub.edu.lb/index.php/193928?lang=en> For English

<http://survey.aub.edu.lb/index.php/193928?lang=es> For Spanish

4. The **Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada** conducted an interview on the use of cannabis in breastfeeding with the recent legalization of marijuana in Canada. It can be found at <https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=1514374>

5. **Everywoman, Everywhere** is asking you to sign a global treaty to end violence against women and girls. [Please sign](#) and share! Together, let's make human history.

6. In the department of "can you really believe this?" **USA-FGM - Ban on Female Genital Mutilation Ruled Unconstitutional**

<https://nypost.com/2018/11/20/ban-on-female-genital-mutilation-is-unconstitutional-judge/>

7. **USAID's** flagship Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP) is pleased to share updated resources on postnatal care: **MCSP's PNC Pre-discharge Checklist** and **PNC Pre-discharge Poster** with **expanded Zika Virus content** available in English, French, and Spanish. You can find these resources on MCSP's website [here](#).

8. The **Tampon Taxi** is delivering sanitary products to women in homeless shelters in London leading up to Christmas.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/pink-black-cab-tampon-taxi-homeless-women-sanitary-products-a8656731.html?>



III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Update will be published in March, 2019, the tenth in the new triennium. Please send us your reports, comments or any other interesting information by February 28, 2019, 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 us close this edition by wishing all of our members, their families and friends a most joyous festive season! See you in New York City July 25-28, 2019 for the Centennial Congress (www.amwa-doc.org/mwia100)!

