

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MWIA



Update

No. 78 June 2019

E-mail: secretariat@mwia.net Website: <http://www.mwia.net>

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Phone +1 604 522-1960

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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. FAREWELL FROM THE SECRETARY- GENERAL

Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada

This will be my last MWIA Update, as I **finish my term** as Secretary General at the end of the Centennial Congress. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve the membership since 2007. I first began my association with MWIA as a Young Forum member when the congress was in Vancouver in 1984. I served as Vice President for North America and then as President of MWIA from 2001-2004. My predecessor, Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus, asked me to take on the role of CEO/Secretary General and I am glad that she twisted my arm to do so as it has been a great pleasure to be associated with what Waltraud called the heart and soul of the organization. I pass the torch to Dr. Padmini Murthy as incoming Secretary General and wish her great success as she takes over the administration of MWIA.

I do hope to see many of you at the upcoming **Centennial Congress**. Registration is pushing 1000 with participants coming from all parts of the world. Our American Medical Women's Association hosts are working day and night to make it a resounding success and memorable occasion. **Ms. Gloria Steinem** is a keynote speaker and will appeal to the feminist part in all of us. Please see section 4 of this Update for a detailed report from the AMWA Local Organizing Committee. Please visit the website www.amwa-doc.org/mwia100 for any information needs or to order merchandise before June 27th.

Please be reminded that all National Coordinators and Presidents are encouraged to attend the **NC and Presidents' briefing** in the afternoon of July 25th to be prepared to lead their delegations throughout the congress.

There are still several **national associations** who have not sent their narrative and statistical reports, list of Golden Jubilee members or any deaths in the membership since the congress in Vienna. This information is needed for the congress and also for the congress report which is generated after the congress. It would be greatly appreciated if you could forward the information to secretariat@mwia.net.

MWIA was well represented at the **World Health Assembly** in Geneva in May. Joining me were Drs. Shafika Nasser, Padmini Murthy, Clarissa Fabre, Satty Gill Keswani, Eleanor Nwadinobi, Rey-Lien Lin, Amany Asfour, and medical student, Vivian Gu. We met with staff at WHO and developed our workplan through to 2022. We are highlighting our work on gender based violence, adolescence, HPV and cervical cancer, female genital mutilation and gender and health.

MWIA was also well represented at the **Women Deliver Conference** held June 2-6, 2019, in Vancouver. MWIA was pleased to partner with the Federation of Medical Women of Canada, the Canadian Medical Association, Joule, and Women in Global Health in an official side event on June 2nd. The title of the session was **The Future of Medicine: Empowering Women Physician Leaders**. The keynote speakers were Dr. Gigi Osler (relative by marriage to the great Sir William Osler), Dr. Padmini Murthy, Dr. Beverly Johnson, Dr. Roopa Dhatt and me. The session was wonderfully facilitated by Manon Abud of the Canadian Medical Association.



MWIA Partners Panel at Women Deliver

The last of the **triennial regional meetings** took place in Tiblisi, Georgia, May 17-18, 2019. Thank you to Dr. Nina Zhanvia and Dr. Khatuna Kaladze for organizing a great congress. The theme was **Actual Topics on Women's Health**. If you glance at the calendar of events in this Update, you will see that many regional meetings for the 2019-2022 triennium are already in the planning stages.

I would like to congratulate the **Austrian Medical Women's Association** on their upcoming 100th anniversary. They are celebrating at their annual meeting being held October 12, 2019 in Vienna, Austria. Check out their website at <http://aerztinnen-oesterreich.at/> for further information.

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.

Please look for the Resolutions for the General Assembly in a separate email today.

Contact information for MWIA:

Website is www.mwia.net

Email is secretariat@mwia.net

Phone is [1-604-522-1960](tel:1-604-522-1960)

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](https://twitter.com/MWIA100)



2. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Professor Dr. Dr. Bettina Pfleiderer, Germany

This will be my last message as MWIA's president – 34 days to go as of today and I will take up a new role as MWIA immediate past president.

Being at the end of my presidency it is also the time to look back. When I took office in Vienna, Austria, in July 2016, I could not have imagined how my life would change from that date! The last 3 years were a remarkable journey. The trust and support which you gave me helped me to achieve many things in MWIA. I am so impressed that you welcomed my ideas and innovations with open arms! Thank you so much for that. I had the honor to meet many of you personally at MWIA regional meetings and national meetings and I had the opportunity to travel to almost every corner of the world to meet the local MWIA family. "Medical women - ambassadors of change" is the theme of my triennium and change to develop MWIA and make it sustainable in the next 100 years is my goal. Many members sent me e-mails and I love replying to them. In the past 3 years, I have made many new friends who I shall cherish in my heart forever!

Not only have I wonderful memories of meeting inspiring medical women all over the world, I have also established friendship with them. They will continue to enrich my life immensely. After stepping down as President, I plan to revisit the many countries which I have visited in my presidential role, but now in a more personal manner. Every country which I visited on behalf of MWIA has its unique beauty and culture and I look forward to getting a deeper understanding of your country and staying in touch with you.

Being MWIA's webmaster since 2010 was my pleasure. I love to share exciting MWIA news and global health issues with you. While I am handing over this position after this triennium I hope that you have enjoyed MWIA's Facebook page, which I had the honor to administer in the last 1.5 years. One highlight of this period was certainly the centennial teaser series with its historical teasers, 23 recipes teasers and the collage fabric cloth squares from 26 MWIA members. We are impressed by the creativity and beauty of the fabric squares which we have received so far. The MWIA centennial collage will be assembled at the congress in New York. The finished collage will highlight the solidarity and sisterhood of our association.

When I am looking back it is also wonderful to see our membership increase again with national medical women's associations and individuals applying for MWIA membership. As of today 6 national associations submitted their membership applications and I trust that you all will welcome them with open arms in New York. MWIA brings our world closer together as we embrace medical women from different regions and countries. We are a non-political, non-racial and non-religion global network in which our members support each other in sisterhood. **Together we are much stronger to reach our goals!!**

Not everything we want to achieve has been completed - e.g. the overhaul of the MWIA webpage is not fully finished despite immense workload being carried out by the Executive Committee. To them I am deeply indebted. We had not only modernized many governance procedures, but also revised our statutes and by-laws to go with changing times and had to coordinate many MWIA centennial activities. This would have not been possible without the dedicated hard work of all our MWIA committees and their co-chairs-great team work! I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to them.

A big thank you goes to our many members who donated money to fund the lay-out and printing of the centennial publication, the memory sticks and many other centennial MWIA activities. They would not have happened without your generous support.

Most importantly MWIA is deeply indebted to the American Medical Women’s Association and all the members of the Local Organizing Committee who are hosting the centennial meeting on our behalf. They worked tirelessly to make this MWIA Centennial Congress a wonderful celebration in New York. They assembled a great program and about 1000 participants have registered so far. There are 100 speakers and over 300 poster presenters coming from all over the world. Information and registration are available at <https://www.amwa-doc.org/mwia100/>

I am looking forward meeting many of you in New York!

MWIA is inviting all of you to our 30 minute historic session which will be held immediately after the congress opening ceremony. This session will be co-chaired by President-elect Clarissa Fabre and me with the title **“Celebrating 100 years of MWIA in 30 minutes.”** There will be keynotes by the 3 living MWIA presidents of this decade, namely Afua Hesse, Kyung Ah Park and myself. In addition, there will be a spectacular video with music, followed by a group **photo shot on stage of national presidents/individual members at the end of the session.**



I attended the last regional meeting as MWIA president in **Tbilisi, Georgia**, where the **MWIA Central European regional meeting** was held on the 17-18th of May 2019. This congress has a special meaning to me, because 3years ago, I was nominated by the Georgian Medical Women’s Association (GMWA) to run for MWIA president. Once again, I want to thank them. The congress was well organized by Prof. Nino Zhvania, GMWA president and Prof. Khatuna Kaladze, MWIA VP Central Europe. The photo to the left shows Nino Zhvania and Bettina Pfeleiderer (left).

We were welcomed warmly and we enjoyed the Georgian hospitality as well as the scientific program.

In Tbilisi also the second MWIA workshop on violence was organized by Khatuna Kaladze. There was a huge interest in this topic and we received an update on the situation in Georgia and Azerbaijan. To the right a group picture is seen.



Last but not least, I wish our President-elect, Dr Clarissa Fabre, a successful triennium and under her leadership, MWIA will grow from strength to strength.

It has been a privilege and honor to serve you as MWIA president. Thank you for all your great support during this triennium. I love you all and long live MWIA!

3. **PRESIDENT-ELECT REPORT**

Dr. Clarissa Fabre, UK

With only a month to go, many of us will be meeting at the centennial celebrations in New York. It promises to be a wonderful occasion. I would love to hear from those of you who are unable to come to New York. My plan as MWIA president is to initiate a number of projects related to HPV and Cervical Cancer, Contraception and the Prevention of Unplanned Teenage Pregnancies, the Safe Childbirth Checklist and the Prevention of Post Partum Haemorrhage, Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls, Work-Life Balance, and Leadership and Mentoring. If you are involved in projects on any of these subjects in your own country, please let me know (president_elect@mwia.net). If you will be in New York, I would love to speak with you. I am sure you have heard from others about the wonderful MWIA Central European Regional Meeting in Tbilisi, Georgia. Tbilisi is a beautiful city, and we were treated with very great hospitality by our hosts. Many thanks to Professors Nina Zhvania and Khatuna Kaladze.

4. **CENTENNIAL CONGRESS OF MWIA**

Update from the Local Organizing Committee

The MWIA Centenary Congress is only one month away! Please read these important announcements.



1. **GETTING TO THE CONGRESS** – please visit the Congress website Travel tab for directions from the airport. New York hotels may charge portorage fees for group arrivals, so we suggest that you check in individually and transport your own luggage.
2. **UNITED NATIONS EVENT THURS 7/25:** “Women’s Health: Building Blocks for Sustainable Development Goals” organized by Drs. Padmini Murthy and Satty Keswani. Priority registration sent by e-mail to full Congress registrants and then to partial/discount registrants if available space. UN Directions on the [Congress website](#), UN Event tab.

3. **UNITED NATIONS TOURS:** Optional tours through the UN available [here](#). If attending the UN Event, we suggest that you avoid tours on Thurs July 25, 10:20 am – 1:00 pm. Visit the [Congress website](#) UN Event tab for UN travel directions.

4. **KEYNOTE AND PLENARY SESSIONS ANNOUNCED:**

Featured Keynote:

[Ms. Gloria Steinem](#), world renowned feminist leader, best-selling author, and advocate

Plenary speakers include:

[Dr. Danielle Ofri](#) - award-winning author

[Dr. Darilyn Moyer](#) - Executive Vice-President, American College of Physicians

[Dr. Esther Choo](#) - Founding Member, TIME'S UP Healthcare

[Dr. Gayatri Devi](#) - author, leading neurological specialist

Dr. Kate Prior - Surgeon Commander Royal Navy

Dr. Suzy Feigofsky - nationally renowned speaker

Past and present leaders of MWIA

[Dr. Bettina Pfleiderer](#) - president

[Dr. Shelley Ross](#) – secretary general and past president

[Dr. Clarissa Fabre](#) – president-elect

[Dr. Padmini Murthy](#) - vice-president North America

Dr. Afua Hesse - past president

Dr. Florence Manguyu - past president

[Dr. Kyung Ah Park](#) – immediate past president

We are honoured to include [Dr. Gigi Osler](#), President of the Canadian Medical Association, and great great grand niece of Sir [William Osler](#) in our speaker line-up.

5. **SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM UPDATED:** Please see the [updated agenda](#) for scientific breakout sessions, workshops, symposiums, and film screenings. Thanks to Drs. Shelley Ross, Theresa Rohr-Kirchgraber, and Antonella Vezzani for organizing over 100 speakers.
6. **OPENING RECEPTION THURS 7/25:** Join the Opening Reception for music performances, themed dancing, and a story slam hosted by Elizabeth Metraux, founder / CEO of [Women Writers in Medicine](#), which will be featured on the [Nocturnists podcast](#).
7. **MWIA CENTENARY GALA SAT 7/27** will feature:
An unforgettable Sand Art Show – hosted by the Korean Medical Women's Association
“Courage is a Woman” about Dr. Esther Pohl Lovejoy by Jazz Singer [Sarah Partridge](#)
One-woman show about MWIA Founding President Dr. Esther Pohl Lovejoy
AMWA Fellowship Convocation (AMWA members - apply [here](#))
Active Duty and Retired Military recognition ceremony (RSVP [here](#))
Performances by various countries (India, Korea, Philippines, Taiwan, Nigeria, Georgia)
8. **GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION DINNER SYMPOSIUM FRI 7/26:** Join the Graduate Medical Education Dinner Symposium. Tickets \$30. Add tickets to your registration by e-mailing program@amwa-doc.org.

9. **RESIDENCY FAIR FRI 7/26:** Represent your program at our Residency Fair. Exhibit table \$100 fee includes a free ticket to the GME Dinner Symposium. Add a table to your registration by e-mailing program@amwa-doc.org.
10. **MEDICAL SCHOOL FAIR:** Represent your program at our annual Medical School Fair (7/28). Exhibit tables \$250. Register [here](#).
11. **MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS:** [RSVP here](#). Please bring your association journal, commemorative object, and teddy bear for our international Congress exhibits.
12. **HOSPITAL TOURS THURS JULY 25:** Tentative time 2 pm. Information coming soon.
13. **FREE CURRICULUM VITAE / RESUME REVIEW:** Looking to advance your career and explore new opportunities? Free CV Review with Dr. Anne Walling. [Sign up here](#).
14. **FREE COACHING:** Looking for guidance in your professional or personal life? Free 15 min coaching sessions by physician coaches [Dr. Helane Fronck](#) and [Dr. Lisa Herbert](#).
15. **MEETING APP:** Registered attendees will receive an e-mail from WHOVA with instructions on how to download the Congress meeting app to connecting with attendees.
16. **AD:** [Purchase an ad](#) in the program book to honor colleagues or promote your business. (you must use a different e-mail address from your Congress registration)
17. **POSTER ABSTRACTS:** Final instructions to be sent July 1. Poster size: no greater than 30 in tall x 40 in wide. Information on Poster tab of the [website](#). Local printing available.
18. **TOURS / SHOWS / MUSEUMS:** Information, discounts or free admission are posted on the [Congress website](#) under the Tours tab.
19. **MERCHANDISE:** Last Day to pre-order merchandise is June 27. Limited quantities will be available for purchase on-site. Order [here](#) or during [registration](#).
20. **SPECIAL EVENTS FOR PHYSICIANS IN TRAINING, MEDICAL STUDENTS, and PRE-MEDICAL STUDENTS:** See the [Congress website](#) tab for Residents and Students.
21. **MWIA CENTENARY THEME SONG:** Dr. Mary Rorro has written a theme song for the MWIA Centenary Congress. The lyrics are below. Learn the tune [here](#). We welcome you to translate the song into your language and share it with us [here](#).

Physicians Healers

Doctors of the world, united
 leaders of our dream, inspired
 shining a bright light, we're guiding
 and transforming

Physicians, Healers
 Women, Dreamers

sharing our vision
we can heal the world

Physicians, Healers
Women, Dreamers
sharing our mission
we will heal the world

Written by Dr. Mary Rorro
June 20, 2019

5. **CENTRAL EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONGRESS OF MWIA**
Dr. Khatuna Kaladze, VP Central Europe

Central European Regional Congress of MWIA: "Actual Topics of Women's Health – Actual Topics of Internal Diseases" was hosted by Georgian Medical Women's Association – GMWA in Georgia, Tbilisi, in May 17-18, 2019.

The first day of the Congress and welcome party has been held at the Tbilisi Celebration Palace of Rituals. On May 18, the congress venue was Tbilisi State Medical University.

The Congress scientific program was dedicated to different topics and social problems of women's health, gender differences in the course and treatment of different diseases.

Georgian doctors, guests from the different countries (US, Canada, Germany, Italy, Finland, Hong Kong, India, Brazil, and the UK) and many Medical Students took part in the congress. It should be noted that the congress was attended by executive members of MWIA: President of MWIA, Prof. Bettina Pfleiderer, Germany, SG of MWIA, Dr. Shelley Ross (Canada), President-Elect of MWIA, Dr. Clarissa Fabre (UK), VP North America, Dr. Padmini Murthy (US), VP Central Europe, Prof. Khatuna Kaladze (Georgia), VP South Europe of MWIA, Dr. Antonella Vezzani (Italy), WP Western Pacific, Prof. Cissy Yu (Hong Kong), VP Northern Europe, Dr. Tuula Saarela (Finland), and also Honorary Member and an Icon of MWIA Dr. Satty Gill Keswani (USA).

President of GMWA, Prof. Nina Zhvania opened the congress. This was followed by greetings from the President, Secretary General, President-elect and VP Central Europe. The opening ceremony was a combination of music and speeches and was well received by the attendees.



In the scientific part of the Congress there were interesting reports presented by Georgian doctors as well as by invited guests, including:

- President of MWIA, Prof. B. Pfleiderer “Women's Health Conditions in the World, Tasks and Perspectives”, Germany
- Prof. P. Murthy MD, MPH, FRSPH, FAMWA, VP North America of MWIA, USA “Violence Against Women and Social Determinants of Health”
- Dr A. Recordare, Responsible of HPB surgery, Italy “The Breast Unit: a new model to warrant the best results in terms of efficiency, immediate result and long term survival for breast cancer” and many other interesting presentations.

May 18, the second day of the Congress was dedicated to the cardiovascular diseases and the peculiarities of their progress in female patients. The keynote lecture was given by Prof. Vera Regitz-Zagrosek, director of the Institute of Gender in Medicine, “Charite,” Berlin, Germany: “Gender Peculiarities of the Progress of Cardiovascular Disease, Diagnostics and Management.” Interesting reports were presented by doctors: VP South Europe of MWIA, A. Vezzani, President of GMWA, Prof. N. Zhvania, Prof. T. Vakhtangadze and other colleagues.

The workshop “How to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children in Central Europe?” was held on the second day of the Congress. The workshop was co-chaired by Prof. Pfleiderer and Dr. Fabre. Interested presentations were presented by the workshop discussion participants:

- Prof. Aynur Safiyeva, Baku, Azerbaijan “Domestic Violence in Azerbaijan and "Clean World' AID to WOMEN" Public UNION”
- Dr. Nino Cherkezishvili, Tbilisi, Georgia "Sexual Violence in Young Couples and Facts of Genital Mutilation in Caucasus Region"- report of true cases
- Dr. Nargiz Karimova Oktay, Baku, Azerbaijan "Providing Medical Care to Women with Psycho-Emotional Disorders"
- Dr. Manana Gogol, Tbilisi, Georgia "Offence, manipulation, bullying and sexual harassment in the medical field in Georgia" - report of true cases
- Prof. Khatuna Kaladze, VP Central Europe of MWIA Tbilisi, Georgia "Health Professionals for the Elimination and Prevention of Violence Against Women"

After the workshop, there was an interesting discussion and we took memorable photos.



The Cultural Tour for foreign guests was held within the Congress. The Congress ended with the Gala Dinner, where we were entertained with national dances and songs.

6. WOMEN DELIVER

It was a moving experience to be among the 8000+ like-minded individuals from 165 countries who gathered in Vancouver to discuss, plan and move forward in a myriad of ways to empower women and realize gender equality. The Prime Ministers and Presidents of Canada, Ghana, Kenya and Somalia spoke at the opening ceremony. Melinda Gates of the Gates Foundation was participating in the congress. During the opening ceremony there were many pictures projected onto the large screen. MWIA made its presence known as a selfie of Dr. Padmini Murthy and I appeared on screen, smiling at the international audience.



Padmini Murthy & Shelley Ross hit the big screen during the opening Plenary



Padmini Murthy, Shelley Ross, Bev Johnson & Rummy Dosanjh on the steps of Women Deliver

As mentioned in the Secretary General's remarks above, MWIA was delighted to partner with the MWIA was pleased to partner with the Federation of Medical Women of Canada, the Canadian Medical Association, Joule, and Women in Global Health to discuss **The Future of Medicine: Empowering Women Physician Leaders**. The session was extremely well received and an email was received just recently from a young Family Physician colleague from Ethiopia telling the panel how inspired she was hearing about leadership from those at the coalface.

Participants recently received a post congress message from Women Deliver CEO, Katja Iverson stating:

WD2019 in Vancouver was powerful – and you can relive some of that power in videos, photos, and more:

Watch the [WD2019 highlight reel](#) video,

- Listen to the [Women Deliver Song](#) by [Girl Be Heard](#),
- Watch other videos – including all plenaries, select concurrents, Power Talks, and original programming from WDLive – on our [YouTube channel](#),
- Check out photos on our [Flickr page](#),
- And continue to share on social media using #WD2019 and #ThePowerOf.

7. NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGIONS

Australia

Dr. Louse Stone of Australia produced a paper on **sexual abuse of doctors**. She is hoping to set up an extended project, preferably internationally, where there can be collaboration to collect stories of female doctors who have experienced this sort of trauma and are pursuing their own recovery. Plan to connect with Dr. Stone through the congress Whova app while in New York.

Brazil

Three recent Scientific Sessions have been held:

March 2019: Dyslipidemia in Older People

April 2019: Spirituality and Cancer

May 2019: Skin Aging

A lay magazine for women above fifty years, “Senhora,” published an article about Gender Medicine, written by Anna Maria Martits and Elisa Garcez as representatives of ABMM. In June, 2018, it became law in the State of São Paulo that requires a chapter about Diseases that differ between women and men (Gender Medicine) to be part of the curriculum. This is being introduced in two Medical Schools in São Paulo with the active support of ABMM: Medical School of Santa Casa de São Paulo and Medical School of Federal University of São Paulo. There are two other medical schools in São Paulo programming the introduction of this subject.

On May 30th, there was a symposium on “ Global Attention to Women´s Health” at Santa Casa de São Paulo Medical School organized by dr Sonia Maria Rolim R Lima of the executive of ABMM.

Looking forward to meeting everybody in New York in July at the MWIA Centennial.

Germany

The German Medical Women´s Association annual meeting is entitled "We interfere - in professional and health policy" will take place in October 17-20, 2019 in the Augustinerkloster in Erfurt. The congress this year especially includes topics in the palliative medicine, preventive problems, gender medicine, and robots in the geriatric care.

The workshops deal with topics such as rhetoric and speech technique, career planning for young female doctors, surrogacy motherhood, and much more. In addition, cultural contributions are on the programme and we have invited cooperating associations to introduce them.

https://www.aerztinnenbund.de/downloads/6/Kongress_2019_Internet.pdf

Dr. Gaby Kaczmarczyk authored a Documentation of the number of women in leading positions in 15 specialities of German university clinics. The conclusion that there were small changes within the specialities and ranking of the university hospitals. The percentage of women has increased in three years from 10% to 13%. Assuming a linear increase, parity between men and women would be achieved in 2051. Currently, the occupation of 87% of executive positions by men means that clinical university medicine is shaped by men. Therapeutic concepts, medical opinions, strategies for student teaching, personnel policies, external representations, etc. are designed and decided in these leadership positions. The best opportunities to improve clinical medicine and to encourage relevant clinical research also lie here. The main causes of the small percentage of women remain unclear, because a qualified forthcoming generation is available.

Hong Kong



Photo of (from left to right) Dr Cissy Yu, VP of Western Pacific region, Dr Nino Zhanvia, President of Georgia Medical Women Association, Dr Antonella Vezzani, VP of South Europe, Dr Tuula Saarela VP of North Europe taken in the Central European Regional Congress of MWIA in Tbilisi

Dr Cissy Yu, Vice President of Western Pacific Region was very much delighted to attend the Central European Regional Congress of MWIA in Tbilisi, Georgia from 17 to 18 May 2019.

The Hong Kong Women Doctors Association (HKWDA) has organized and participated in several activities in March.

-Our president and three medical students represented HKWDA to take part in the Médecins Sans Frontières Orienteering Competition.

-A free health screening for foreign domestic helpers which included breast examination, cervical smear examination, BP, BMI, mental health screening and health talk.

-A career talk for medical students was held at Queen Mary Hospital. The focused specialty is diagnostic radiology.



A free health screening for foreign domestic helpers



Dr Cissy YU, President of HKWDA and three student representatives in the Médecins Sans Frontières Orienteering Competition

Italy

The first number of 2019 of the Italian Journal of Gender-Specific Medicine is online (www.gendermedjournal): the journal contributes to the development and diffusion of the culture of gender-specific medicine, enhancing, not only the Italian experiences of research, but the social-politic realities also. The past national president, Caterina Ermio, is present in the editorial staff and other AIDM members are authors of articles.

In all of the Italian sections (www.donnemedico.org) there are refresher courses on different pathologies, declined by gender (Matera, Napoli, Catania, Crema, Milano, etc.). Besides, at Siracusa and Imperia they held updating courses about violence towards doctors which Ferrara and other cities will repeat in order to emphasize that this important phenomenon in increasing and give adequate instruments of contrast to our colleagues.

On April 12 in Turin they held an interesting meeting entitled “ Maternity Consciousness Today” in which they developed important arguments on the choices of maternity in Italy, from the point of view not only scientific (contraception, voluntary interruption of pregnancy, medically assisted fertilization), but also political and social.

The Italian sections, from North to South, in the months of May and June, continued in an intense activity of training courses on different topics (obesity, diabetes, nutrition, gastrointestinal pathology, alcohol dependence and drug addiction in young people, physiology and pathology in adolescence, lymphedema and transplants) from a gender perspective. A collaboration has also begun with the website pazienti.it, an Italian digital Platform, which aims to promote the dissemination of medical and scientific information. The members of the scientific committee have produced a series of articles that respond appropriately, but informative to specific topics of general interest. The first topic was the role of hormones and their conditioning on women's psychophysical health.

Japan

The board members of the Japan Medical Women Association (JMWA) visited Osaka on February 24th and exchanged information with members of the Osaka branch and female doctors in Osaka to deepen our friendship.

A committee to protect women's health held a lecture on drug addiction on March 3rd in Tokyo.

A committee to consider the health of the elderly held a lecture on frail and sarcopenia for healthy longevity on March 17th in Tokyo.

The 64th regular general meeting was held at Sapporo Grand Hotel in Hokkaido, May 18-19. On May 18th, we went to an excursion in the daytime and the Gala party took place in the evening. On May 19th, the 64th regular general meeting and a special lecture of female doctor's support were held.

President of JMWA Yoshiko Maeda was invited to the Imperial 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko held at the Imperial Palace on February 26th. The Empress gave us a congratulatory message 17 years ago at the Japan Women's Medical Association's 100th Anniversary Ceremony. President Maeda thanked the Empress and reported that she is currently working on the issue of women's discrimination.

Ginko Ogino, the first female doctor to receive a national qualification in Japan, has lived in Setana town in Hokkaido for 10 years from 47 years old. Ginko was a Christian, and moved to Hokkaido following the development of her Christian husband, Hokkaido. In commemoration that the film depicting the life of Ginko Ogino will be released in October of this year, the JMWA President Dr. Maeda and Vice-President Dr. Baba made a courtesy visit to the Setana Town Hall and with the Vice-Chairman visited the area related to Ginko on May 17th.

Official statement for “Relief for the examinee who received discrimination on Tokyo Medical University.”



The JMWA President Dr. Maeda (2nd from the right) and Vice-President Dr. Baba (the right end) made a courtesy visit to the Setana Town Hall. Mr. Sasaki is the Vice-Chairman of Setana Town.

Gala party



We visited “White Lover Park” in Sapporo as an excursion on May 18th

Korea

KMWA won the '17th Hanmi True Medical Care Provider Award'

KMWA accomplished a splendid achievement of winning the '17th Hanmi True Medical Care Provider Award,' which was founded for the public announcement of a medical personnel or association devoted to medical services for the underprivileged. The award is supported by Hanmi Pharmaceutical Corporation and supervised by Seoul Medical Association. The award was a result of our continuous devotion for the last 37 years to caring for the vulnerable and underprivileged neighbors including grandparent-grandchild families, multicultural families, foreign laborers, and North Korean defectors. The award ceremony was held at Hotel Lotte on December 3, 2018.



CEO of Hanmi Pharmaceutical Corporation (left), Hyang Aie Lee President of the KMWA (center), President of Seoul Medical Association (right).

KMWA held the '12th Health Symposium for Women' and the 'Year-End Celebration'

At the end of the '12th Health Symposium for Women' held at Hotel Koreana on December 8th, 2018, we had a year-end celebration and said goodbye to the year 2018. We positively reviewed our efforts throughout the year in that we, as an important party of the Korean Medical Association (KMA), strived to break through the current crisis of 'Moon Healthcare' issues, and also in that we fulfilled our due responsibilities of public service and professionalism to the fullest capacity. At the year-end celebration, a fashion gala was held to support single mothers and to raise funds for medical care services. Added to the fun were an excellent dance performance and a fashion show. A charity bazaar on the side delivered love and warmth to the isolated and underprivileged neighbors.



Hong Jun Park President of the Seoul Medical Association (left), HyangAie Lee President of the KMWA (center), Dae Jib Choi President of the KMA (right)

The 63rd Annual Meeting of the KMWA was held on April 13, 2019, at Koreana Hotel, where the members pledged to take full responsibility as influential leaders of the Korean

medical society. The year 2019 is the centennial for March 1st Independence Movement and also for the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea. In celebration of this centennial, diverse memorial activities and projects are carried on in order to awaken nationwide historical awareness. Next year, the KMWA will be celebrating its 120th anniversary, and as such, the KMWA is planning on a historical project of commemorating the great women doctors in history who had contributed to our society as learned leaders. The KMWA will research and document their specific activities and achievements to mark them in history.

Russia



Dr. Larisa Skuratovskaya, a founding member of the Russia Medical Women’s Association was awarded the “Women Who Matter “ 2018 award for her work on the Mother and Child Health Diary, along with her colleague, Yumi Shiraski from Japan. In Japan, every family has this book and keeps the medical history of mother and child from pregnancy until age 20.

Thailand

During this period which is summer in Thailand , there are many holidays: Chakri Day, Songkran holidays (Thai New Year), Coronation Day of King Rama X on May 4, 2019, Royal Ploughing Day, Queen Suthida’s (new Queen) Birthday on June 3, etc. On Songkran festival, we celebrated Thai New Year with wearing Thai costumes, pouring water and offering blessings especially to elder colleagues, finished up with delicious Thai dish called “Khao Chae”



Picture of TMWA committee and members gathering to celebrate Thai New Year.

On May 25, an opening session for leadership programs group III total enrolment of 48 participants, starting with introduction, sharing personal experiences and building connections among each other. The atmosphere was warm relaxing familial style unlike typical formal classroom.

The second session was on June 8, 2019, the topic was” Work Life Balance.” All of the three speakers are medical women of different ages and they are successful leaders at different sectors - Dr. Khunying Porntip Rojanasunan, pathologist with main interest in forensic medicine, providing final crucial scientific clues for many Jigsaw criminal cases. She is a prominent figure for the justice system and widely known publicly. She at present is appointed to be a senator. Second speaker was Dr. Somsiri Sakonsattayatorn, a pediatrician, with main interest in management, Dhamma and meditation but circumstances led her to become the CEO in a famous private hospital in Bangkok. Her husband who is also a medical doctor works in the government sector and then was appointed as a Minister of Health in the past 5 years.

Our third speaker was one of the graduates from TMWA leadership program group I, Dr. Darunee Buddhari. She is chair of the international relationship for our association TMWA and at present is national coordinator for MWIA. She chose to pursue her career at AFRIMS Kamphaengpetch Province because of her family. She has shown her leadership locally and internationally.

Each speaker shared their life stories, how they balance between careers and families. The course was very successful, motivating and well received by the audiences.



Preparation for Centennial Congress in New York July 25 - 28, 2019:

there will be 9 attendees from Thailand and 18 attendees from India.

One individual member from Malaysia will be unable to participate.

From Thailand, we prepare beautiful embroidery centennial logo hats and Thai handicrafts for sale at the bazaar with all of the proceeds will be donated to MWIA.



Recent news from ECOSOC

In a media statement released on Friday June 14th, Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Thailand's Minister of Foreign Affairs reported that Thailand is one of the four countries from Asia Pacific elected by UNGA to be member of United Nations Economic and Social Council for year 2020 - 2022. The other three are China, Bangladesh and South Korea. Thailand will have the opportunity to work with other countries through ECOSOC to advance the year 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that leaves no one behind

8. REPORT FROM MWIA'S REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UN **Dr. Satty Gill Keswani and Dr. Padmini Murthy, USA**

During the month of June, the UN reps Drs Keswani and Murthy have been busy attending the UN briefings.

Dr Murthy has been appointed co-chair of the media and press subcommittee of the upcoming United Nations Department of Global Communications NGO conference in August in Utah.

Dr Murthy also represented MWIA at the high level meetings at Beijing plus 25 with UN women and has been working with the UN sponsoring missions and agencies on finalizing the upcoming UN event for the Congress in July.

9. REPORT FROM MWIA'S REPRESENTATIVE TO WHO **Dr. Clarissa Fabre, UK**

The annual World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva is a key event in the WHO. Our delegation this year included Eleanor Nwadinobi, Padmini Murthy, Shelley Ross, Satty Gill Keswani, Rey-In Lien Lin, Vivien Gu, Shafika Nasser, Amany Asfour and myself.



Medical student, Vivien Gu and Shelley Ross outside mock Ebola station at WHA

MWIA's focal liaison point at the WHO changed this year to Dr Valentina Baltag, who works on Adolescent Health in the Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health. Her main areas of concern are sexual and reproductive health, mental health, nutrition and violence. We are in the process of writing our 3 year collaborative plan with the WHO. This will include a focus on the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents, a curriculum for sex education in schools, family planning, and HPV and the elimination of cervical cancer.

One of our main contacts at the WHO is **Dr Claudia Garcia-Moreno**, who leads on Violence against Women and Girls. Her latest initiative is **RESPECT- Preventing Violence against Women** (R- Relationship skills strengthened; E – Empowerment of Women; S – Services ensured; P – poverty reduced; E – Environments made safe; C – Child and adolescent abuse prevented; T – Transformed attitudes, beliefs, and norms). Claudia would like MWIA’s help in disseminating this document, and we are in an excellent position to do that. She would also like our input into developing a curriculum for medical schools and health providers. WHO are working in Nigeria and DRC in emergency situations, assessing what is needed to set up support systems, to get services available, to provide space where women can talk confidentially. MWIA with its wide network of doctors may be well suited to help in this area, to achieve progress at country level, and to link with national governments.

One of the main priorities of the Director-General, Dr Tedros, is the **elimination of cervical cancer**. The three key targets are a comprehensive national strategy for HPV vaccination, screening and treatment of pre-cancerous lesions, and effective management of invasive cancer. We spoke with Dr Raymond Hutubessy who works on the HPV vaccination initiative. His department is looking into the efficacy of only one dose of the vaccine. We also discussed the problem of ‘vaccine hesitancy’ in countries like Japan, but becoming more widespread, and a possible vaccine shortage. The majority of unvaccinated girls are in middle income countries e.g Indonesia, not covered by GAVI (the Global Vaccine Alliance which increases access to immunisation in low income countries, and was founded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation).

I attended two very interesting side events at the World Health Assembly. The first was on **‘Adolescents: the Missing Population in Universal Health Care.’** One of the speakers was Zoleka Mandela, the grand-daughter of Nelson Mandela, who spoke very movingly about the death of her daughter in a road traffic accident caused by a drunk driver (traffic accidents are a common cause of death in adolescents), as well as the problems of substance, sexual and physical abuse.



Zoleka Mandela speaking on adolescent health

The second session was on **Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights**. Special ‘youth clinics’ were discussed and are a good idea, so that young people are listened to sympathetically. There should be a partnership between schools and health clinics, and in general, community engagement is essential, and cultural diversities and sensitivities must be considered in legislation on strategies at national level.

10. **EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY**

Prof. Dr. Dr. Bettina Pfleiderer and Dr. Antonella Vezzani

MWIA president Bettina Pfleiderer attended the **board meeting and general assembly of the European Women's Lobby** on behalf of MWIA in **Brussels 6-8th of June 2019**. The focus at this meeting was on the discussion of the strategic plan for 2019/2020 and also to discuss what EWL should be doing in the next 6 months taking into account the outcome of the European election. There was also a public event discussing the outcome the EU elections.

Of interest to medical women is the continuous work EWL is doing on violence (more info please see here: <https://womenlobby.org/-Violence-against-Women-451-?lang=en>).

The strategic aim 2 of EWL: To put an end to all forms of violence against women and girls and promote a society of peace, human dignity.

This aim has been operationalized into two concrete objectives:

- By 2020, the EU and all MS have ratified the Istanbul Convention, and the monitoring mechanisms have helped to reduce all forms of Violence against women.
 - By 2020, the EU has adopted or is in the process of adopting a directive on prostitution & sexual exploitation, and new member states have adopted the Nordic Model on prostitution while there is a broader awareness of prostitution as an obstacle to equality between women and men.
- The European Women's Lobby produces monitoring publications and lobbying materials on various aspects of violence against women in Europe, with support of the experts of the EWL Observatory on violence against women.

Next year it is planned to have the EWL General Assembly in France (Paris) close to an event to celebrate Beijing 25+, since EWL will also be celebrating its 30th anniversary.



11. **CIOMS**

CIOMS is pleased to announce the establishment of an annual award of \$1500 US for the best scientific article published in the areas of pharmacovigilance and research ethics. The article

must have been published in a scientific peer reviewed journal in English. The next deadline is September 1, 2019. For further information, please contact info@cioms.ch

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

2019

1. **July 25-28, 2019**, New York City, USA
Centennial Congress of the Medical Women's International Association
www.amwa-doc.org/mwia100/
2. **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>
3. **September 20-22, 2019**, Ottawa
Federation of Medical Women of Canada
Annual General Meeting and Education Session
www.fmwc.ca
4. **October 12, 2019**, Vienna, Austria
100th Anniversary Conference of the Austrian Medical Women's Association
<http://aerztinnen-oesterreich.at/>
5. **October 17-20, 2019**, Erfurt, Germany
Annual meeting of the German Medical Women's Association
"We interfere - in professional and health policy"
https://www.aerztinnenbund.de/downloads/6/Kongress_2019_Internet.pdf
6. **October 27-29, 2019**, Berlin, Germany
World Health Summit
www.worldhealthsummit.org
7. **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 from Helsinki to Stockholm and back to Helsinki
Northern European Regional Meeting
*****please note that in order to participate in the program reservations must be made through the host organization, not through the cruise line directly*****
secretariat@mwia.net

2. **August 17-28, 2020**, Mediterranean cruise – Italy, Malta and Greece
North American Regional Meeting hosted by the Federation of Medical Women of Canada
Theme is Women’s Health: Aging Well
*****please note that in order to participate in the program reservations must be made through the host organization, not through the cruise line directly*****
www.fmwc.ca
3. **October, 2020**, Korea
Western Pacific Regional Meeting
4. **November, 2020**, Mumbai, India – details to follow
Central Asia Regional Congress of MWIA
secretariat@mwia.net

13. **NAMES IN THE NEWS**

Dr. May Cohen, Past President of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada, and the author of MWIA’s Training Manual for Gender Mainstreaming, is interviewed on CBC Radio Canada, speaking about advocacy for women’s health and gender issues for women in medicine.

<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/whitecoat/amid-u-s-anti-abortion-laws-1-of-canada-s-earliest-pro-choice-doctors-says-you-always-have-to-be-on-guard-1.5173569>

14. **PUBLICATIONS**

Sex differences in molecular pathways of HPV and HPV-related disease: do sex and gender matter? Ital J of Gender Specific Med 2018; 4(4): 142-151

The Man Box and Men’s Mental Health Crisis

<http://www.acalltomen.org/a-call-to-men-blog/2019/5/13/the-man-box-and-mens-mental-health-crisis>

Families in a Changing World- Progress of the World’s Women

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/progress-of-the-worlds-women>

South Korea Rules Anti-Abortion Law Unconstitutional

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/11/world/asia/south-korea-abortion-ban-ruling.html>

The Truth about Female Genital Mutilation: FGM – Animated Video

Video: <https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=The+Truth+About+FGM+-+Video+Animated&view=detail&mid=9DD8A1E1D7074E7928F59DD8A1E1D7074E7928F5&FORM=VIRE>

The Lancet - [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(19\)30151-5/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(19)30151-5/fulltext)

II. OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

1. World Health Organization (WHO)

- a. The **World Health Assembly** took place in Geneva May 20-24, 2019. There were a number of resolutions and topics discussed to advance health for all. Universal Health Care is top of mind, with the theme of leaving no one behind, particularly adolescents who are the missing population. A new ICD-11 (11th review of classification of diseases and related health problems) was accepted. Of particular interest to physicians is that burn out is now recognized as a defined illness. Several advances were made in the area of the health care workforce.
- b. WHO has launched guideline recommendations on **digital health interventions**. <http://bit.ly/digiguidelinewho>. The launch can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/digilaunchwho>
- c. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General in speaking about the **World Health Statistics 2019** says, “Breaking down data by age, sex and income group is vital for understanding who is being left behind and why. Behind every number in the World Health Statistics is a person, a family, a community or a nation,” said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.
- d. WHO has released the interagency statement on **eliminating virginity testing**. MWIA reviewed the document and gave input. <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/275451/WHO-RHR-18.15-eng.pdf?ua=1>
- e. The **strategic priorities** for WHO are One billion more people benefiting from universal health coverage, one billion more people protected from health emergencies, one billion more people enjoying better health and well-being, WHO providing better support to countries.

2. United Nations

- a. The **UN High Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage** is taking place at UN Headquarters in New York on September 23rd. Dr. Satty Gill Keswani and Dr. Padmini Murthy are representing MWIA.
- b. The **International Commission on Population and Development** of ECOSOC developed a program of action that will support the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. UNFPA’s goodwill ambassador, Ashley Judd, said "If we invest in girls and women, the world and all of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals will advance forward rapidly as a result."

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/commission/sessions/2019/index.shtml>

3. News is out about this year's **16 Days Campaign to End Gender-Based Violence**
<https://16dayscampaign.org/resource/16-days-toolkit-iloendgbv/>

4. The **World Medical Association** has come out with a number of statements.

a. How to Give Adolescent Girls Voice, Choice and Control
<https://www.wma.net/policies-post/wma-statement-on-gender-equality-in-medicine/>

b. The World Medical Association has called on physicians around the world to take no part in implementing new eligibility regulations for classifying female athletes. The regulations from the International Association of Athletics Federations require women athletes with specific differences in sex development to medically reduce their natural blood testosterone level if they wish to continue racing as women in a few restricted events.

c. In the area of universal health care, WMA Chair stated that governments and international organisations that promote the training of nurses and community health workers rather than fully trained physicians are effectively denying patients' access to quality health care. He further stated that health care must involve physician-led teamwork and this must be thoroughly financed. And let's be very clear: a patient-physician relationship demands a physician – not a substitute or surrogate'.

d. WMA comments on gender equality in medicine.
<https://www.wma.net/policies-post/wma-statement-on-gender-equality-in-medicine/>

5. The **Population Council** has developed systematic guidance for programming that gives adolescent girls voice, choice and control. This is designed for a community based empowerment program. For details, visit:
https://ssir.org/articles/entry/how_to_give_adolescent_girls_voice_choice_and_control?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=50adb54d-eccd-4227-b0ee-59ff423ab744

6. The Journal of the American Medical Association shows that the **number of female speakers** at medical conferences increased from 24.6% to 34.1% during the period from 2013 to 2017. *JAMA Netw Open.* 2019;2(4):e192103. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2019.2103

7. British Columbia public schools will be required to provide **free menstrual products** for students in school washrooms by the end of 2019. It is an attempt to ensure there is equitable access to menstrual products so that students should never have to miss school or extracurricular events due to inability to pay.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is the last Update for the 2016-2019 Triennium and the last of the Updates that I have written since became Secretary General in 2007. It has been a labour of love and my pleasure to keep the membership informed of activities of MWIA via this newsletter. The incoming Secretary General, Dr. Padmini Murthy, will be in charge of the Updates for the 2019-2022 triennium so please continue to send your newsworthy contributions to secretariat@mwia.net. The next Update will be the end of September, 2019.

I very much look forward to meeting many of you at the Centennial Congress in New York City, July 25-28, 2019. It promises to be a congress to remember. (www.amwa-doc.org/mwia100)!

Shelley Ross MD