

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MWIA



Update

No.81 April 2020

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1.MEDICAL WOMEN’S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION



2019- 22 Executive Committee Members

President:	Dr Eleanor Ann Nwadinobi
Secretary- General:	Prof Dr. Padmini Murthy
Treasurer:	Dr. Helen Goodyear
Past President:	Prof Dr. Bettina Pfleiderer

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

Central Europe:	Dr. Edith Vecsei (Austria)
Northern Europe:	Dr. Elisabeth Lichtenstein (Sweden)
Southern Europe:	Dr. Antonella Vezzani (Italy)
North America:	Dr. Vivien Brown (Canada)
Latin America:	Prof Dr. Magda Maria Sales Carneiro Sampaio (Brazil)
Near East &Africa:	Dr. Christine Sadia (Kenya)
Central Asia:	Dr. Mandakini Megh (India)
Western Pacific:	Dr. Desiree Yap (Australia)

2. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi, Nigeria

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



I am writing to you, as the world is going through turbulent and unsettling times. The COVID-19 pandemic, has arrived like a whirl wind and has swept up the most vulnerable in our communities and impacted heavily on all of humankind.

Our Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) members are amongst the dedicated frontline responders and in addition, have been at the forefront of sensitizing members of the public urging them to observe strict social distancing and hygiene vigilance. The Exco on behalf of MWIA put out an advisory to assist our communities with the necessary precautionary measures in easy to understand messages. We responded compassionately to our colleagues in Italy, who sent us an SOS. Additionally, I put out a President's rallying call as well as a short video clip on behalf of the Exco titled, "To our heroic healthcare personnel". The link appears below.

<https://spark.adobe.com/video/SbGfueJhQvStj>

This year held great expectations and was supposed to usher in the celebration of a new decade and commemoration of important milestones for women's health and rights. The year 2020, marks 75th anniversary of the United Nations, 25 years after the Beijing conference and 20 years of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. However, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), Beijing +25, scheduled for March, 2020, was cancelled due to the global pandemic. We thank the organisers for their leadership and wise decision that averted putting over five thousand women at risk.

As I said in my rallying call, "Remember every storm has an expiry date. We will ride out this particular storm together as we look forward to seeing the rainbow on the other side of it".

It has not been all doom and gloom. For me, the year started with celebrations in my honour on the rise to the position of President by the women of Saint Matthews Anglican Church, led by Dr Chizoba Wonodi and Mrs Azuka Uwanaka, who hosted me to a dinner. This was followed by another reception hosted by Professor Lovett Lawson, Professor of Tropical Medicine and Chairman, Zankli Medical Centre, Abuja and his wife, an active MWAN member, Dr Olufunke Lawson, Vice- Chair and Consultant Paediatrician, Zankli Medical Centre, Abuja.

I presided over the first Exco meeting as President on January 12, 2020 and we took far reaching decisions on behalf of MWIA. We called for status reports and work plans for 2020 by Committees and Working Groups and these are being submitted for review by the Executive Committee.

The second Exco meeting which held on March 21, 2020, was a time to chart a new course in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a resolve to keep the MWIA engine running. As part of my opening remarks to the Executive, I said the following, “As the MWIA Executive, we will scale-down but not abandon ship. We may slow down but we must not come to a screeching halt. We have to adapt to massively changing circumstances and inject some flexibility into the way we do business”.

At home, it was important to show solidarity with colleagues when one of our members in Nigeria, suffered physical violence in the workplace. I participated alongside male and female doctors, in a protest march to register our displeasure on behalf of our colleague.

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/health/373055-fct-doctors-health-workers-embark-on-protest-walk.html>

It was a good advocacy opportunity for me to participate in meetings on the sidelines of the African Union summit and to lend the voice of MWIA to the theme of “silencing the guns”. I attended the Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC), pre-summit consultative meeting. I added my voice to the discussions by requesting that we go further than silencing of the guns and move towards restricting the production of guns.

In commemoration of International Women’s day, I was presented to His Excellency, Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, by Dame Pauline Tallen, the Honourable Minister of Women Affairs. I went in the company of my family and members of the Medical Women’s Association of Nigeria. It provided an opportunity to encourage the Nigerian Government to work with MWIA as a preferred partner in women’s global health and to urge the government to respond meaningfully to the COVID-19 pandemic as was the case for Ebola.



Dr Eleanor Nwadinobi and President Buhari



Presidents, Minister and MWAN members

In his twitter handle President Buhari said the following:

“It was my pleasure to receive Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi at the State House today. She is the first Nigerian elected President of the Medical Women’s International Association, in its 100 years of existence. Her great achievements should make all of us proud as Nigerians”.

<https://twitter.com/MBuhari/status/1237494305188712449>

I was interviewed for a feature story by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as part of International Women's Day commemoration.

<https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/eleanor-nwadinobi-fighting-for-nigerian-women-s-rights-to-health-and-protection>

As part of the drive to increase the visibility of MWIA, I have granted press interviews to media organisations such as Arise news, Love FM and several newspapers. I was also one of the featured personalities of African international documentary festival foundation in a documentary called the “Voice of women, inspiring stories from leading women” in celebration of international women’s day.

As the founding Co-chair of the Steering Committee of the Everywoman Treaty, a global coalition calling for a global treaty to end violence against women and girls, I co-authored a report called the “Safer Sooner” report. It is a wakeup call to the plight of thousands of survivors of violence against women and girls .MWIA will also ensure increased awareness regarding those who may be undergoing increased cyber bullying and heightened domestic violence as they are in forced isolation in unsafe spaces with their abusers as we ride out the COVID-19 pandemic. The link appears below.

<https://everywoman.org/safer-sooner/>

MWIA is forging new partnerships and alliances under my leadership. But for the ban on gatherings, we had put everything in place to co-host a Conference on Women’s Health and Well-being, on the 12th of June, in Bristol, UK. The lead host was to be Business and Professional Women (BPW) international, partnering alongside at the Royal Society of Public Health (RSPH). In addition, thanks to our North America Regional Vice President, we were also invited to the Cervical Cancer Action for Elimination Network. Once we can get back to normal, this will be a good platform for our HPV prevention Working Group.

In conclusion, our members are doing us proud around the world. Two of our Executive Committee members were decorated with honours in their respective countries. Dr. Mandakini Megh and Dr. Desiree Yap.



I wish you Easter blessings. Please keep safe.

Warmly,

Dr Eleanor Nwadinobi

President

Medical Women's International Association

3. Message from the Secretary-General: **Dr. Padmini Murthy USA**



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I write this message to you from my home office as most of us globally are working from home, being at home living in a new world, where we are being mercilessly attacked by a pathogen (a virus) Corona. We in the United States are unfortunately facing unprecedented challenges on all fronts as a result of the COVID 19 outbreak, New York where I live, and work has been particularly affected. It is sad for me to mention that my state ie New York State has the highest number of cases of COVID 19 globally and we are hurting on all fronts. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to those of my colleagues who have reached out to me personally to express solidarity with me and AMWA. Online teaching for med students including clinical skills and virtual patient consults are at present a daily routine for many of us.

Despite what seem insurmountable odds we are facing technology and social media play a tremendous role in connecting all in more ways then one.

I have been attending webinars and conferences on COVID 19 to contribute, listen and learn

This edition of the MWIA newsletter is considerably shorter than the regular ones due to the crisis and hope the next one will be similar to the past issues.

Please find enclosed a short poem written by me about the pandemic am also sharing links to 2 published articles on COVID authored by me.

1. <https://www.amwa-doc.org/news/30003/>

2. <https://conta.cc/39ILg0m>

Catastrophic Corona

**Corona, Corona, Corona,
Does not show humans any Karuna (mercy)
Nor does it discriminate,
In its aim seems to eliminate,
Rich, poor young and the old,
And stop their quest for gold,
The face which has a mask grins and lies,
Does it really hide our cheeks, mouth and shield our eyes?
Donate your masks to your doctors,
Who are in the roles of their lives as frontline actors,
This ongoing Armageddon exposes the human guile,
Please fellow citizens do not stockpile!**

**Written by Padmini Murthy MD
3/ 25/ 2020 New York**

Stay safe and Thank you for all the heroic work and your continued dedication to the communities you live and work in.

In Health and Human Rights!

Padmini Murthy MD, MPH
Secretary General MWIA

4.Contact information for MWIA:

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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 Hashtag #MWIA100

5.Message from treasurer

Dr. Helen Goodyear UK

It has been a pleasure and honour to talk by email with many members as we sort out the 2019-2020 dues from countries and individual members. Thank you to all who have been in touch.

We are continuing to sort out financial matters as an Exco committee and the Finance committee, chaired by Dr Bettina Pfleiderer, Past President continues to give much valued input. As I write this, I have just come back from a week's relaxing skiing holiday in France and it is International Women's Day. Despite the difficult circumstances we are currently working and living in, worse in some countries than others, it is a day of celebration for all that women do and continue to do.

Please contact me on helengoodyear@btconnect.com for any treasurer issues.

6. Message from MWIA Past President

Message MWIA past President Prof. Dr. Dr. Bettina Pfeiderer

In 2020, the world has seen unforeseen challenges regarding our health, our well-being, and our work as physicians and our families. The COVID-19 pandemic has meanwhile reached Europe and the US, which are the epicenters of infection currently. While health systems and politicians do their best to tackle the crisis and help everyone in need, they cannot always be as successful as wanted. Being a German and therefore living in a country with about 92.000 infected by COVID-19 so far, we have learned the hard way that we are not as well prepared as we thought we are: we don't have enough masks and protective gears in stockpile, we responded too slow at the very beginning of the pandemic, since we really had no plans in place how to respond and we are still adjusting every day. This is true for many countries globally. Therefore, it is necessary to learn from the best practice approaches around the globe and from countries that were able to fight the virus effectively and slow down the rate of infections. MWIA as global network umbrella organization of medical female doctors play an important role in this and facilitates mutual discussions and exchange!

As current MWIA representative to the European committee of European physicians (CPME) I attended a virtual meeting on COVID-19 just yesterday with an update from national Medical chambers on the situation in their countries. Many countries reported that about 25 % of health care workers including many physicians have been infected so far. Since many more women than men are working in the health care system, they are more often infected and also have to shoulder additional responsibilities when e.g. they have younger children in times when kindergartens, schools and daycare facilities are closed.

Even though it is a nice gesture when the public applauds to everyone in the health system every evening in many countries and acknowledge what they are doing, I still wonder why in most decision making processes and national task forces mainly men are involved and female competence is not included, when in fact mostly women fight the virus in hospitals and all over their countries. I am wondering why comics are circulating showing superman, batman and a male physician as heroes. Why is no female physician shown when talking about superheroes? Gender equality has still not reached medicine and we must continue as MWIA to tackle this during the pandemic and afterwards!

Another area of concern is the increasing rate of domestic violence against women and children during the COVID-19 outbreak. In those times of lockdown women and children have fewer opportunities to find a safe space or escape the violent perpetrator. MWIA has always raised its voice to tackle violence against women and children and I was honored to share MWIA's campaign poster against violence during the one billion rising campaign with other national coordinators and European-wide members at the general assembly of the European women's lobby (EWL) in Brussels (Belgium) at the beginning of March. I am the current MWIA representative to the EWL.




I wish you and your family strength, endurance and good health! Let us move, stand up and rise to the challenges of COVID-19 and beyond!

Super Heroes of COVID-19 times are not

Iron man Bat man
Super man Spider man

BUT



Medical Women and other female health care workers!

7. NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGIONS

A. Central Europe

Message from Dr Edith Schratzberger-Vécse VP MWIA Central Europe

Dear Colleagues:

I very much hope you are doing ok these days. I suppose many of you are struggling with the situation in one or the other way. Our Italian colleague updated us with desperate reports from her country. I think in Central Europe we might have had a few more weeks to prepare but have to expect or rather are about to see a similar spreading of the infections...

When life was still normal our German colleagues did a lot of preparation work for our regional meeting, which is supposed to happen in May 2021. The exact date is 28.-30.5.2021, the location is in the very center of Central Europe, in Bavaria, in the Abtei Frauenwörth on the Fraueninsel on lake Chiemsee. The conference itself will be a joint effort of Germany, Switzerland and Austria and at the moment I am above all looking forward to the meeting as a possibility to see each other, hug each other and have a nice time together.

Let me finish by wishing all of you the very best, please take care!
Edith

B. Northern Europe

The Northern European Meeting, which was supposed to happen this May, has been cancelled and postponed to May 2021.

Message from Dr Elizabeth Lichtenstein VP MWIA Northern Europe

Dear Colleagues:

There have been a lot of emails and “Skype” meetings lately because of this Covid-19. In The Swedish Medical Women’s Association we have postponed our AGM – until autumn? The Regional meeting is postponed till next year.

Where I work we are running out of safety gear and they are telling us not to use masks unless we know it’s Corona – so how am I going to know when I get an emergency patient tonight off the street that I have to intubate? Sweden has the lowest count of ICU-beds in all of Europe (save Portugal who has the same count) and we are building Covid-19 hospitals in our Congress-halls. We still do not know who is going to work there as we were lacking personnel even before all this happened. We are putting in extra night shifts in the hospitals as it is due to Corona in all our ICU-departments, and as we are lacking the correct masks and safety equipment our bosses say we have to make do with what we got. I fear that we will have the same numbers of fatalities as Italy and being among the elders with asthma I am even concerned for my own safety. Sweden’s economy is locking down and a lot of small firms are going bankrupt. Still the buses into Stockholm were crowded yesterday when a lot of the bus-drivers are ill and not working...I am not sure we are handling this in the best way.

All the best and Please take care!

Elizabeth

C. Southern Europe

Italy has been bearing the onslaught of COVID 19 pandemic for the past weeks. Donations of medical supplies donated by American Medical Women's Association and monetary contributions by Medical Women's Association of Nigeria and Individual member Dr. Ibiyemi Umuago have been sent to Dr. Antonella Vezzani([Italy](#)) [MWIA](#) VP Central Europe.

D. North America

Canada

1. On Tuesday, March 10, physicians and students from the Federation of Medical Women of Canada met with Members of the House of Commons and the Senate of Canada to discuss the elimination of HPV-related cancers. Affectionately called, "House"calls on Parliament Hill to increase HPV Awareness. This spring event made up for last Fall where our usual Hill event could not occur because of the election in Canada.
2. October 2-4, 2020 AGM and Conference in Vancouver British Columbia "Empowering Justice, Peace and Health 2020. This starts with a day of Pre-conference Workshops with a course on education regarding addressing family violence and additionally a workshop on physician wellness and connecting to deeper or new aspects of the self and calling forth your voice.
3. August 17 - 28, 2020 continued planning for the CME and MWIA North American Regional Meeting - 2020 Mediterranean Cruise. Please note for all those who have signed up, determination of the need for cancellation secondary to coronavirus is being reviewed. Should this happen a blast will go out to all those who have committed to attending. As the situation with coronavirus changes day by day and week by week, so do decisions. More to come.... but for now, this is still on.
4. Multiple branches had events for International Women's Day celebrations.
5. #wearredcanada for heart health campaign occurred throughout Canada in February in order to bring awareness to women's cardiovascular health.

United States of America

In March, Women's History Month, AMWA launched an on-line exhibition on Women Physician Suffragists to celebrate the contribution of women physicians to the suffrage movement. Please visit bit.ly/physiciansuffrage. Feel free to submit information about the physician suffragists in your country.

AMWA is hosting a series of conversations to connect medical women across the globe during the pandemic to learn from each other and share experiences. Please contact us if you would like to participate. Please visit AMWA's COVID-19 resource page which presents up-to-date information from with a gendered perspective.

AMWA's first virtual meeting was a resounding success. Over 450 attendees registered to attend the annual meeting which was composed of both enduring virtual modules as well as live, virtual sessions with plenary sessions, workshops, exhibitors, mentoring, annual awards, and over 100 poster presentations. Highlights of the meeting include keynotes by AMA President Dr. Patrice A. Harris, ACP EVP and CEO Dr. Darilyn V. Moyer, a plenary session on pandemics and physician reentry, the 3rd Annual Graduate Medical Education Symposium, and Meet the Faculty Q&A sessions. The flexible schedule accommodated busy schedules, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic while also engaging attendees across the nations to be connected during this challenging time. There were dedicated tracks for physicians, medical students, and premeds to address career needs at every stage. For those who attended, the CME virtual modules will be available for the next year and can be accessed at any time. The virtual modules are also available to new attendees through the meeting [WEBPAGE](#). MWIA members are welcome to register at the AMWA member rate.

Mark your calendars for March 25-28, 2021 where we will convene in Indianapolis for AMWA's 106th Anniversary Meeting.

Please view the CME modules below:

MODULE 1 - AMWA LEADS ACADEMY PART 1* (85 min)

The Essentials of Leadership: Your passion matters. How to make it work for you.

Networking 102: Creating Authentic Relationships

Chemen M. Neal, MD, CPCC, FACOG, FAMWA

MODULE 2 - AMWA LEADS ACADEMY PART 2* (54 min)

I've Got a One Track Mind & I'm Not Gonna Change It! Changing Perspective When You're Stuck

When Positive Isn't Enough: The importance of failure & how to do it well

Chemen M. Neal, MD, CPCC, FACOG, FAMWA

MODULE 3 – Practical Tools to Increase Your Leadership Potential* (129 min)

Between Grit and Grace: How Women Can Be Feminine and Formidable

Sasha Shillcutt, MD, MS, FASE

Risk It to Get the Biscuit: Women, Leadership, and Risk-Taking

Mistakes Have Been Made: Growing from Errors

Rebekah Apple, MA, DHSc

Turning Burnout into Joy - Mamta Gautam, MD, MPH, FRCPC, CCPE

Leveraging Coaching Skills for Optimal Results - Mindy Gillis, MEd

MODULE 4 – EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION FOR HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP* (112 min)

Leading with Emotional Intelligence - Margaret M. Hopkins, PhD
Difficult Conversations: Transforming Relationships and the Ways We Lead
Elizabeth A. Rider, MSW, MD, FAAP, FACH
Mastering the Art of Conflict - Karen Valencic, ME
Avoiding Death by Meeting: Practical tips for making all your meetings productive
Elise C. Carey, MD, FAAHPM, FACP

MODULE 5 –HARNESSING THE POWER OF SOCIAL MEDIA* (114 min)

Optimizing Your On-line Presence - Amanda Xi, MD, MSE
Instagram 101 - Fatima Fahs, MD
LinkedIn 101 - Michelle Benedict, BS
Visual Abstracts and Social Media: A Primer - Zainab Farzal, MD, MPH
Social Media Strategies - Cherilyn Cecchini, MD

MODULE 6 - GENDER EQUITY IN HEALTHCARE AND LEADERSHIP* (104 min)

Achieving Leadership Gender Equity in Medicine: Innovation, Collaboration and the Imperative for Systemic Change - Nancy D. Spector, MD
How Leaders Can Harness Diversity and Inclusion to Advance Equity in Medicine
Michael S. Sinha, MD, JD, MPH
The Gender Moonshot: Closing the Gender Gap - Shikha Jain, MD, FACP

E. Latin America

Brazil

ABMM (Brazilian Association of Medical Women)

Several members of Gender Medicine Special Interest Group of ABMM, organized with the leadership of Dr Marilene Melo our Vice President, a meeting with one of the Representatives of São Paulo State, at Brazilian Federal Congress, Adriana Ventura, who is the president of health commission, discussing the possibilities of a Federal Law for the introduction of Gender Medicine in the curriculum of all federal medical schools of Brazil.

Books:

Dr Ana Cristina Zolner of ABMM, wrote a chapter, on children and adolescents in the book “Bioethics, Law and Medicine”

Dr Ana Regina Vlainich of ABMM wrote a chapter in the book “Corporate Governance in Health: concepts, structure, model” The electronic version was launched in Dec 2019.

Strategic Planning Meeting: ABMM is organizing two meetings per year about this subject with the leadership of Dr Ana Regina Vlainich.

Sponsorship:

ABMM is one of the sponsors of “VIIIth International Symposium on Lung Cancer” which will be held in São Paulo in March. Dr Nise Yamaguchi, oncologist and member of the executive of ABMM is one of the organizers.

Full Professorship: Prof. Sônia Maria Rolim Rosa Lima, of ABMM executive, presented her outstanding paper for the Full Professorship of Gynecology and Obstetrics of Santa Casa de São Paulo Medical School

on 30th Jan.

On March 7th, 2020, there will be the ceremony for the tenure 2020/2022 of the new executive of ABMM and ABMM-SP.

Let me close by thanking our President, Dr Fátima Alves, for wonderful six years and wishing incoming President, Dr Elizabeth Giunco Alexandre and the proposed new executive, energy and enthusiasm to work for ABMM.

Anna Maria Martits MD

International Affairs ABMM

Gender Medicine Group ABMM

F. Near East and Africa Region

This quarter with the challenges posed by the COVID response, most members Associations are putting their efforts to join their National Governments, however they continue with targeting women and vulnerable groups. We note with appreciation that the Region is learning from MWAN based on the Ebola epidemics which was successfully managed, The Vice President has appealed to all National Association to make Solidarity Survival Packs in solidarity with Food insecure households and those threatened by hunger. We hope this will be upscaled as a regional initiative as we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic as PHEIC.

Ghana:

The Medical women Association of Ghana has reactivated "Project Hope" an initiative embarked on during the Ebola Haemorrhagic Fever outbreak, to support affected children in Liberia.

This project is led by lady doctors in Ghana and MWIA members. Our goal is to procure and/or make facemasks for distribution to frontline staff and/or general public, intensify education on COVID-19 and extend a caring hand to needy families by providing food where needed. The project is lead by MWAG pioneers, Dr Nana Adoma Odame. MWAN is committed and believes that in times like these, every little support anyone can offer, helps.

Dr Marion Okoh-Owusu

National President
Ghana.

Kenya:

KMWA started the year with a focus on Confidential Enquiry into Maternal Deaths which has revealed useful lessons that we hope to address this year. It was immediately followed by the development and launch of Adolescent and Youth Policy focusing on SRHR and HIV.

We started planning for the CSW64 and International Women's Day together with State Department Gender Affairs and other stakeholders, but activities were abruptly halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic which took the priority.

KMWA is supporting the Ministry of Health in various committees and Dr. Abdallah is spearheading on behalf of KMWA and other pathologists the strengthening of Laboratory services and technical issues on how to improve testing. KMWA halted the launch of Women Centre of Excellence and now the space is used for various COVID-19 response activities:

1. Call Centre and hotlines for women who are pregnant but are unable to reach normal services. Support Adolescent girls to mitigate risky behaviour that may lead to unintended pregnancies.
2. The SGBV and Domestic has increased by 41% since Curfew and restriction on movements started. KMWA together with women CSOs and partners are mounting a response to address this concern KMWA will start making and distribution of person hygiene items such as soap, cloth masks and source for sanitary towels as the supply chain disruption globally has made these items not easily available and prices have gone up beyond the reach of most households living on or below one dollar a day.

More will be reported in the next quarter.

Dr. Mary Mwacharo
National Coordinator
KMWA

Nigeria:

Reports have been received MWAN has made significant contribution to mitigating the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic locally and globally, a COVID-19 Team was set up led by the National President, Dr. Minnie Oseji. The team is coordinating a 5-point response to COVID-19 locally and globally which includes:

1. Sensitization on preventive measures using print and social media.
2. Donation of reusable face masks to the elderly.
3. Promoting Tele-medicine.
4. Continuous medical education on COVID-19 using on-line resources.
5. Response to SOS from Italian Medical Women via MWIA.

The response will be expanded as the need arises.

Dr. Minnie Oseji
MWAN National President

See detailed activities in the MWAN Bulletin (forwarded separately)
(Please note this was sent in pdf and so has been copied and pasted as is on pages 24- 26)

MEDICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (MWAN) REPORT FROM DECEMBER 2019 TO MARCH 2020 FOR MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

The Medical Women's Association of Nigeria (MWAN) is pleased to inform the Medical Women's International Association of her activities since December 2019.

- The National President, Dr. Minnie Oseji, represented the Association on the 8th of January at the Prevent Dinner in Abuja. The event was organized by Johns Hopkins International Vaccine Access Centre (IVAC), to discuss a new global guidance on the ethical inclusion of the interest of pregnant women in the development of vaccines used during outbreaks.

- The National President, Dr. Minnie Oseji paid a working visit to Adamawa State in January 2020 which involved:

1. Courtesy Visit to HRM Homus Honest Stephen, Paramount Ruler of Numan
2. Commissioning of Hope Centre, Numan (for survivors of violence) by Her Excellency, Hajiya Lamil Fintiri.
3. Flagging off the Micro-empowerment scheme to Women Heads of Households
4. Investiture of Dr. Asabe Bwala as the new President MWAN Adamawa State
5. Informal Visit to Her Excellency, Hajiya Lami Fintiri.

- The National President, Dr. Oseji, the Immediate Past National President, Dr. Barber and the President-Elect of MWAN Kano State Dr. Mukhtar participated in a 1-Day intensive training on strengthening Nigerian NGOs Compliance with New Statutory Reporting Requirements in Abuja organized by Development Research and Projects Centre in collaboration with Corporate Affairs Commission in January 2020.

- The National President, Dr. Oseji attended the Dissemination workshop for the implementation of NMA/NANNM Harmony Project in Abuja in February 2020.

- MWIA Near East and Africa tagged Abuja, 2020 is to take place from September 16th-19th 2020 with theme "Accelerating Universal Health Coverage, Priorities, Opportunities and challenges. Members have been registering online, Abstract submissions are requested from all Doctors (Male and Female). Youth Corps members and House Officers are to register for N15,000 (fifteen thousand Naira) only which is tagged student rate. The Conference attracts 10 CME points.

- The National President, Dr. Oseji represented the Association at the 2020 London Funders Forum UK organized by Nigeria Initiative for Accelerated Development in Agriculture, Education and Health (NIADAEH) in collaboration with the Diaspora Commonwealth Community Leaders

(DCCL) in February 2020 where she made a presentation on behalf of the Association on Adopted health facilities of MWAN Kwara, Delta, Oyo, Cross Rivers and Kaduna.

- The WORTH initiative has been going on in various states and IEC fliers and health talks about BSE are given to women in ANC and Immunization clinics from October to March (6 months). Data of the number of Breast lumps and confirmed cases has also been collated.
- Health facilities have been adopted in 5 States- Delta, Oyo, Kaduna, Kwara and Cross Rivers for implementation of a pilot demonstration project to promote maternal, newborn and child health.
- For continual update in medical practice and to improve our Adopted Health Facility activities several Continuing Medical Education programmes were lined up. So far, 3 have taken place: Mental health/grant writing in Ibadan (22nd February); Essential Newborn Care and Basic Life Support in Asaba (28th and 29th February). They were attended by members from various states and interested health workers.
- MWAN National Secretariat and States have been organizing several awareness campaigns on breast and cervical cancer as well as other health issues. They have also organized free medical outreaches including screening for non-communicable diseases.
- On 10th March 2020, the Honourable Minister of Women Affairs, Dame Pauline Tallen, OFR, KSG led a delegation of Medical Women and other Women Leaders as she presented in audience to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Muhammadu Buhari, Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi as the first Nigerian President of the Medical Women International Association, since its establishment 100 years ago.

Present at the reception were the International President MWIA Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi, MWAN National President Dr. Minnie Oseji, MWAN President-Elect, Dr. L. A. Otolorin, MWAN National Coordinator, Dr. B Agbonle, MWAN PHC Coordinator, Dr. Batulu Isa Muhammad, Dr. Mariami of MWAN FCT, Dr. Wonodi of MWAN FCT and MWAN FCT Secretary Dr. M Umemmuo. The International President MWIA commended the President on efforts at the time to stem the spread of CoVID-19.

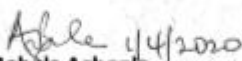
- The first MWAN Male Champion, Dr. Mordi Ononye, the Delta State Commissioner for Health, was decorated on January 7th, 2020. The Secretary to the Delta Governor Delta State, Barrister Chiedu Ebie, was decorated as the second Champion. Sir Eddy Ogidi-Gbegbaje the Permanent Secretary, Delta State Government House Protocol was decorated on March 4th as the third MWAN Champion. The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Muhammadu Buhari (GCFN) was decorated as the 4th Champion during the President's reception of Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi (MWIA International President) on the 10th March, 2020.

- MWAN has released Press Statements on Violence against female medical doctors, International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation (along with a video) and International Women's Day.

- On 7th March, the National President, Dr. Oseji as well as the President-Elect MWAN Kano State, Dr. Mukhtar participated in the drafting of a Press Statement for International Women's Day along with other Women Groups led by the National President, National Council of Women's Societies, Dr. Gloria Larabai Shoda. The Press Statement was aired on 8th March.

- On the 10th March the National President along with 6 other members attended the public hearing of the case of the female doctor assaulted by a patient's relatives at Maitama District Hospital, Abuja at the National Senate. After much deliberation it was expected that further investigations would be done to determine the lapses in management and the also have access to the CCTV footage to determine other perpetrators.

- In the advent of the Corona Virus outbreak the Association has embarked on a 5-point response to COVID-19 locally and globally which includes - Sensitization on preventive measures using print and social media; donation of reusable face masks to the elderly; promoting Tele-medicine; continuous medical education on COVID-19 using online resources; response to SOS from Italian Medical Women via MWIA.


Dr. Bobola Agbonle
National Coordinator



Office of the Regional Vice President for Near East and Africa
Medical Women International Association
P O Box 28744 – 00100
Nairobi - Kenya

Dear Dr Sadia,

QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE ZIMBABWE WOMEN DOCTORS ASSOCIATION (ZWDA)

ZWDA was formed in April 2019 and became formally affiliated with MWIA at the Centennial Congress in June 2019.

The Association started accepting formal membership from women doctors in Zimbabwe from December 2019. We currently have 53 fully subscribed members and continue to accrue more each week. There are currently 665 female doctors in Zimbabwe.

ZWDA became formally affiliated with the Zimbabwe Medical Association (Zima), the representative association for all medical doctors in Zimbabwe, in February 2020 and is currently planning together with the ZiMA Executive Committee, a Joint Symposium on Gender Bias in Medicine, which is scheduled to take place in June 2020. The symposium aims to raise awareness on the issue of Gender Bias in Medicine as well as to map a way forward to tackle this issue with our male counterparts.

Radio talk shows on topical health issues are being held by members of the Association: Dr Leanny Chakawata gave a talk on Renal Problems in Children and Dr Davidzoyashe Makosa spoke on Endometriosis in March 2020.

The ZWDA Mentorship Program was launched in October 2020 and a Mentoring Skills workshop which was being planned for March 28 March 2020 had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The aim of the workshop was train female doctors and medical students who are already in a mentoring position, as well as those preparing to take on such a role on how to have an effective mentor-mentee relationship are already in a mentoring position, as well as those preparing to take on such a role.

The Communications and Social Media Sub-Committee of ZWDA was formed late December 2019 with the main aim of increasing our profile and encouraging more women doctors to join the Association. This is a committee consisting of 4 members who are in charge of information distribution and marketing on the different social media platforms of the association.



Facebook and Twitter pages have been created, which were complimentary to the already available WhatsApp and Telegram groups. These pages allowed us to have a larger reach outside of the association. We currently have a following that has been growing exponentially.

ZWDA launched Online 'Women In Medicine' chats on our Telegram group which has 200 members. This is a platform where discussions are held on important issues that affect women doctors and medical students. Our first discussion was entitled "Gender Bias in Medicine, does it exist?" and was held on 19th February 2020.

The Communication and Social Media Sub-Committee has also decided to honour women in medicine in Zimbabwe who have made an impact on colleagues and patients over the years, through a social media campaign 'Woman Doctor of the Month'. Women doctors who are excelling in their field are identified by the Sub-Committee and a short biography and achievements of the relevant doctor are circulated on our social media platforms to help motivate other women doctors and medical students. The first 'Woman Doctor of the Month' was Doctor Madeline Nyamwanza-Makonese, the first black female doctor in Zimbabwe and second black female doctor on the African continent.

Lately, due to COVID – 19 pandemic, our social media platforms have been spreading awareness to both health workers and the public about keeping safe and ways to avoid infections. One of our members, Dr Monalisa Muchatuta, and emergency medicine physician currently based in New York created a video for ZWDA members detailing her experiences working with COVID-19 patients. This was circulated on our social media platforms.

We are hoping to increase our reach as time progresses by posting more content on our respective platforms as having a website, a LinkedIn Page as well as a newsletter.

The Executive Committee also hopes to hold a fundraising event later in the year to raise funds for St Joseph's Mission hospital which is building a new maternity wing.

Kind regards,

Dr Maitazvenyu Mvere-Chatora

Chairperson of the Zimbabwe Women Doctors Association

Chairperson Dr M. Mvere-Chatora Secretary Dr S. Nyaguse-Chiurunge Treasurer Dr N. Tsikai Vice Secretary Dr L Chikara-Mudawarima Members Dr F. Hove Dr A. Chiv

G. Central – Asia

Dr Mandakini Megh
Vice President, MWIA
Central Asia



India

Report from Vice President, MWIA, Central Asia.

Dear MWIA friends

I hope you all are safe and well, staying at home. We all are fighting a war against COVID-19 doing our best in most critical time of our lives and profession. Wishing you all the very best in coming months, I am presenting report of Central Asia, I could get report from India but not the other regions.

It was a very glorious moment, for us as Dr. Usha Saraiya our Honorary Member received 3 awards at the FOGSI Annual Conference. On 30th January 2020 the prestigious “Lifetime Achievement Award” was conferred. On 1st February 2020 she received “ICOG Founder Member Award” for continued academic contribution since the inception of the college in 1984. At the concluding session, she was awarded the title of “Glorious Legend of FOGSI”.



FOGSI Lifetime Achievement Award



Acceptance speech after the Award



ICOG Founder Member Award



Founder Member Award at Convocation

It is indeed a pleasure to inform you all, that Dr Mandakini Megh, Vice President MWIA, Central Asia has taken over the prestigious post of Chair of the Indian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, the academic wing of FOGSI in a Convocation & Installation Ceremony on 1st February 2020 at Lucknow. It was a grand ceremony attended by dignitaries Dr Eddie Moriss President RCOG, Dr Alison Wright, Vice President RCOG, Prof. Kazunori Ochiai, President AOFOG and others.



Dr Eddie Moriss President RCOG, Prof. Kazunori Ochiai, President AOFOG



**Dr Alison Wright,
VicePresident RCOG**



**Dr Mandakini Megh Delivering
Chairperson's Address at Convocation**



Dr Mandakini Megh being installed as Chairperson ICOG

Activities of AMWI Mumbai Branch:

It was a great pleasure for AMWI to have Dr. Padmini Murthy, Secretary General MWIA visiting the Cytology Department Cama & Albless Hospital on 18th February 2020. She was felicitated by Dr Vandana Walvekar, Dr Usha Saraiya, Dr Yamini Alsi & Dr Geetha Balsarkar, Installation ceremony of new office bearers of AMWI was held in her presence. Dr Padmini Murthy is the first Indian in 100 years to serve as Secretary- General of MWIA.

Dr Yamini Alsi was installed as President, Dr Mandakini Megh as 1st Vice President, Dr Bulbul Raichoudhuri as 2nd Vice President, Dr Nalini Kurve as Secretary, Dr Radha Laxminarayanan, Jt Secretary, Dr Sarita Bhalerao, Treasurer.



Felicitation of Secretary General Dr Padmini Murthy



Out going President giving a donation of Rs 50,000 to AMWI



Installation of New President Dr Yamini Alsai



Dr Shirin Mehtaji Competition at Jaslok Hospital & Research

The 45th Cytology and Colposcopy course was held on 4th, 5th and 6th December 2019. Dr Saritha Shamsunder delivered the Dr Aptekar Lecture on “Give Wings to your Dreams”.

Dr Advani Braganza Oration was delivered by Prof Kailash Sharma on “Afordable and accessible cancer care in India.”

The Dr Shirin Mehtaji Competition was held on 21st December 2019 in the Auditorium of Jaslok Hospital & Research centre. The conveners were Dr Purnima Satoskar, Dr Sudeshna Ray, Dr Shilpa Agarwal and Dr Rajashree Katke.

Dr. Sarita Bhalerao generously donated Rs 50 thousand to institute a prize for the member of AMWI Mumbai branch who has contributed maximum in a year below the age of 70 yrs.

Activities of AMWI Nagpur Branch:

- CMEs – 20 (PCOS, CONTRACEPTION, VITA D, VITA E, CALCIUM HOEOSTASIS, CANCER, PROGESTERONE, NUTRITION, PRETERM LABOUR, PPH, CLINICAL MEETING, UTI)
- Days celebrated – 4
- Fellowship programs – 2
- Health awareness programs & checkup camps – 20 (CANCER AWARENESS CAMPS, SCHOOL HEALTH, MENSTRUAL HYGEINE, GERIATRIC CAMP)
- Meetings held – 10
- Conference – AMWICON19

The International Women’s Day and week was celebrated by Association of Medical Women in India by holding “HPV Awareness & Pap Smear Camps” in all major cities i.e. in Mumbai, Nagpur, Amravati & Kolkata. This year the emphasis was on check-up of Police Personnel.



Nagpur Camp



Vikroli Mumbai Police Camp



**Training of Technicians at
Camp**

Amravati Camp



Kolkata Camp

Activities of AMWI Kolkata Branch:

- Six orations were held so far at Mission Hospital Kolkata, Dr Marie Catchatoor held at AMWICON 2019 Nagpur.
- A free health check-up camp was held at Jaugram Sopan where 120 patients were examined, 6 pap smears were taken.
- An Adolescent public awareness program was conducted at various schools & Colleges of Kolkata in collaboration with NGOs.



H. Western Pacific

Western Pacific Region MWIA Update March/April 2020:

VP WPR Dr Desiree Yap MWIA Update April 2020

Our regional report is very brief. Partly because I myself have been very caught up on our own COVID-19 response. Like many I have found myself preparing my practise and for all the activities required for a COVID-19 response as well as managing the care of elderly parents and (teenage) children. Because of this I did not notify our region in a timely manner to receive responses for this update. For this lapse I unreservedly apologise.

What I can say is that many countries in our region were the first affected by the COVID-19 outbreak and as such we have all been very busy with that – some from January and some from February onwards as the scale of the pandemic became increasingly apparent. Many countries in our region displayed early and exemplary management once the situation was recognised. Others, for political and resource reasons have not been as fortunate or their status is not clear.

The Western Pacific Region wishes all members of MWIA well with their battles to combat this virus and we stand in solidarity with our sisters and communities.

Australia MWIA Update April 2020

1. Care for Members during the COVID-19 Outbreak:

- Formed a COVID Media Group (being the AFMW Exec)
- Uploaded COVID updates relevant to medical women on our AFMW Website, namely: <https://afmw.org.au/afmw-work/statements/covid-19-pandemic-sars-cov-2-afmw-statement/>
- If considered appropriate/relevant other nations and MWIA are welcome to post the AFMW link.

2. Care for your communities during the COVID-19 Outbreak:

- AFMW continued to post items considered relevant on Social Media

Hong Kong MWIA Update April 2020

1. Care for Members during COVID-19 Outbreak

(A) Encouraging Message

During this difficult time, especially for the healthcare professionals, a series of encouraging message have been sent to our members and friends. Heartfelt thanks to Dr. Christina Cheuk, Dr Connie Ngai, Mr. Tang and Miss Kathy Yu for the most beautiful photos and affirmative quotes.

(B) Free N95 Masks

The past few months have been a testing time for medical workers worldwide due to the outbreak of COVID-19. It is, however, a time when warm support from our society is much needed and appreciated. In March 2020, the HKWDA received a kind donation of 120 pieces of N95 masks (including 40 pieces of Gerson 1730 and 80 pieces of ValuMax 5902) from the community. Distribution of the masks to HKWDA members was arranged through drawing lot and was met with good response. In April 2020, HKWDA received a further donation of 60 pieces of N95 masks (Moldex 2200) and 1 box (50 pieces) of Henry Schein Procedural Ear Loop Face Masks. Distribution of the masks to HKWDA members is being arranged. The HKWDA would like to express gratitude to all members who have worked hard to safeguard the health of Hong Kong people during this pandemic.

Japan MWIA Update

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was identified as the cause of unexplained pneumonia in Wuhan, China at the end of 2019.

In Japan, the new Coronavirus Infectious Disease Control Experts' Meeting was set up on February 14 and more than 10 days have passed since the quarantine of Diamond Princess started, so it may have been quite late. Furthermore, it is clear that the COVID-19 infection on the officers boarding the quarantine had failed to control the infection on board.

Of great concern in the epidemic of infectious disease is fear and discrimination due to lack of information. The first is the prejudice against China and the Chinese who were infected. Next is the prejudice against domestically infected people, their families, and the healthcare professionals involved. The U.S. Department of State has already raised the danger level for travel information to Japan in four stages to the second-higher "warning attention" on February 22 in light of the spread of the new coronavirus infection. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also raised the level of caution on travel to Japan to three levels, the second, "Strengthening Precautionary Measures." Japanese association for Disaster Medicine issued a protest statement on February 22 as Medical personnel, such as doctors and nurses, who have responded to the new coronavirus are being treated illegally, such as being treated as "bacteria" in the workplace. Discrimination and prejudice will eventually return to ourselves. We must keep in mind that if each of us is confirmed, we will be similarly exposed to prejudice.

Facing a worried nation on the brink of a potential dramatic spike in novel coronavirus patients, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on April 7th pleaded with residents to stay home to protect their lives to counter what he called "the biggest crisis since World War II." Abe's news conference followed the official declaration of a state of emergency earlier in the day covering seven prefectures and running through May 6. Many Japanese feel Prime Minister Abe's decision was too late

JMWA made the official declaration of a state of emergency on April 7th and urgently request the following 10 items to protect all healthcare workers, women, and socially vulnerable peoples from various damages related to the new coronavirus infection.

"The official declaration of a state of emergency by Japan Medical Women's Association."

1. Distribution of blood anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibody test kits to all healthcare professionals
2. Improvement of access environment to new coronavirus PCR test
3. Establishment of temporary hospitals or promotion of use of existing empty beds
4. Promote reemployment of retired and displaced healthcare workers
5. Rapid financial support for single parents
Financial support for individuals rather than households without discrimination in gender or occupation, such as non-regular employment, freelancers, and service businesses working in nightclubs (night life business)
6. Support for street dwellers (so-called homeless), dwellers in Internet cafes, etc.

- Flexible consultation service for domestic violence (DV) damage and temporary protection of victims
7. Care and support for pregnant women
 8. Financial support for private medical clinics

Republic of Korea

Our Korean sisters continue to work towards the MWIAWPR Meeting Seoul Korea Oct 8-10 2020.

8. REPORT FROM MWIA'S REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UN

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

Drs Keswani and Murthy are making sure that they list MWIA and AMWA when they attend meetings which they have been invited to not as AMWA members but as physicians, community leaders and academia members.

. Dr Murthy attended the abbreviated CSW opening ceremony on March 9th at the United Nations general assembly after which unfortunately due to the COVID 19 crisis UN in person meetings have been cancelled. Drs. Keswani and Murthy have been taking part in various zoom meetings organized by the UN and other NGOs.

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

2010-2021*

(*Please note due to COVID Crisis the dates of these meetings can be changed)

2020

North America

[2020 Sex and Gender Health Education Summit](#) (September 11-13, 2020) with Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health, Mayo Clinic, and Jefferson University (website password is sghe2020). Registration opens soon. Call for posters open. Sghesummit.com

Near East and Africa

Nigeria

MWAN will be hosting the Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) NEAR Regional Congress from 16th to 19th September 2020.

The Congress Planning Committee has Dr. Claribel Abam as Chair and Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi as the MWIA Liaison officer. MWIA Near East and Africa Congress tagged "Abuja 2020" with theme Accelerating Universal Health Coverage: Priorities, opportunities and Challenges will take place

at the International Conference Centre, Abuja. Delegates are being encouraged to pay early to facilitate action.

Please copy and paste the url mwan.org.ng/mwianearc2020/ for more details.



Western Pacific

Republic of Korea will host the Western Pacific Regional Conference of MWIA will be held on 8-10 the October 2020 Venue: Imperial Palace Seoul, Korea (<https://www.imperialpalace.co.kr/eng/>)
Meeting Website: www.mwia_wprc2020.com (This page will be opened shortly .)

2021

Central Asia

Mumbai
Regional conference will be held on 27TH-28TH March 2021 at Trident Hotel Nariman Point, Mumbai



India's 5 E's for achieving SDG5

- **E**radication of Domestic Violence
- **E**nhancing skills
- **E**nvironment Safety
- **E**liminating Life style diseases
- **E**mpowering Women

Organised by AMWI India

10.Publications

(Please note a compilation of COVID related resources)

1. <https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/COVID%2019%20Initial%20Newborn%20Guidance.>
2. <https://pages.semanticscholar.org/coronavirus-research>
3. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
4. <https://www.unfpa.org/resources/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-pandemic-unfpa-global-response-plan>
5. <https://www.unicefusa.org/mission/covid-19>
6. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html>

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Felicitations and Awards

Included under the regional reports Congrats to all the recipients and awardees

Obituaries

Dr. Carole Guzman, a past president of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada, on March 21, 2020, from ovarian cancer, at age 87.