

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MWIA



Update

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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

Greetings from the MWIA President



I would like to dedicate this edition to our Exco and members who have remained faithful to MWIA in carrying out their activities in spite of the present circumstances.

None of us knew by any stretch of imagination that we would be called to serve under these very challenging circumstances and that our planned activities would be put on hold. COVID-19 has separated us physically but we are thankful to be healthy and we are connected by technology until such a time as when we can see one another face to face.

We cannot ignore the protests around the world which have dominated public discourse and our media outlets regarding racial human rights violations. MWIA did not remain silent. I added my voice in response to the statement made by Ambassador Dieudonne W. Desire Sougouri of Burkina Faso calling for an urgent debate by the 54 African Nations in the African Union to hold an urgent debate to address racially inspired human rights violations. I made a statement calling for a Declaration of Zero tolerance on racially inspired human rights violations. My statement was featured on trendingng.com.

<https://trendingng.com/eleanor-nwadinobi-responds-to-au-call-for-end-to-police-brutality/>

In the face of massive changes in our universe, we must do our best to support the efforts at keeping the fabric of society intact.

[Thanks to the hard work of the executive and members we have been able to collectively achieve the following:](#)

Show of Solidarity, humanity, sorority

[Support to one another including financial and in-kind support during COVID19 pandemic. We reached out to our members in Italy and in addition to donations by the American Medical Women's Association \(AMWA\) earlier, the Medical Women's Association of Nigeria sent financial assistance to Italy at the height of their need.](#)

It was a delight to attend and give remarks at a well organised AMWA CSW event, moderated by the MWIA SG Dr Padmini Murthy . I have embarked on a series of monthly “Informal Coffee chats with the President”. In June, I started with the leadership of the yMWIA which was most rewarding.

On a sad note, MWIA lost one of our honorary individual members from New Zealand, Dr Robyn Hewland. Robyn participated in the Centennial celebrations on New York and brought with her the fabric collage piece which was woven by a personal friend in New Zealand, Esther Nitschke. Esther is a spinner and weaver of 55 years who was awarded an M.B.E. for services to weaving in New Zealand. A condolence letter written on behalf of MWIA and signed by myself and the Secretary General was read at her funeral which some of us attended virtually.

Advocacy engagement:

I led the MWIA delegation to the virtual World Health Assembly (WHA) and presented a statement to WHO, a tradition which started as early as 1963. It was a delight to join the members of the Australian Federation of Medical Women who arranged a virtual WHA attendance session with running commentaries .

I also represented MWIA at a virtual high level meeting organised by the Embassies of Qatar, Costa Rica, Italy, Kenya, Lebanon, Nigeria, Sweden, and the African Union with H.E. Ms. Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations as the keynote speaker.

My virtual speaking engagements ranged from the Women’s Leadership Institute (WLI) where I was keynote speaker, to being a panelist on Virtual IHAN UN CSW 2020 parallel event, Co-sponsored by School of Medicine, Sydney and Fordham Institute for Women and Girls, New York. I was also a panelist on the Rotary Peace Fellows Global Cyber Peace Conference with the theme “Envisioning the world after the Great Pause” <https://rpfaa.org/global-cyber-peace-conference-agenda/>

Media Engagements

I have had several media engagements through television, radio interviews, Instagram chats and print media interviews .I had an interview on NTA International Diplomatic ties.

<https://youtu.be/QUbbitpGtWc>

Partnerships and Collaboration

[MWIA collaborated with the Every Woman Treaty in the Red shoe campaign on ending violence](#)



[against women and girls. Thank you to all who participated and sent pictures in solidarity.](#)

Committees

[MWIA Committees activities have commenced and they have sent in their status reports so that we have a baseline with which we can monitor our impact going forward.](#)

[I will conclude my message with some very cheering news! The long anticipated MWIA website will be launched this month, thanks to the hard work of the Social Media Committee led by Dr Mandakini Megh. I invite you to look out for the invitation to the launch of the website.](#)

COMING SOON!



MWIA website

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, as we are adjusting our lives to more than 100 days of confinement, confusion due to the COVID 19 catastrophe. I have been busy attending as well as speaking on several webinars on behalf of MWIA AMWA and my University from April to June. I have published several articles and op-eds on various platforms .The month of May is a festive month as we have the graduation ceremonies for our students and the graduating class of 2020 lost out on their physical ceremonies at many educational institutions , but had virtual graduations with congratulatory speeches by well know celebrities from all walks of life. Many of physicians in the United States who work in academia were proud to see our medical students graduate and now they are apart of the heroic and selfless health care providers the world so desperately needs at present.

In addition to the COVID crisis globally we are facing challenges such gender based violence, racial discrimination and these I term as an ongoing pandemic in the current pandemic. Looking at the positive side we have also witnessed the power of technology as even though we are physically distant and under lockdown we are also connected through the various virtual platforms.

On a personal note I have been working with my contacts on my behalf and along with AMWA- American Medical Women's Association and other NGOS in providing PPE and much needed supplies both in the United states especially the Navaho Nation and Internationally as well.

Please see photographs of food and PPE supplied to the Missionaries of Charita founded by Mother Theresa to help the socially disadvantaged communities.



As SG I was privileged to represent MWIA to the virtual World Health Assembly and Executive Board meetings and have posted the links from these meetings on the face book pages of MWIA and yMWIA

I was invited to contribute a piece to a prestigious UN publication, please find enclosed the link to the article below

<https://www.un.org/en/un-chronicle/women's-leadership-promoting-global-health-and-well-being>

I would like to invite you all to share your publications and links to presentations made as your contributions are valued and make us more connected as a cohesive force during these uncertain times. Kindly send your contributions to the Vice Presidents in your regions who will send them to me. This news update has been slightly delayed due to the COVID crisis we are all dealing with in more ways than one.

Stay safe and I would like to express my sincere appreciation and thank you for all the heroic work and your continued dedication to the communities you live and work in.

Peace, Health, and Human Rights!

Padmini Murthy MD, MPH
Secretary General MWIA

4.Contact information for MWIA:

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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



A big thank you to all national associations and individual members who have paid their dues. I have been very appreciative of contact made with me regarding dues including by Zoom. None of us could have predicted the COVID19 pandemic at our centenary last year and there is considerable financial uncertainty due to it.

We are continuing to sort out MWIA financial matters which has taken time due to MWIA requiring registration to be recognised by banks as a NGO. Hopefully, this will shortly be in place and we can continue with looking at modernising our banking and proceeding with a sound investment strategy.

Despite the very difficult times COVID 19 has brought, there are some positives including greater use of electronic media and online meetings. This brings the possibility of more widespread inclusion particularly as the costs of travel can be prohibitive. Once restrictions are lifted and we are just coming out of Lockdown in the UK, then going forward it will be important to always consider online meetings for their cost efficiency but also global accessibility

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

6. Message from MWIA Past President

Prof. Dr. Dr. Bettina Pfeleiderer- Germany



COVID-19 still poses unforeseen challenges to the life of many globally. While in some countries lockdown measures due to COVID-19 have been terminated, some countries are just at the beginning of the pandemic or others are struggling with a second wave! This is also affecting activities of MWIA as a global association; regional meetings needed to be shifted into 2021 and instead of seeing each other face-to-face we communicate online or watch webinars. Still, there are opportunities to be heard as MWIA and to bring the perspective of the health sector on the table.

In my role as MWIA past president and/or MWIA representative, I have been attending many virtual meetings on behalf of MWIA in the last three months. For example, as current MWIA representative to the European committee of European physicians (CPME) I attended a virtual meeting on COVID-19 2 weeks ago with European national Medical chamber delegates discussing about the **post-pandemic COVID-19 time**. In Europe, the focus of debate is centered now around questions such as:

- How to live with the virus and prevent a second wave?
- How does the medical sector restructure to be better prepared if there is a second wave? and
- How should the chain of essential supplies such as protective equipment be better organized on a national as well European level?
- What are the long-term mental health consequences for medical frontline responders? Are there any support-structures in place?
- What are the long-term health consequences for severely affected COVID-19 patients? Do we have appropriate rehabilitation measures in place?

For instance, the idea of a European-wide **COVID-19** emergency task force was introduced who could be dispatched upon short notice to countries in need and fight a second wave more efficiently.

MWIA is also a European-wide member of the European women's lobby (EWL) and I am MWIA's current representative to the EWL. There are weekly virtual Board meetings and I am attending these on a regular basis. Just last week it was discussed, for example, that the pandemic is widening already existing gender inequalities and what measures could be introduced to reverse this. We all agreed that it is important that **half of national and European Corona supportive aids must benefit women**.

Let us not forget however that the pandemic despite its challenges and adverse effects, creates also opportunities for change and we – as medical women- need to be part of public debates and must ensure that our voice is heard.

Reports from Regions

A. Report from the Central European Region

Dr Edith Schratzberger-Vecsei VP MWIA Central Europe

For the moment, the Covid 19 situation in our region seems to be under control. However, the numbers are currently rising again and what we also see now, are the collateral damages the lockdown did to our patients. We see more psychosomatic and psychological problems especially in young people. There are studies done now focusing on the consequences of COVID 19 and the lockdown for women, especially on the aspect of violence against women and the limited options for women during lockdown. Another aspect of the lockdown was the increased burden for women who had to manage children, teaching their children, household, and home office at the same time. Since March Meetings of the Medical Women's Associations have been limited to virtual ones. We hope that the Central European Meeting scheduled for May 2021 will be possible. The Austrian annual meeting planned for October 2020 was cancelled.

B. Northern Europe

Dr Elizabeth Lichtenstein VP MWIA Northern Europe

FiAMW, Report 2020

The Finnish Medical Women Association Annual Business meeting was held on Feb. 25th, 2020. Dr. Paula Pihlaja continues as our President and Dr. Leena Penttinen as the association secretary. The Finnish Medical Women Association plans to have two fall events, one with professional program and another one with social-and cultural aims in 2020.

The main event of this year, the Northern Europe Regional meeting planned to take place in May 2020 was postponed to 2021 due to the travel and meeting restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The new date for the Northern Europe regional meeting is May 7th-9th, 2021. The program will be the same that was planned for the cancelled 2020 meeting. Actual issues will be included. Dr. Lichtenstein from Sweden and the Finnish organization committee led by Dr. Eeva Leppävuori are responsible for the meeting and will provide more information and links for registration later on. You all are warmly welcome to the NE Regional meeting!

The pandemic has changed the everyday life of all citizens in our country. So far it seems that the government induced restrictions and regulations have worked well. The Finnish death toll is relatively low. The pandemic reached Finland a little later than some other European countries and thus our health authorities had some data from other countries available. International cooperation will be needed in the future for sharing good practices and for development of vaccination and efficient methods to prevent the spread of corona virus.

June 19th, 2020
Tuula Saarela
NC, Finland

Report from Netherlands

In the Netherlands, the coronavirus hit the south part of our country so severe that patients had to be transported to the north and a form of warzone. After a couple of weeks, the rest of the country was infected which meant that our hospital departments and ICU were overflowed too. A couple of hundreds of patients were transported to the ICU of our neighbour country Germany. It has been a shock to us all that PPE supply was insufficient, and several healthcare workers had no access to masks etc. But moreover, testkits and capacity fell short. Every hospital had to extend the ICU capacity with a factor 3, an operation supported by the army.

Our government decided to go in an 'intelligent lockdown' which meant that people were asked only to go outside if necessary. Only people with a 'vital job' could travel with public transportation. This measurement prevented our nation from the scenario of selection who should deserve a ICU admission and treatment and which people were denied treatment because of shortage of ICU capacity.

These days most of the hospitals have 0 or a few patients with Covid-19. The new normal or 1.5 m society and restrictions ask much of the patience of the Dutch people which results in protest here and there....

I am curious to hear how you have been doing and which policy our countries made.

Kind regards,

Geneviève

Annual report from Sweden

Sweden's Medical Women's association was well represented at the Triennial MWIA-meeting in New York where 6 members attended. 2 with a poster on after #Metoo and one lecture on Sexualized Violence and one lecture on effects of The Swedish prostitution law.

The year continued with a working weekend for the board of the Swedish Medical Women's Association in September. Several board-meetings have been held during the year but since the outbreak of Covid-19 only on-line meetings. Due to the pandemic the AGM has been postponed from April to September.

Our Fall meeting was well attended, and the subject discussed was Empathy, after the meeting the apartment of Dr Karolina Widerström (Sweden's first female doctor) was showed to those interested.

We have been active in media on Facebook and Twitter and Instagram and in the traditional press with an article calling for including Gender Medicine in the new curriculum for med school. We have also cosigned articles together with the Swedish women's lobby organization and been interviewed in one of the largest daily newspapers on matters concerning the exploitation of women as surrogate- mothers.

We have managed to get the Swedish Medical Association to work for complete exemption for being on call for pregnant doctors during the whole pregnancy

Our magazine "Karolina" has been distributed 4 times during the year to our members, Topics ranging from reports from the MWIA-meeting last year to climate crisis and money from a gender perspective. We have also written about the pandemic from a Gender perspective as women all over the world are badly hit by the pandemic in many ways. 70 % of health workers are women and in many places lack of PPE has contributed too more spread of the virus than necessary. PPE are also many times designed to fit men and fit badly on women who often are smaller. Also quarantine hits hard against women living in relationships with domestic violence and no means to escape. Women are also highly represented in the service sector which has been hit hard by restrictions and many have lost their incomes and jobs during the crisis.

Sweden has been involved in the planning of Northern European Regional meeting which due to Covid19 had to be cancelled. The new date is May 7-9th 2021

All the best and Please take care!

Elizabeth

United Kingdom

MWF Report for NE European Region MWIA -June 2020

MWF has continued to function productively during Lockdown. We held a well attended Council Meeting in April and an AGM in June. Our new President, Professor Nina Modi MB ChB, MD, FRCP, FRCPC, FFPM, FMed Sci, took over from Dr Henrietta Bowden Jones OBE in April. Professor of Neonatal Medicine and a Consultant at Imperial College London, Chelsea and Westminster NHS Foundation Trust, Professor Modi is Immediate Past President of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. She is also the Group lead for the Neonatal Data Analysis Unit and National Neonatal Research Database. Professor Modi is Director of The Neonatal Update: The Science of Newborn Care. MWF are delighted to welcome her as our new President. She has already submitted an advocacy proposal to MWIA (June 20) for consideration at the next Exco.

PPE was discussed at our meetings, its disproportionate availability to women and the high representation of Covid 19 in the BAME community. The question of how we should usefully address the increase in domestic violence, over this period was a major consideration

MWF members have been vociferous in their support of correct PPE provision and have carefully scrutinised our government's policies and offered appropriate advice. Dr Sonia Adesara, Co Chair of the Young MWIA has been very active in the media. She is a junior doctor and activist who specialises in reproductive health. In 2019 she was a recipient of the Asian Womens Achievement award and the Marie Claire Future Shaper award . During the Pandemic, she has appeared regularly in the Media, both nationally and internationally. She has kept a high public profile appearing and debating on TV and Radio. Dr Adesara tweets regularly on issues relevant to the Medical Profession and our patients, and the wider general public at this critical time.

Chair of the BMA Representative body, Dr Helena Mckeown has been particularly sought after by the media .She has repeatedly highlighted our government failure to invest in the National Health Service over the past 10 years of "Austerity" , thereby compounding our NHS unpreparedness for dealing with such a virus. Professor Modi tweets regularly and accurately on the accountability of government policy. Many members have been active in the media and can be followed on Twitter. Medical Woman published its "Justice Issue "in April. Topics included Climate Change and the Global Health Challenge of a Lifetime. Palestine -A right to health, was also featured. I was due to visit Palestine with a group of 8 doctors in March but like the MWIA NE European meeting in Finland and the MWF Spring meeting, this has also been postponed for a year.

Dr Helen Goodyear, Treasurer of MWIA submitted her report for the MWIA Annual Review. Our monthly newsletters continue to be generated. The Junior Doctor essay prize topic is "Heroes of the NHS", submission date September 6th.

Our office manager, Danielle Nwadinobi and Executive Officer Katie Aldridge, deserve a special mention for carrying on admirably with their work during this difficult time.

We look forward to meeting our International Colleagues again as soon as it is safe to do so.

Amanda Owen UK Coordinator MWIA

C. Southern Europe

Report from Italy

Dr. Antonella Vezzani VP MWIA Southern Europe

Italy seems to have finally passed the most serious phase of the emergency due to COVID 19.

The National Health Service has faced moments of serious health emergency with difficulty and finally the worst seems to have passed, even if there is a strong concern for the effects the pandemic will have on the economic level and on the organization of the health system.

On April 22, on the occasion of the "National Day dedicated to women's health", the Italian medical women's association (AIDM) with the support of the Ministry of Health, launched the campaign: Women and Health at the time of Coronavirus. A free AIDM Toll Free number has been established for all women of the country with the aim of finding in the listening service, the opportunity to collect the health needs expressed by women during the pandemic period and answer doubts, uncertainties and requests for information, which may arise between those who must reconcile the restrictions for the COVID-19 emergency with the management of a medical problem. The initiative has been highly appreciated and more than 2000 phone calls have been recorded so far. The Italian campaign will last 6 months and plans to collect questions of all kinds not only related to coronavirus and get a picture of the needs expressed by women.

D. Report from North America

Dr. Vivien Brown VP North America, Medical Women's International Association

Update from FMWC Canada

FMWC continues to have virtual meetings and ongoing planning for the Fall, supporting our doctors and students in this difficult time.

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. Unfortunately, due to COVID this has been canceled

3. August 17 - 28, 2020 CME and MWIA North American Regional Meeting - 2020 Mediterranean Cruise. This has been canceled

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.**

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Niec

MWIA rep for the FMWC

United States of America

AMWA held a successful [first virtual annual meeting](#) at the end of March with keynote speakers Dr. Patrice Harris (President, American Medical Association) and Dr. Darilyn Moyer (CEO and Executive Vice-President, American College of Physicians). CME modules are available through March 2021, and MWIA members are welcome to use the code MWIA to receive member discount pricing (choose non-member rate and use the code: MWIA. amwa-doc.org/amwa105)

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have launched the speaker series, [One World, One World: Women Physicians Come Together](#) with women physician leaders in Taiwan, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Australia, and Canada. These webinars have been organized and moderated by Dr Padmini Murthy and DrEliza Chin. We invite colleagues around the world to use the resources and graphics on the [AMWA website](#). In an effort to help with the PPE shortage around the country, AMWA through the [American Women's Hospitals Service](#), has [partnered with The Robonauts](#) to provide 3-d printed face shields to healthcare providers in the U.S., including the hard hit [Navajo Nation](#) as well as pulse oximeters and masks to University Hospital of Parma in Italy through Dr. Antonella Vezzani.

As a newly associated NGO with the United Nations Department of Global Communications, AMWA held its first satellite event during the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. The event, [Women, Health, and Equity: Progress and Challenges from 1995-Present](#) focused on advances in women's health and gender equity with keynotes from [Dr. Saralyn Mark](#) and [Dr. Holly Atkinson](#). Please view the proceedings here and access the video recordings [here](#).

In the wake of recent events highlighting police brutality and racism, AMWA wrote the following [statement against racism](#) and made a concrete [commitment to create change](#) within medicine and medical education. Members and leaders in AMWA participated in peaceful demonstrations, including #WhiteCoats4BlackLives.

As part of an effort to bring the humanities into medicine, AMWA has launched three new initiatives: [Music and Medicine](#), [Media AMWA](#) (film), and [Women Physician Suffragists](#). Next up will be Dance in Medicine. Stay posted!

In May and June 2020, newly minted doctors graduated in virtual ceremonies across the nation. AMWA was proud to be a co-sponsor of the first [HealthSTEMencement](#) featuring the voices of many of our leaders (watch the videos!).

And please do watch our [inspirational graduation video message](#) with a message of hope for all of us.

Follow us @AMWADoctors on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#).

Dr Eliza Lo Chin MD
Executive Director AMWA

E. Report from Latin America

Brazil

ABMM (Brazilian Association of Medical Women)

Update June 2020- ABMM (Brazilian Association of Medical Women)

Comments about COVID-19 pandemic in Brazil

Brazil is one of the epicenters of the infection currently. There is a great concern with the proportions of the pandemic in Brazil. In some of the 27 states of Brazil the situation is worse because of the greater fragility of the healthcare system. Inequality is certainly the main problem for the Brazilian population.

There is a great involvement of medical doctors and other healthcare professionals and biomedical researchers, trying to understand the pathophysiology of the infection in order to offer the best possible therapeutic approaches.

Some figures representing cases in Brazil and Europe on 95th day of the pandemic:

Brazil: population 210.000.000 Deaths 29,000

Six European countries (France, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Portugal and Switzerland)

Population: 205.000.000 Deaths: 89.000.

ABMM is involved with this serious sanitary crisis, organizing online meetings every second week and several members are contributing with the expertise.

There are two links with contribution of our members:

First link is an article by Prof Magda Carneiro-Sampaio and her group: “Why is SARS-COV-2 Infection milder among children”

Second link is a presentation by Dr Nise Yamaguchi, an oncologist and immunologist incredibly involved with treatment of COVID-19.

There was also a video clip by the clinical pathologists of our executive with recommendations of the Brazilian Society of Clinical Pathology, about the test for the diagnosis of COVID-19.

<https://www.clinicsjournal.com/article/why-is-sars-cov-2-infection-milder-among-children>

<https://youtu.be/65XQJUVL1Y8>

Activities of our members:

March, 7th 2020 there was the ceremony for the tenure 2020/2022 of the new executive of ABMM and ABMM-SP. Dr Elizabeth Alexandre is the president of ABMM and Dr Ana Regina Vlainich is the president ABMM-SP. During the ceremony, Dr Francy Patricio, a member of ABMM for 45 years, and who was president and vice president of ABMM, and still very active member of our executive, received the title of Honorary Member of ABMM.

Fátima Alves, our past president, presented a very successful webinar, on Gender Medicine, for the Commission of Women of the Brazilian Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery, organized by Nelci Zanon.

Link to webinar below:

<https://youtu.be/c4syKZyY4qk>

Dr Elizabeth Alexandre, president of ABMM and a cardiologist, was one of the organizers of the Position Statement of the Brazilian Society of Cardiology about “Pregnancy and Family Planning for Women with Heart Disease”.

Dr Nelci Zanon is one of the organizers of Pediatric Week sponsored by the Brazilian and the International Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery.

Our President and Past President, Elizabeth Alexandre and Fátima Alves, were registered at the virtual meeting of WHA.

Obituary: Dr Berta Lutz, 92 years, a pediatrician, and past director of ABMM. In May.

ABMM and ABMM-SP did a short video clip as a homage for Mother`s Day specially dedicated to women doctors and health workers. As in other countries, in Brazil there are more women than men working in the healthcare system during the pandemics and are more infected and they must shoulder additional responsibilities when they have young children.

I would like to express my thanks to the valuable contribution of Prof. Magda Carneiro-Sampaio and Dr Fátima Alves

Anna Maria Martits MD
International Affairs ABMM
Gender Medicine Group ABMM

F. Report from Near East and Africa Region

Dr. Christine Sadia – Regional Vice President (NEAR)

Message from the Vice President – Near East and Africa Region

Greetings from Near East and Africa Region

On behalf of region. I send solidarity message to all our colleagues in the other regions and stand with them in this very challenging times occasioned by COVID-19 pandemic which has threatened our own lives and safety, yet we are called at such a time as this to be at the frontline and fight for preservation of human life.

The region has also not been spared either. as most countries are approach the peak amidst challenges of weak health systems a lot is still demanded from us – the women doctors who apart from being at the frontline, also tackle the unpaid caregiving work at home, motherhood and parenting. To the young women doctors we salute you for juggling these roles. We also stand together with some of the countries in the Region that have seen devastating effects and large numbers of cases – Our thoughts are with South Africa. We appreciate governments for providing leadership and political goodwill as well as regional entities in particular the African CDC under the African Union.

In the region, COVID-19 has exposed the hidden gender inequalities and is eroding the gains made towards gender equality and human capital development. Women have been negatively affected as most countries report increase in Gender Based Violence especially SGBV and IPV occasioned by public health containment measures and enforcement by security sectors. Women are therefore locked with their perpetrators in their very homes which were thought to be safe.

As we conclude this quarter many National Associations have stood in solidarity in support with communities and provided much needed alternative pathways for continuation of essential health services especially maternal and adolescents health and generally Sexual and Reproductive Health and addressing GBV. They have sacrificed and provided masks, soaps and sanitizers to needy communities for prevention control and foodstuffs including menstrual hygiene and dignity kits to those threatened with survival as a result of household and livelihood deprivation.

I am sincerely humbled and motivated by these actions of charity during challenging economic times to ameliorate suffering and inspire hope. The pandemic has interfered with National Associations' normal planned activities as we had to shift focus. To you all, I celebrate you and take pride to be your leader. Let us be encouraged and stand together in solidarity and cement unity of purpose as we offer our expertise and service to humankind.

The Regional Conference that was due in September 2020 in the beautiful city of Abuja in Nigeria this year has been postponed to next year 2021 and a new date will be communicated. All our sisters in other regions, we encourage you to send in abstracts and prepare to attend the event. I am sure we have lessons from COVID-19 that we can share and learn from each region. We look forward to your coming when time comes.

Communication with countries is improving and aware some have not sent annual subscription. The region is challenged in this matter and efforts are being explored to improve the situation and grow membership. I am confident that the outstanding dues cleared.

Wishing good health safety and God's blessings

Dr. Christine Sadia – Regional Vice President (NEAR)

Democratic Republic of Congo

REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO

ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES MEDECINS AU NORD



ACTIVITY SUMMARY REPORT: APRIL-JUNE 2020

AFEMEDNK has made its hobby horse the promotion of safer motherhood. She is committed to advocating for the rights of women for safe and respected childbirth.

In the DRC as a country, the rights of pregnant women are not respected. This lack of respect causes health problems and maternal and neonatal mortality. Many women are survivors of child abuse during childbirth.

So during this quarter, AFEMEDNK has organized two major activities to defend and promote the right of women to safe and respected childbirth on the one hand and on the other hand in this context of pandemic to COVID 19, sensitize the community to respect the preventives measures :

1. Information and awareness-raising session of women's associations leaders in Nord Kivu around the theme :Safe and respectful childbirth is a legitimate right .



2. In the context of the promotion of maternity ,AFEMED has successively conducted advocacy with qualified authorities of the province, including the Provincial Minister of health, The Minister of gender and family and the **vice governor Mrs Lumoo KAHOMBO** in order to seek their full involvement in defending and enforcing the women's right to safe and respected childbirth with a

view to contribute to the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality in Maternity wards and thus prevent serious sequelae related to childbirth as obstetric fistulas. These authorities promised their involvement to defend this noble cause.

AFEMEDNK delegation received by the vice governor Mrs Lumoo KAHOMBO in her cabinet.

3. To help curb the spread of COVID 19, AFEMEDNK has carried out awareness raising activities in the community



Kenya

QUARTERLY REPORT FOR KENYA MEDICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION APRIL-JUNE 2020.

CONTINUOUS MEDICAL EDUCATION:

SARS COV-2 the virus that causes COVID -19 disease was first detected in Kenya on 13th March 2020. Being a novel virus from which very little on care and management was known. On April 18th, 2020, KMWA and in collaboration WE DOCTORS INTERNATIONAL organized a webinar in conjunction with UNAIDS Kenya, UNAIDS Country Office in Beijing, China and the Embassy of the Republic of Kenya in China. This was on China's experiences in general clinical treatment, maternal and perinatal management of COVID -19 infection. Health care workers mainly female doctors, frontline health professional including male health professional working in maternal health and related services were invited to participate and learn firsthand and share experiences from the doctors who directly responded to COVID-19 pandemic in China.



COVID-19 MITIGATION ACTIVITIES:

The Covid-19 worldwide pandemic has had adverse effects on the economic social and psychosocial effects on Kenya but the effects on vulnerable members of society have been particularly difficult. The country has experienced an increase in teenage pregnancies since schools have been closed for three months. There has been an increase in female genital mutilation following closure of schools that had been safe havens for girls in communities that still practice this outdated cultural practice. One of the mitigating measures the government instituted to control the pandemic was introduce a dusk to dawn curfew. Unfortunately, one of the consequences has been an increase in domestic violence by both men and women as they stay indoors for prolonged periods of time. Health care workers particularly women have been experiencing psychosocial distress from fear of infection for those working with covid-19 or infecting family members. Some of them have been stigmatized by their colleagues, family members and neighbours. Some have even been chased from their homes.

KMWA as an association for uplifting vulnerable members of society has been involved in trying to set up several mitigating measures. We developed a care package for teenage and vulnerable new mothers, we are currently planning to set up a rescue centre for women undergoing domestic violence, and a call centre specifically for health care workers undergoing psychosocial distress.

Quarantine centres have been set up in the counties to keep suspected covid-19 persons from mixing with communities and possibly spreading infection. Women in quarantine have at times undergone difficult situations. KMWA has been involved in several task forces including policy guidelines on management of these centres.

Care package for teenage and vulnerable new mothers during this pandemic time.



The reproductive Health bill is currently in Parliament for revision. KMWA is actively involved in giving its response to the Bill.

KMWA is in the process of developing and engendering the quarantine to address the unique situations of women and girls. We are now providing technical input in the Home-Based Isolation which will increase the unpaid care work for women and girls, economic burden and stress. KMWA is advocating for access to essential services especially SRHR. Teenage pregnancies have increased and child marriage and female genital cutting as a result of lockdowns and curfew.

Dr. Mary Mwacharo

National Coordinator – Kenya Medical Women’s Association

Nigeria

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

COVID-19

MWAN has continued her contributions and efforts towards flattening the curve of COVID-19 in Nigeria. Several donations of face masks were made by MWAN National President to various groups, with the elderly targeted and benefitting. The MWAN Delta adopted health facility in Idumuje-Unor in Delta State had Items donated to them by the National President on the 13th May. These included hand washing buckets, flyers, Reproductive health manuals, drugs, and consumables. She also donated hand sanitizers, face masks and fliers to Church of God Mission on May 15th. Also, in the Month of May State presidents of Edo, Delta, Uyo, AKS also distributed facemasks to market women, churches, and health centers. There were health talks on prevention of COVID-19 by each of these presidents.

CONTINUOUS MEDICAL EDUCATION

Most of the continuous medical education programs were done via social media (Zoom webinars). They include - Managing conflict in the workplace by Dr. Chika Nya-etok; How to boost your immunity with Dr. Nkeiru Onuekwusi; The Art of Living Nigeria (4 days program); Webinar on Peri-partum Cardiomyopathy by the Nigerian Cardiac Society, and Sharing Experiences: Stakeholders discourse on protecting women and children during this pandemic organized by FIDA. The National President was a panelist at the last two events.

MWIA NEAR C (NEAR EAST AND AFRICA CONFERENCE)

The early bird deadline was extended to 15th March 2020 and due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Conference eventually postponed till the end of March 2021 with no fixed date yet. The submission of abstracts has equally been extended to September 2020.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS ACTIVITIES

The National Secretariat requested States and members to notify it of cases of violence against women and girls. A form has been adapted and circulated for appropriate information, to which members have responded. The use of the format by 8 member states namely Delta, Edo, Sokoto, Ebonyi, Nassarawa, Akwa-Ibom, Rivers States and FCT has led to adequate documentation of 12 cases of VAWG since September 2019. Letters requesting for collaboration with MWAN to fight this malady have been written to the Chief Judges and Commissioners of Police in all 8 States.

Most recently we commemorated on 4th June: Stand against Rape with The Red Shoe Campaign led by the International President and Founding Co-Chair of Steering Committee of Every Woman Treaty, Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi and coordinated by MWAN President Dr. M Oseji. This campaign condemns every form of violence against women and girls. It required participants to take a picture of their feet in red shoes and send to: elizabeth@everywoman.org or redShoes@everywoman.org #RedShoesProtest



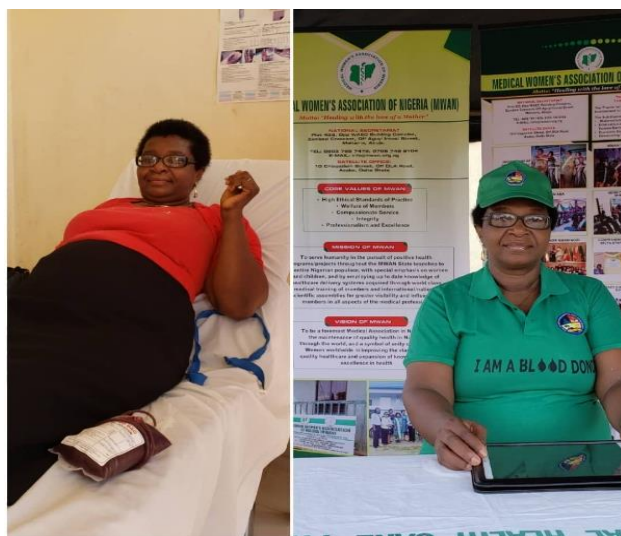
This is the collage of over 100 red shoe pictures sent in by members, this was forwarded to Every Woman Treaty by the National President on behalf of MWAN

NINE MONTHS CELEBRATION OF MWAN

The Medical Women's Association of Nigeria (MWAN) celebrated her 9 (nine) months accelerated progress for the 2019-2021 Biennium on 14th June 2020.

- Documentation and circulation of the nine months score card of the fulfillment of the campaign promises by Dr. Minnie Oseji led MWAN National Executive - 14th September 2019 to 14th June 2020.
- Celebration of 2020 World Blood Donor Day with a call for eligible MWAN members to join the National President to donate a pint of blood as well as presentation of an Address by the National President. A video was also produced by the National Secretariat with the National President advocating for nationwide blood donations to save lives, and for all states to establish an effective blood transfusion service.
- Production of 2 flex roll up banners for display during National activities beginning with 2020 World Blood Donor Day celebration.
- Opening the MWAN 2019-2021 Biennium Book of Fame to appreciate all those who have contributed to the accelerated progress of MWAN in the first nine months. This book will be updated as the months go by.
- Sending a message of love to all MWAN members in the contact list.
- Institution of a National Medical Woman of the Year Award to be presented to the Winner in September 2020 and September 2021 based on specific criteria. The Technical Committee of the TALWG would conduct the selection process based on the criteria.

Launching of an additional website. www.mwan2020.org.ng



Above is a picture of the National President, Dr M Oseji, donating blood at 1:45pm on 14th June 2020. It's leadership by example.



This is the association's billboard recently erected at the Secretariat in Abuja, Nigeria.

This is the association's billboard recently erected at the Secretariat in Abuja, Nigeria.

INTERNATIONAL FATHERS' DAY

The National President, Dr. Minnie Oseji presented her address and celebrated the day on 21st June 2020 with sensitization in churches on Male involvement in Maternal and Child Health and over 200 fliers were distributed.



Above is a copy of the flier distributed and a picture with male participants and female observers after the round table discussion held on 23rd June 2020.

On Tuesday 23rd 2020 a round table discussion involving 4 male adults and 1 male youth was carried out at the Satellite Secretariat to get clearer ideas on reasons behind violence against women and girls, and to use those reasons to develop adequate interventions.



Dr. Bobola Agbonle
National Coordinator

Zimbabwe

QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE ZIMBABWE WOMEN DOCTORS ASSOCIATION (ZWDA) FROM APRIL TO JUNE 2020

The past few months have been a trying time for women doctors and other medical workers due to the outbreak of COVID-19. Various activities that had been planned for this quarter including our first Annual General Meeting and Symposium on Gender Bias in Medicine, which was being planned together with the Zimbabwe Medical Association (ZiMA) had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. • In response to an appeal from our regional Vice President, Dr Sadia, to make Solidarity Survival Packs for female and orphan led households, women doctors in Zimbabwe raised funds to purchase food hampers to support these vulnerable families. We have collaborated with Miracle Missions Trust, an organisation involved in identifying critical community needs in vulnerable communities and Springs of Life Zimbabwe, an organisation supporting the elderly, children, and women through provision of psychosocial support and life skills empowerment. So far 16 families, led by vulnerable young ladies, some of whom are double orphans or former sex workers who have been rehabilitated by Springs of Life Zimbabwe, have received food hampers from ZWDA. The generous contributions of members of ZWDA during the difficult economic challenges that Zimbabwe is facing is greatly appreciated



ZWDA members have also continued to give talks on various online platforms on topics relevant to Women and Children's Health and the COVID-19 response in Zimbabwe.

Dr Maitazvenyu Mvere-Chatora
National Coordinator and Chairperson ZWDA

Report from Central – Asia

Dr Mandakini Megh
Vice President, MWIA
Central Asia



Dear MWIA friends

The past few months have been a testing time for medical personnel worldwide due to the outbreak of COVID-19. We all are facing an unprecedented global challenges still 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.

Report from India

Dr Mandakini Megh, Vice President, MWIA Central Asia & Dr Usha Saraiya, Chairperson, Ethics committee MWIA had attended the virtual meeting of WHA on 18th & 19th May. Dr Yamini Alsi, Dr Sarita Bhalerao and Dr Rajashree Katke members of AMWI had attended the WHA meeting also.

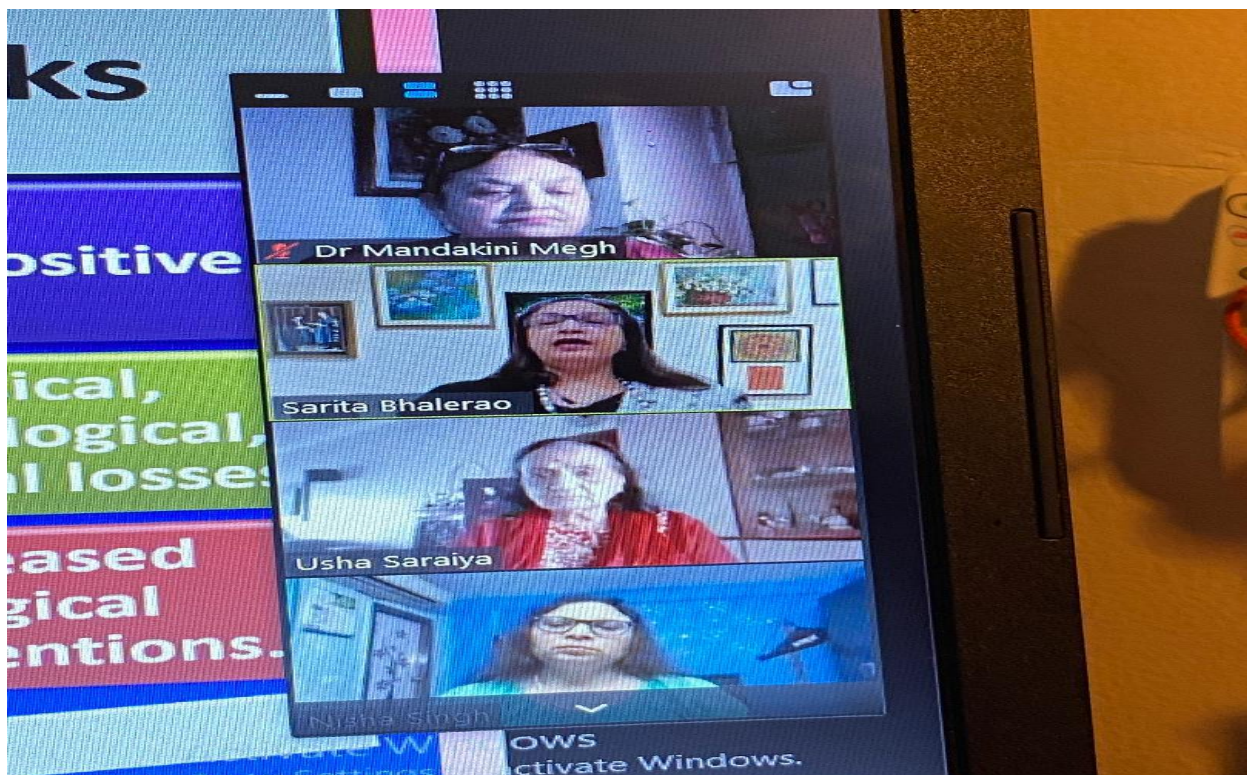
Opening speech was delivered by Dr Tedros Adhanom, Director General, WHO was very stirring.

It is a very proud moment for India as Dr. Harsh Vardhancabinet' health Minister from India was elected President of the Executive Board of WHO. First we were told India was among the 10 countries who were selected to be on Executive Board He also made a very good speech & conducted the meeting efficiently sitting from his office in New Delhi.

Motto for the year 2020 is “We must have a programme for our Nurses/ Para medicals this year through AMWI”.

Vice President MWIA Central Asia Dr Mandakini Megh has conducted an Online Certificate Training course on Gynaecologic Oncology with ICOG

Faculties from AMWI Dr Mandakini Megh, Dr Usha Saraiya, Dr Sarita Bhalerao, spoke on various aspects of cervical cancers and HPV vaccination Dr Yamini Alsi Dr Nalini Kurvey & Dr Mridul Chande Dr M Ghisad had Participated In this Gynac Oncology Programme.



Dr UshaSaraiya ,DrMandakiniMegh&Dr SaritaBhaleraoParticipation In Gynac Oncology Programme .

Report of Mumbai branch by President Dr Geetha Balsarkar



A programme along with central council was held on 18th feb 2020 at Cama and Albless hospital, Mumbai.

It was a great pleasure for AMWI to have Dr. Padmini Murthy, Secretary General MWIA in this programme. She was felicitated by Dr Vandana Walvekar, Dr Usha Saraiya, Dr Yamini Alsì & Dr Geetha Balsarkar, INSTALLATION of New Managing Council of AMWI for 2020 to 2022 was held in her presence. Dr Yamini Alsì was installed as President, Dr Mandakini Megh as 1st Vice President, Dr Bulbul Rai Choudhuri as 2nd Vice President, Dr Nalini Kurve as Secretary, Dr Radha Laxminarayanan, Jt Secretary, Dr Sarita Bhalerao, Treasurer.

Meeting of New Managing Council was held on 18th Feb. 2020 at Cytology clinic, CAMA AND ALBLESS HOSPITAL, Mumbai. It was specifically for the Change over from past Body to new body for the smooth working of the organisation.

We appreciate the hard work being done by the Editor, Dr.SHRIPAD for journal. Thanks a lot for the same Dr. SHRIPAD. With lot of persuasion and encouragement members are writing and sending the

articles.

Dr. Vandana Walvekar Youth award to be given at annual congress of AMWI which will be held in all branches of AMWI sequentially. This is to encourage young doctors to present their research work and provide a national platform. Age criteria 40 years or below to be presented for paper/poster at the annual conference of AMWI. It consists of a certificate and cash prize.

Report of Nagpur branch by Dr Yamini Alsi, Dr Nalini Kurvey



The International Women's Day was celebrated. CME was organised on Cervical Cancer-Role of Pap smear and Colposcopy under guidance of President, Dr Yamini Alsi. Felicitation of Dr. Alsi, Dr. Kurvey & Dr. Vaze was performed. Dr. Mrudu Ichande spoke on Colposcopy and Dr. Ritika Agrawal on Pap smear. Program was followed by a remarkably interesting cooker show, gala entertainment with DJ.



AMWN conducted Mega camp at CRPF on 8 March 2020. AMNW joined NOGSas part of FOGSI drive. They have done complete gynaec check up with Pap smear collection.



CRPF CAMP

Lockdown gave us an opportunity to explore the virtual world. AMWN had organised two webinars. Webinars from every faculty were organised as many of our members are heading their respective association.

AMWN members contributed generously to the PM Cares Fund. Young dynamic members are at the forefront in the war against Covid-19.

Report of Kolkata branch by Dr Bulbul Raichoudhuri



Dr Purnima Chatterji Memorial oration was held on “Epidemiology and recent updates on RNTCP”. The Orator was Dr Lina Bandopadhyaya, associate professor dept of PSM.

International Women’s Day was celebrated with the hospital staff patients and their relatives.

Executive monthly meetings were held till February 2020.

The hospital has been closed from 23/3/2020 as without a functioning mass transit the nurses and support staff are unable to attend. We hope to start functioning soon

Forth coming event

- MWIA Web site will be formally inaugurated on 25th July 2020
- Conference in March 2021 Central Asia regional conference at Trident hotel , Mumbai .



Report from Thailand

Progress report from the Thai Medical Women's Association (TMWA)

On May 30, 2020 the 3rd Leadership program arranged Webex meeting 'Sufficiency Economy and Health Development' topic by Dr. Apisit Thamrongvaragoon. The 35 members participated this program.



On June 20, 2020 TMWA committee arranged the monthly meeting with TMWA Medical Student Scholarship program received the donation from AVM Dr. Supacha and AVM Dr. Kumporn Charnvises.



On June 22, 2020 TMWA Teenage Pregnancy committee in collaboration with Nakornsawan Teenage Pregnancy committee arranged the meeting for 'The Integrated Prevention and Solution for Teenage Pregnancy' with the concept of 'Prevent Adolescent Pregnancy, if pregnant must continue study'. This will be the model for other provinces in Thailand.



On June 22, 2020 The Uttaradit Provincial Teenage Pregnancy Committee hosted ‘Teenage Pregnancy Prevention and Solution progression meeting’. This aimed to develop the integrated working between public health, education and social support.



let's
**STAY
HOME**

THANK YOU

H. Report from Western Pacific

Western Pacific Region MWIA Update July 2020:

VP WPR Dr Desiree Yap VP WPR MWIA

In this last quarter as in most parts of the world, MWIA activity on the WPR was severely curtailed by the COVID 19 pandemic. Most of our capacity to contribute to MWIA and our Western Pacific Region has been reduced by our need to focus our attention domestically. As a region, we have many countries who managed the first wave in an exemplary fashion. How our nations manage and respond going forward continues to unfold.

As a result of the pandemic, we are disappointed to have to announce the postponement of our Western Pacific Meeting, which was scheduled for October 8-10, 2020 in Seoul, Korea. This meeting is being rescheduled for 2021. The new date will be announced once the organising committee has examined the best timing. As you know many meetings have now been postponed into 2021. We are however hoping to host a short virtual even on the same weekend – please look out for details.

As a region we did manage to join virtually for the WHO World Health Assembly, an activity we hope to build on in the future. One thing the Coronavirus Pandemic has brought us is an increased knowledge and capacity to meet virtually. I hope as a region we are able to use some of these tools to bring us as member nations together.

Lastly, sadly, we have also had to mourn the sad loss of New Zealand individual member Dr Robyn Hewland. MWIA was able to send Robyn a communication of appreciation before she passed away and our sympathies have been conveyed to her family.

Australia MWIA Update July 2020

Current representatives:

A range of Australians are either leading or on the various Special Interest Groups for MWIA

Membership activities:

AFMW has been conducting weekly Zoom meetings for members on specific topics:

Our first Zoom meeting became an international meeting and some of the MWIA ExCo, including MWIA President Eleanor Nwadinobi joined, what was for us in Australia, an overnight Watch Party of the World Health Assembly and a separate report was supplied to the MWIA SIG for WHO.

Our next few Zoom meetings covered Australia's response to COVID 19 and its impact on women doctors and on a woman in the community and the Care economy.

Because our focus this year is on commencing a Reconciliation Action Plan with First Nations people and especially again with indigenous women doctors, the following Zoom meetings were on the topic of Black Lives Matter and on the Conundrum of Closing the Health Gap - both serious problems in Australia's health and social landscape. A most enjoyable Zoom meeting was simply a book club where those attending discussed what they were reading.

Next annual national meeting:

Our next National Meeting is in August and our Annual general and Triennial meeting is in November. All our meetings currently are on Zoom.

National Advocacy Priorities:

1. The health of indigenous Australians
2. Working with Australian Indigenous Doctors – partnering with Australian Indigenous Doctors Association
3. Partnering with Doctors for the Environment on Climate Change Policy

National Projects and Research:

AFMW is developing a reconciliation plan. This is a formal undertaking designed to inspire and enable all Australians to build relationships, respect and trust between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians. Information regarding this can be found here: <https://www.reconciliation.org.au/reconciliation-action-plans/>.

National association MWIA activities:

Many AFMW members are working on the Special Interest Groups of MWIA.

National Plans for CSW:

We intend to present our Parallel Event now via Zoom at our Triennial meeting in November.

Other UN meetings:

Many AFMW members are also members of UN Women

National Plans for WHO:

Report was presented to WHO Special Interest group after the WHA meeting.

National Photographs:

Will be published in the MWIA October Update.

China MWIA Update July 2020

A report will be provided for the MWIA October Update.

Hong Kong MWIA Update July 2020

National members: Hong Kong Women Doctors Association

Current representatives:

Dr Cissy YU, President

Dr IP Wing Yuk, National Coordinator

Dr Amy KEUNG, National Coordinator

1. Dr. Cissy Yu, President of the Hong Kong Women Doctors Association (HKWDA) attended the World Health Assembly online and participated as a speaker in the Webinar hosted by AMWA on COVID-19 in May 2020.

2. The Community outreach project on self-sampled cervical screening for ethnic minorities, in collaboration with the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) School of Public Health was successfully held in January 2020. A team of professors, nurses, and medical students from CUHK School of Public Health, as well as nurses and doctors from HKWDA participated in the event. Foreign domestic helpers attended a health talk on cervical cancer screening, received spot blood glucose and cholesterol tests as well as self-sampled cervical HPV DNA tests at the event. The spot glucose and cholesterol test results were delivered to the clients instantly and

appropriate health advices were given. However, reporting of the HPV test results were delayed due to COVID-19.

3. The HKWDA received donation of K95, KN95 and surgical masks from various donors, and three rounds of mask distribution were arranged for HKWDA members from March to May 2020. We would like to express gratitude to all members who have worked hard to safeguard the health of Hong Kong people during this pandemic.

National Photographs:

1. Complimentary N95 masks for HKWDA members



2. Dr Choy Lai Keung Alice, Dr Cissy Yu and Dr Tang Ching (from left to right)



Japan MWIA Update July 2020

National members: Japan Medical Women's Association

Current representatives: Tomoko Otani M.D.

News of members/ membership activities: We held the 65th annual meeting online on May 17th. Yoshiko Maeda M.D. retired as a president of JMWA after her term expired, and Tomoko Otani M.D. became the new president.

Next annual national meeting:

2021/5/16 The 66th annual meeting in Tochigi

National Photographs:



From the left, Masami Aoki, Yoshiko Maeda, Akiko Isogai
May 17, 2020 A bouquet is presented to past president Yoshiko Maeda after the end of the 65th annual meeting.

National members:

Current representatives:

<i>Suk Wan</i>	<i>Yoon</i>	<i>New President</i>
	swyoon11@hanmail.net	+82-10-8710-2143
<i>Soon Won</i>	<i>Hong</i>	<i>National -Coordinator</i>
	soonwonh@yuhs.ac	+82-10-2270-0410
<i>Ki-Nam</i>	<i>Shim</i>	<i>New National –Coordinator</i>
	shimkn@ewha.ac.kr	+82-10-5329-9561

News of members/ membership activities:

National association MWIA activities:

Academic Symposium and the 64th Annual Meeting of the year 2020

May 9th, 2020, Millennium Hilton Seoul

The KMWA held its 64th annual meeting at Millennium Hilton Seoul on May 9th. An inaugural ceremony of our new 30th president Suk Wan Yoon was held, and a dinner was given in honor of Hyun Young Shin, who had been newly elected as a member of the National Assembly by proportional representation of the ruling party in general elections last April. President Yoon stated in her congratulatory speech that election of Hyun Young Shin as a woman legislator is symbolic of an escalated status of the KMWA and women doctors' political capabilities in our society. She also mentioned that Dr. Shin is of course outstanding in her capabilities, but we should note that the political circles were well aware of the fact that Dr. Shin had been most active in the KMWA. Now a legislator, Dr. Shin was showered with a big applause at the dinner and responded with a statement that as a young mother and doctor she would do everything in her power to make a healthy medical system.



Fig.1



Fig.2 New 30th President, Suk Wan Yoon(Left) and the last 29th President, Hyang Aie Lee (Right)



Fig.3 A legislator, Dr. Hyun Young Shin was showered with a big applause at the dinner and responded with a statement

At the frontier of COVID-19 quarantine hospital

Bong Ok Kim, the President of Korea Workers' Compensation and Welfare Service Daegu Hospital, and previously the 28th president of the KMWA

The spread of COVID-19 has slowed a bit in Korea. The cluster infection in Daegu and North Kyeongsang Province, two areas hit hardest by the coronavirus outbreak, had spread to local infection and Korea has been harried since then by rises in sporadic cluster infections. The Korean government has intensely focused on overcoming this national disaster by mobilizing every possible health resources. With the dedication and commitment of the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and medical personnel over the last two months, the virus curve has flattened. In the midst of this hard war against the virus stands a woman warrior, Bong Ok Kim, the president of Korea Workers' Compensation and Welfare Service Daegu Hospital, who has been fighting at the frontier since the very first outbreak in Daegu. The Korea Workers' Compensation and Welfare Service Daegu Hospital was designated as 'National Infectious Disease Hospital' and was solely focused on treating COVID-19 patients. We herein report the experience of the president Kim Bong Ok as a commanding officer in the war against COVID-19 in a form of her diary:

An administrative order was given to every public health and medical institution of the nation: I had to discharge about 200 in-patients and convert to a designated hospital that should only admit COVID-19 patients. There was no way I could safely contain 200 COVID-19 patients and 300 hospital employees in the same building. My hospital is a rehabilitation center. I only have one internal medicine doctor. I have no portable X-ray, let alone negative pressure rooms. Okay. Let's go outside. I decided to build a container box outside the hospital. February 25th: Each of the three exits on the first floor of the hospital was designated as an entrance for the employees, an exit for the employees, and an entrance and exit for the patients. The line of flow to the elevators and outside container boxes was drawn according to each exit. COVID-19 patients were contained inside the hospital and the employees worked outside in the container box, and this was most effective in controlling the spread.



Fig.4 Medical personnel fully dressed in protective clothing outside and moving inside to treat patients.



Fig.5 President Bong Ok Kim holding a press conference and explaining the entire quarantine process to the reporters.

Mongolia MWIA Update July 2020

We are awaiting contact from Mongolia.

Philippines MWIA Update July 2020

We anticipate a report will be provided for the MWIA October Update.

Taiwan MWIA Update July 2020

A report will be provided for the MWIA October Update.

Individual Member Dr Robyn Hewland New Zealand April 2020

Sadly, Dr Robyn Hewland passed away on June 13 2020 with her family present. MWIA was able to ensure Robyn received a message of appreciation to her in the hours before. She was an active member and will be sorely missed. For an obituary please see

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/300035051/dr-robyn-hewland-tireless-campaigner-for-justice>

and you can view her funeral service here:

<https://www.oneroomstreaming.com/view/authorise.php?k=1592228195248362>

Please see attached PDF for MWIA letter to Robyn's family.

A message from her family:

On 13 Jun 2020, at 09:34, Victoria Coad <clancoadv@gmail.com> wrote:

Thank you for your kind kind words for Robyn (mum). We are so proud of her achievements and know that MWIA was hugely important to her. Robyn passed away peacefully today with us both by her side. Knowing she is in your thoughts is a comfort, and your messages are a treasure for the family. Thank you

Victoria and Andrew

Individual Member Dr Margaret Maxwell, M.B.Ch.B (N.Z.) New Zealand April 2020

There is nothing to add from New Zealand's two Individual Members.

Denise Watt and Margaret Maxwell.

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION



Secretariat
137 Skidmore Rd
Pleasant Valley NY 12569 USA
Ph-+1917 841 4641
www.mwia.net

16-06-2020

Dear Andrew and Victoria,

Condolence message: Dr Robyn Hewland QSM, Honorary MWIA member

It was with great sadness that we received the news of the passing of a dedicated colleague and honorary member of the Medical Women's International Association, Dr Robyn Hewland.

Robyn participated actively in contributing to the centenary collage and communicated a few times with the current President, Dr Eleanor Nwadinobi to make a submission on behalf of New Zealand. She got her friend Esther Nitschke to make a hand women collage piece which she personally brought to New York and today is an integral part of the centenary tapestry. Robyn joined us in July 2019 in New York to celebrate the 100th year Anniversary of MWIA and was happy to receive her certificate of participation from the current Secretary General, Prof Padmini Murthy.

It was her desire to restart a New Zealand Medical Women's Association (NZMWA) and we hope that this will be actualised.

Her lovely message to our VP Western Pacific, Dr Desiree Yap in response to how she was doing: "I reply that "I am fine till I am not fine", quoting ageing Dowager near end of film "Downton Abbey"" as acted by Maggie Smith".

Her legacy lives on in the lives she touched directly and indirectly

We pray for her family, friends and loved ones to be strengthened at this time.
On behalf of the Medical Women's International Association - May her gentle and kind soul rest in Perfect peace.

Dr ELEANOR NWADINOB
President
MWIA

Prof Dr.PADMINI MURTHY
Secretary General
MWIA

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

Drs. Keswani and Murthy have been taking part in various Zoom and Microsoft team meetings organized by the various UN agencies and other NGOs as all the meetings have been virtual due to COVID.

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

1.October 2-4, 2020 AGM and Conference in Vancouver British Columbia "Empowering Justice, Peace and Health 2020. Unfortunately, due to COVID this has been canceled

2.August 17 - 28, 2020 CME and MWIA North American Regional Meeting - 2020 Mediterranean Cruise. This has been canceled

Near East and Africa

Due to the COVID Pandemic the Near East and African Regional Congress has been moved to March 2021.The abstract submission deadline is moved to July 31, 2020. Abstracts on COVID 19 are allowed till December 2020

Western Pacific

As a result of the pandemic, we are disappointed to have to announce the postponement of our Western Pacific Meeting, which was scheduled for October 8-10, 2020 in Seoul, Korea. This meeting is being rescheduled for March 24 to 27th 2021. The new date will be announced once the organising committee has examined the best timing

2021

Northern Europe

The new date for the Northern Europe regional meeting is May 7th-9th, 2021

Central Asia

Mumbai

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

10. Publications

Please see list of compile articles on COVID -19

1. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/pages/coronavirus-alert>
2. https://www.thelancet.com/coronavirus?dgcid=kr_pop-up_tlcoronavirus20
3. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/media-resources/press-briefings>
4. <https://www.nih.gov/coronavirus>

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Felicitations and Awards

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