

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

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# MWIA



# Update

No. 59 September 2014

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## MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

### THEME OF THE 2013-2016 TRIENNium

### “PREVENTION AND ELMINATION OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE”

## **I. MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

### **1. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**Dr. Kyung Ah Park, Korea**

It has been already one year since we had the 29<sup>th</sup> International Congress of MWIA in Seoul. When I recollect it, I cannot help saying just "What a wonderful memory!"

Once again, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of the participants of the 2013 MWIA Congress in Seoul and especially to the members of the Local Organizing Committee and the chairperson, Dr. Bong Ok Kim.

During 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> of September, the Northern European Regional Conference and the executive meeting were held in Copenhagen, Denmark. The Northern European Conference was impressive scientifically and I do appreciate the efforts of the Danish Women's Medical Association in planning such as excellent meeting.

I was happy to meet the chair, Dr. Edith Schratzberger, and members of the organizing committee for the 30<sup>th</sup> International Congress of MWIA in Vienna, Austria, in July, 2016. The Austrian Medical Women are working very hard to make this International Congress another successful meeting for us.

Last week, I attended the CMAAO (Confederation of Medical Associations of Asia and Oceania) Meeting as one of the Korean delegates. However, my purpose was to meet the Presidents of the medical association of the countries of South East Asia. As you know, we have only India and Thailand as member countries in Central Asia region. As I indicated in my inauguration speech, I would like to expand our membership. I met the Presidents of the medical associations of Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, and Singapore and they all responded positively to my invitation to become member country of MWIA.

I am going to visit these countries next year and hope that we could have more member countries from the central Asian countries.

### **2. REQUESTS FROM THE SECRETARY- GENERAL**

**Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada**

MWIA has started the second year of the current triennium, with the theme being Prevention and Elimination of Domestic and Sexual Violence. The executive met in conjunction with the **Northern European Regional Meeting** in Copenhagen in September. Thank you to the Danish Medical Women's Association (Kvindelige Lægers Forening) for their kind hospitality and for organizing an excellent congress. Next year the executive meeting will be in conjunction with the **North American Regional Meeting** in Toronto, Canada, which is scheduled for September 25-27, 2015.

It is not too soon to think of how you will celebrate the **MWIA Centennial in 1919**. Please plan to hold a centennial activity in your national association the year of 1919. Plans are underway for our Centennial congress in 1919.

Before we reach MWIA's centennial, we have **two national associations celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversaries**. The American Medical Women's Association will celebrate April 25-27, 2015, in Chicago ([www.amwa-doc.org](http://www.amwa-doc.org)) and the Medical Women's Federation of the United Kingdom will celebrate May 10-13, 2017, in London ([www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk](http://www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk)).

**Registration is now open** for the 30<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the Medical Women's International Association. The theme is Generation Y: Challenges of the Future for Female Medical Doctors. Visit [www.mwiavienna2016.org](http://www.mwiavienna2016.org) to get the early bird rate.

Work on the **Training Manual on Domestic and Sexual Violence** is progressing on schedule. The cases need to be completed by the end of October, 2014. The template for the cases can be found on the website at <http://mwia.net/about/activities/>. Please do not miss the opportunity to have a case characteristic of your region in the manual.

Dr. Clarissa Fabre, MWIA representative to WHO, wrote a letter that was published in the **British Medical Journal**. She wrote that there is a lack of a practical system to respond to domestic violence.  
BMJ 2014; 348 doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.g3942> (Published 18 June 2014)  
**Cite this as:** BMJ 2014;348:g3942

Work on the **safe delivery project** with ZONTA is progressing. The aim is to develop sustainable sites where the kits can be delivered on a regular basis. Please contact us if you feel you can provide this continuity.

2015 will provide the opportunity to attend a variety of **MWIA regional meetings**. Please look at the calendar later in the Update for details.

**South African Deputy Health Minister**, Gwen Ramokgopa, is promoting an association for women doctors, modeled on MWIA.

For those interested in **biographies of women in medicine**, check out the section on Books, to hear about two New Zealand physicians.

The Australian Federation of Medical Women and the American Medical Women's Association are coordinating a project on medical women in **World War I**. See the entry by the USA in news from the regions.

Should you wish to contact any of the executive, the **website** now has the capability of accepting emails according to office. For example, if you wished to contact Dr. Kyung Ah Park, you would address your email to [president@mwia.net](mailto:president@mwia.net). If you wished to contact

any of the Vice Presidents, taking the example of Dr. Carole Williams from North America, you would send you email to [VP\\_northamerica@mwia.net](mailto:VP_northamerica@mwia.net) .

The website now has a secure site for the National Coordinators. **I am requesting that all National Coordinators please email me their request for the password to the secure site.**

Contact information for MWIA:

Website is [www.mwia.net](http://www.mwia.net)

Email is [secretariat@mwia.net](mailto:secretariat@mwia.net)

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

Twitter is MedWIA

### 3. 2013-2016 EXECUTIVE with email addresses:

President	Prof Kyung Ah Park, Korea	president@mwia.net
Past President	Prof Afua Hesse, Ghana	past_president@mwia.net
President Elect	Prof Bettina Pfleiderer, Germany	president_elect@mwia.net
Secretary-General	Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada	secretariat@mwia.net
Treasurer	Dr. Gail Beck, Canada	treasurer@mwia.net
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VP Central Europe	Prof Khatuna Kaladze, Georgia	VP_centraleurope@mwia.net
VP Southern Europe	Dr. Christiane Pouliart, Belgium	VP_southerneurope@mwia.net
VP North America	Dr. Carole Williams, Canada	VP_northamerica@mwia.net
VP Latin America	Prof Mercedes Viteri, Ecuador	VP_latinamerica@mwia.net
VP Near East/Africa	Prof Shafika Nasser, Egypt	VP_africa@mwia.net
VP Central Asia	Dr. Usha Saraiya, India	VP_centralasia@mwia.net
VP Western Pacific	Prof Hiroko Yamamoto, Japan	VP_westernpacific@mwia.net



### The Medical Women's International Association Executive 2013-2016

Front row left to right: Shelley Ross, Bettina Pfleiderer, Kyung Ah Park, Afua Hesse  
Back row left to right: Mercedes Viteri, Carole Williams, Hiroko Yamamoto, Khatuna Kaladze, Shafika Nasser, Christiane Pouliart, Gail Beck, Bong Ok Kim, Helen Goodyear

#### **4. NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGIONS**

##### **Brazil**

On April 7, Dra. Marilene Melo, (President of ABMM) and Dra. Ivone Meinão (President of the Sao Paulo Branch) took part with other leaders of Brazilian medical associations in public protest against the private health care companies for better services and better wages.

ABMM had information in the April edition of the Journal of the Medical Association of São Paulo about the activities of ABMM in order to get more women medical doctors as associates.

On May 31 there was a forum organized by the Sao Paulo Branch about the subject: “Violence against Woman; legal and penal aspects and actions of medical and government support” organized by Dr Ivone Meinão with the participation of lawyers, psychologists and a councilor of the City of São Paulo.

In May ABMM put MWIA’s letter about the abduction of the Nigerian school girls by Boko Hara their website.

In May, Dr Elizabeth Alexandre, cardiologist, member of the Department of Gender Medicine of ABMM and scientific director of section São Paulo of ABMM, was elected president-elect of the Dept of Cardiology of Women of the Brazilian Society of Cardiology.

Anna Maria Martits (director of international affairs of ABMM and member of the new Dept of Gender Medicine of ABMM and Elaine Frade Costa (Professor of Endocrinology of the University of São Paulo), made an update of the Guidelines of “Diagnosis and Treatment of Male Late Onset Hypogonadism (andropause)” for the Guidelines Program of the Brazilian Medical Association. The first Guidelines on the same subject were made in 2004 by the same authors.

On May 29 was the first meeting of the Dept of Gender Medicine Department of ABMM, where they discussed future actions. These will include making the scientific sections of ABMM focused on gender medicine, trying to introduce in the curriculum of medical schools the important subject of Gender Medicine, stimulate the subject in Brazilian medical congresses and invite Department Head Professors of different specialties to teach Gender Medicine to medical students.

On July 29 was the second meeting of Gender Medicine Dept during which were suggested subjects in Gender Medicine for the XXXII<sup>o</sup> Panamerican Congress of Woman Doctors: “Menopause and Andropause,” “Sexuality and Self Esteem,” “Alzheimer: are there gender differences?” Sex Differences in autoimmune diseases,” “Woman, Diabetes, Heart”.

During this meeting it was also decided to send representatives of the Medicine Department to the OSSD (Organization for the Study of Sex Differences) 2015 Annual Meeting that will be held in April, 2015 at Stanford University.

ABMM, with the great collaboration of Dr Elisa Garcez, from the executive of ABMM, sent to Dr Bettina Pfleiderer for the Training Manual on Domestic and Sexual Violence, a video about domestic violence in Brazil executed by the “Project Peace at Home” and a poster made by the Council for the Feminine Condition of the State of São Paulo about Violence, for the World Cup.

This is a first communication for the XXXII<sup>o</sup> Panamerican Congress of Medical Women which will be held in the city of São Paulo from 04/03/2015 to 07/03/2015, organized by the São Paulo Section of ABMM President: Dr Ivone Meinão.

Theme of the Congress: “Targets for the Millenium and the Medical Woman”

Program: subject to changes

Pre Congress: healthy lifestyles

Symposia: Sex differences in cardiology, immunology, endocrinology, neurology

Immunological disturbances in childhood

Infectious-contagious Diseases in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Avoidable Cancer in Women

Oncogenomics

Medical Women’s mental health

Addiction and medical doctors

Healthy Aging

Posters and Free Sections: themes: feminization of medicine, empowerment of women, syndication of women, role of woman doctors in society, career for woman doctors, violence against woman.

## Canada

The Federation of Medical Women of Canada held their 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting in Vancouver from September 19-21, 2014. The theme was **Women as Leaders in Medicine: Empowered, Engaged and Extraordinary**. The meeting was well attended and included a pre-meeting session by incoming President, Dr. Mamta Gautam on Quit Being Good—Be Great. The keynote address was given by Dr. Jan Christilaw, President of the Children and Women’s Hospital. Dr. Charmaine Roye, past VP for North America, and Dr. Shelley Ross each spoke on leadership. Dr. Gail Beck sat on a panel with Dr. Heidi Oetter, Registrar of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC, Dr. Shirley Sze, Doctors of BC Board member and Dr. Meera Dalal, resident and journalist. A different twist was the Supporting Women Leaders Panel, featuring Don Stephenson, Brian Geddes and Hassan El Masri. There were lots of opportunities for networking including a dinner cruise around Vancouver’s harbour.

## Denmark

The 17<sup>th</sup> Northern European Regional Meeting was held at Rungstedgaard, a lovely convention centre located next door to the Karen Blixen Museum. The presentations were on the topics of *careers for female doctors-obstacles and opportunities, mentoring for foreign doctors, taking responsibility in a global world, women’s health, violence against women, and HIV and trends on termination laws in Europe*. The talks were very interesting and included such topics as the changing views of women living with HIV and their perception of sexuality and fertility, surrogacy, and connections between the Danish Medical Women and the medical women of Myanmar. Dr. Usha Saraiya, VP for Central Asia, stressed the need to have Cesarean section capacity for women around the world. Dr. Bettina Pflaiderer, MWIA President-elect, spoke on MWIA’s violence survey results.

Many thanks to the Danish Medical Women (Kvindelig Laegers Forening) for organizing an excellent regional congress.

## **France**

AFFM is preparing a meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup> on “Dermatology.” The board of AFFM will also meet that day.

The medical continuing education in Computers and in English organized by AFFM has started again until the end of 2014.

Dr MD Ghnassia is working with a group of CNFF (National Council of French Women) to prepare one afternoon of thoughts on “Ageing of the Society : the women’s great dependence,” scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Germany**

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, the Federal Centre for Health Education (BzgA) and the Federal Ministry of Health (BMG) held in Berlin the Women’s Health Congress, where women-specific life situations, lifestyles and health problems targeted at women and their everyday health promotion was discussed. Against this background, the National Congress discussed, among other things specific to women, dealing with drugs, issues of mental health of women, as well as ways of promoting health through sport and exercise.

The Hannover Medical School in association with the German Medical Women’s Association is holding a conference November 6<sup>th</sup>, entitled “10 years of successful promotion of women in MHH – and still room for improvement!” The funding started in 2004 and the conference will allow a look at the success of both the mentoring program and the postdoctoral funding for women, now named after deserving professors of the university “Ina-Pichlmayr mentoring” and “Ellen Schmidt Program.” What are the deficits in the promotion of scientists and what we can do even better?

Dr. Bärbel Miemietz, Equal Opportunities Officer, is hosting the Autumn Meeting of the Forum 40 plus on “resilience /mindfulness.”

On November 14, 2014, in Heidelberg the 2<sup>nd</sup> Interdisciplinary Conference on Women of the German Society of Hematology and Oncology will take place. Together with representatives of other disciplines, they have a program compiled to discuss specific issues such as the problems young doctors face in everyday clinical practice. Workshops will be singled out specific topics:

“How can women lead,”

“Career planning in science, clinics and teaching,”

“Work-Family life balance. “

## **Nigeria**

**The theme of the 2013-2015 biennium is “The Girl Child: Raising Opportunities for Empowerment and Creating Health.”**

MWAN has continued to join the good spirited people of Nigeria and the World to advocate for the release of the Chibok girls who have been in captivity for 136 days as at 28/8/14. The National President with other NGOs have also attended several meetings with the First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the Chibok girls and in collaboration with IPAS Nigeria MWAN have carried out training of trainers for Doctors and Nurses on women comprehensive abortion care/post abortion care in preparation for any need that may arise eventually when these girls are released.

On July 7-11, 2014, the National President on behalf of MWAN joined over 100 women from National Council of Women Societies, Nigeria and other professional women at International Conference on Women Empowerment with the theme “**EXTENDING THE FRONTIERS OF NATION BUILDING IN WOMEN EDUCATION AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**” at Manchester, United Kingdom.

Advocacy visit on Senate President and other key Senators of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the passage by the Senate of **Violence Against Persons Prohibitions Bill**- a bill for an act to eliminate violence in private and public life, prohibit all forms of violence including physical, sexual, psychological, domestic, harmful traditional practices; discrimination against persons and to provide maximum protection and effective remedies for victims and punishment of offenders.

The Edo State Branch of MWAN on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2014 hosted a Girl Child Empowerment programme tagged “Healthy **Adolescent Forum**.” The programme had in attendance students from various secondary schools across the state, MWAN National President, the wife of the Deputy Governor of Edo State, the Commissioner for Health and other dignitaries were in attendance.

Topics discussed included career guidance, menstruation, sexually transmitted diseases and teenage pregnancy prevention and time management.

The Lagos State Branch of MWAN on 2<sup>nd</sup> July ,2014 organised an interactive session with Parents and Teachers on Sexual Awareness and Behaviour among Secondary School Students at Lagos State Baptist Secondary School Orile-Agege .

Also on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2014 organised a “**MWAN Boot out Ebola Campaign**” – a Community mobilisation and sensitization rally on Ebola Virus disease carried out at Mainland Local Government Area, Ebute-Metta. Information leaflets were distributed to the people. They were educated on the disease, mode of transmission and preventive measures.

On August 7-9, 2014, MWAN had the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Executive Meeting of the Biennium and Scientific Conference with the theme “**The Girl Child: Strategies for a fulfilled life**” at Imo State south- south geopolitical zone of Nigeria.

MWAN joined other health teams in creating awareness and sensitization of the health workers and the populace on the Ebola Virus disease pandemic currently ravaging some West African countries including Nigeria.

Members of MWAN – The National President, National President-elect, Immediate past Chair MWIA Finance Committee and others participated in the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference with the theme “ **2015 and Beyond, Our Action Agenda**” at New York from 27-29 August, 2014.

Participation in the National Executive meeting of the Nigerian Medical Association from 27-31<sup>st</sup> August, 2014.

## **United States**

AMWA’s 99<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting – Women in Medicine: Successfully Facing Future Challenges and Advances was a resounding success with hundreds of attendees from all over the country – and Dr. Kyung Ah Park and Dr. Christine Pouliart from the MWIA Executive Board. The speaker roster was filled with outstanding leaders, including special guest Arianna Huffington (founder of the Huffington Post), who was honored with the AMWA Presidential Recognition Award. The 99<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala held at the National Museum of Women in the Arts was spectacular evening filled with inspiration and goodwill.

AMWA has launched a new interactive website - [www.path-doc.org](http://www.path-doc.org) - to educate and engage physicians in the fight against human sex trafficking.

We hope that this will become a vital tool used by physicians and students all over the country, so that healthcare providers can recognize victims of human trafficking.

Women’s Health – AMWA continues to support advocacy in the area of women’s reproductive health and preventive medicine. In addition, AMWA hopes to raise more awareness about gender specific medical education and the need for such topics to be included in the medical school curricula. A large scale nationwide study is being designed and a Sex and Gender Medical Education Summit is planned for 2015.

Fellowship Program – AMWA has established a new fellowship program to recognize the achievements of women physicians in academia, research, education, and leadership.

Women Physicians in World War I – Following the lead of the Federation of Medical Women of Australia, AMWA has launched an exhibition to commemorate the work of women physicians in World War I, both as contract surgeons and more commonly as humanitarian medical relief workers through the American Women’s Hospitals Service. MWIA member countries who would like to partner in this effort should contact [ElizaChin\\_md@yahoo.com](mailto:ElizaChin_md@yahoo.com). To view the exhibition, visit the AMWA website, [www.amwa-doc.org](http://www.amwa-doc.org).

AMWA is gearing up for its Centennial celebration April 23-26, 2015 in Chicago, Illinois where AMWA was founded Dr. Bertha Van Hoosen. We warmly welcome attendees from MWIA to come and celebrate with us. There will be a pre-meeting visit to the home of Dr. Bertha Van Hoosen in Michigan. For more information, visit [www.amwa-doc.org](http://www.amwa-doc.org) .

## **United Kingdom**

The Woman's Medical Federation is pleased to announce it has recently signed up to support the RCGP [Put patients First: Back General Practice](#) campaign, which is demanding that the governments of the UK increase investment for general practice from 8.39% to 11% of the UK NHS budget by 2017.

### **5. REPORT FROM UN REPRESENTATIVES Dr. Satty Gill Keswani and Dr. Padmini Murthy**

#### **65<sup>TH</sup> UNDPI NGO Conference**

The 65th annual UNDPI NGO conference was a hectic 3 day event from August 27th to Friday August 29<sup>th</sup>. The theme of the conference was *2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda*.

Drs Keswani and Murthy attend the conference and represented MWIA and net worked with many NGO colleagues. Dr Murthy attended and represented MWIA the pre-conference workshop on Tuesday August 26<sup>th</sup> and the theme of this workshop was *Sustainable Development 2015 Shaping the World you Want 2030*.

On Thursday your NGO reps attended workshops and the UN organized roundtables. Drs Keswani and Murthy were active participants in the workshop on: *A Focus on NCDs and Collaborative Action by Civil Society in Post 2015 Agenda*. They discussed the important work MWIA members have been doing in addressing the pandemic of NCDs in the communities they serve. Dr Murthy attended a panel on Antibiotic Resistance and Obsolescence: Meeting the Major Infectious Disease Challenge for Post 2015.

On Friday Dr Murthy moderated a high level panel titled Violence, Water and Climate Justice: An Intergenerational Path to Peace in the UN trusteeship Chamber. She also attended the closing ceremony of the conference.

As your UN representatives it was a privilege to represent MWIA at this conference which was attended by 4,000 NGO members from around the world.

#### **69<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

It was a hectic week in New York City and it was an honour and a privilege to be representing the Medical Women's International Association as a NGO rep to the United Nations. On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> of September the United Nations 69th General Assembly week got a great start with the launch of the HeForShe: A solidarity event for gender Equality hosted by UN women at the UN Trusteeship Chamber. The UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon was the first man to sign The HeForShe Commitment that evening and urged support for this movement.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> of September was the start of the 2 day Social Good Summit organized by the UNA/USA and United Nations Foundation and can be called a global grassroots movement in bringing people from diverse backgrounds together-- i.e. the movers and the shakers and activists to engage and share in what they can do together to make our world a fair and just one. The Theme for this year's event is "2030 Now" and brings out an important question to all of us who live on this planet which is "What type of world Do I want to Live in by 2030?"

The summit highlighted the principles of the United Nations in the context of the Millennium Development Goals and as was evident in the list of luminaries who shared their wisdom experiences and stories and frustration with their live audience in NYC and those who were following the event on social media.

As a woman, a physician and a mother I experienced mixed emotions when the speakers discussed issues of gender empowerment, investing in women, promoting education for girls, and making gender discrimination an ugly page in history books by 2030. My views resonated with the remarks made by Dr Babatunde Osotimehin, Victoria Shaba, and Liya Kebede, who shared their experiences and their anguish over the continued lack of access and skilled birth attendants for pregnant women. I am a firm believer that there is no cure or excuse for the high maternal mortality rates in so many low and mid income countries when 98% of maternal mortality is preventable. We need to act now so that women do not die giving birth.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the summit, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Interview of Melinda Gates by Robin Roberts was one of the highlights of the summit and Melinda's passion and commitment to improving the lives of women and girls globally is truly inspiring. She is a celebrity who is truly committed to her mission and her remarks on the importance of providing contraceptive services to those with unmet needs was right on target and I can relate to the challenges faced as a health care professional when working on issues of providing contraceptive options to women especially in lower socio economic communities.

There were many fabulous panels--the panel Beyond Right and Wrong moderated by Aaron Sherenian, executive director of communications and public affairs of the United Nations Foundation. I would highly recommend watching this short produced by Lekha Singh.

I had the opportunity to meet Kweku Mandela, the grandson of the late Nelson Mandela, and I think this young man is one of the future leaders of shaping the world as we move on to 2030. His remarks at the panel "2030NOW Who will lead the Way?" resonated very well with the live audience and I am sure the cyber audience as well.

On Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> I had the honor of moderating "A First Ladies High Level Forum Discussion" addressing the 12 critical areas of Beijing and had first ladies from Belize, Trinidad and Tobago, and Permanent representatives to the United Nations from Surinam, Nigeria and UN officials from UNFPA and UN women.

On September 24<sup>th</sup> I was invited to attend a panel on hand washing and its role in reducing child mortality and featured USAID head, Dr. Raj Shah, and Kajol, a Bollywood actress and activist. It is gratifying to see the results when the private sector, celebrities and NGOs work in partnership to promote health and well-being.

Last but not least the high level event Every Woman Every child Hosted by the UN Secretary- General Ban Ki-moon, Partnering for Results: Delivering for Every Woman &

Every Child Within A Generation High Level Event took place on Thursday, September 25th at UN Headquarters. At the event, heads of state, business leaders, philanthropists, UN officials and civil society announced joint action including new financing and specific support to countries in an effort to save and improve the lives of millions of women and children and accelerate progress to achieving the health MDG before the end of 2015. Responding to the Secretary-General's call for expanded cooperation for action, the World Bank Group and the Governments of Canada, Norway, and the United States of America announced up to \$4 billion in financing support towards MDG acceleration and to improve reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health, as well as the creation of a Global Financing Facility (GFF)

## 6. REPORT OF THE EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY

**Dr. Edith Schratzberger-Vecsei**

The EWL along with the European Trade Union Confederation wrote a letter to the European Parliament to oppose the intent to withdraw the **Maternity Leave Directive** by the European Commission. The joint letter also calls upon the European Parliament to restate its support for better maternity rights and to re-engage in the legislative process to proceed together with the Council to a second reading of the Pregnant Workers' Directive.

<http://www.womenlobby.org/news/ewl-news/article/european-trade-union-confederation?lang=en>

The EWL Secretariat is working on the **EWL Beijing+20 report**, which will assess the progress and gaps in Europe with regards to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

MWIA provided information from its members who had been to Beijing 20 years ago, answering the questions: what was the atmosphere and expectations of the meeting? What has changed since then? What would you like to see?

## 7. WHO REPRESENTATI

**Dr. Clarissa Fabre**

I am delighted that my letter to the **British Medical Journal** on Intimate Partner Violence was published:

<http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/bmj.g3942?ijkey=IXbjgTRtwWl8YzZ&keytype=ref>

A junior doctor representative of the Medical Women's Federation, training in Public health and general practice, came with me to meet Sir Michael Marmot at the Institute of Health Equity, University College London. He spoke very movingly at the World Medical Association luncheon on Violence against Women. He was very welcoming and hospitable and we spent about an hour with him.

He made several interesting suggestions that we could follow up on. Dr Howard Koh, the assistant Secretary of the US Dept of Health and Human Services, has written on identifying victims, and the use of 'checklists'. There is an interesting

website [www.endthefear](http://www.endthefear.org) which describes a pilot study in Greater Manchester. He talked about Honour killings in the UK, and the recent Global Summit with Angelina Jolie and William Haig.

## **8. CALENDAR OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS MWIA AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS - CONGRESSES AND MEETINGS**

### **2014**

1. **October 13-19, 2014**, Moscow, Russian Federation  
6<sup>th</sup> Session of The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

### **2015**

1. **March 9-21, 2015**, New York, NY, USA  
The Commission on the Status of Women, United Nations New York  
Beijing + 20  
<http://www.unwomen.org/co/csw/csw59-2015>
2. **April 16-18, 2015**, Oslo, Norway.  
World Medical Association Council Session  
[www.wma.net](http://www.wma.net)
3. **April 24-25, 2015**, Taipei, Taiwan  
Western Pacific Regional Meeting  
Evergreen International Convention Centre
4. **April 24-27, 2015**, Chicago, Illinois, USA  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting of the American Medical Women's Association  
Celebrating a Century Past and Embracing an Empowered and Innovative Future  
Palmer House Hilton, Chicago  
[www.amwa-doc.org](http://www.amwa-doc.org)  
<http://www.amwa-doc.org/centennial-meeting-registration/>
5. **July 8-10, 2015**, Accra, Ghana  
Near East and Africa Regional Meeting  
The theme is the Obesity Pandemic and Helping the woman and her family  
Subtheme is Domestic and Sexual Violence
6. **September 25-27, 2015**, Toronto, Canada  
North American Regional Meeting of MWIA in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada  
[www.fmwc.ca](http://www.fmwc.ca)

7. **November 15, 2015**, Brussels, Belgium  
Southern European Regional Meeting

8. **December 13-14, 2015**  
Central Asia Regional Meeting  
Calcutta, India

## 2016

1. **July 28-31, 2016**, Vienna, Austria  
30<sup>th</sup> International Congress of MWIA  
The theme is Generation Y: Challenges of the Future for Female Medical  
Doctors  
[www.mwiavienna2016.org](http://www.mwiavienna2016.org)

## 2017

1. **May 10-13, 2017**, London, UK  
Northern European Regional Meeting  
Theme: Medical Women Advance Global Health-Past, Present and Future  
**In Celebration of 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Medical Women's Federation**  
[www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk](http://www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk)

## 9. NAMES IN THE NEWS

**Dr. Maureen Baker, Dr. Clare Gerada, Dr. Michelle Drage, Professor Amanda Howe, and Dr. Farah Jameel** were members of the Medical Women's Federation to be included in the *Pulse Power 50* of the top 50 GP's in the United Kingdom.

**Dr. Deborah German** has been awarded the 2014 Alma Dea Morani, M.D., Renaissance Woman Award by the Foundation for the History of Women in Medicine.

**Dr Fatima Zara Mairami, Dr Odewabi Adenike and Dr Offiong Ikpeme**, members of the Medical Women's Association of Nigeria, were elected as the State Chairmen of Nigeria Medical Association for Federal Capital Territory, Ogun State and Cross River State respectively.

**Dr. Margaret Mungherera**, of the Medical Women's Association of Uganda, and President of the World Medical Association will deliver a keynote address at the 6<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Women's Mental Health from 22 - 25 March 2015 in Tokyo. Dr Mungherera will speak about current global initiatives addressing women's mental health and suggest possible strategies for raising the profile of women's mental health on the global health agenda. See [here](#) for more information.

**Dr. Mini Murthy**, alternate representative for MWIA to the UN, has been named a Senior Fellow at the Public Private Alliance.

<http://www.ppafoundation.org/senior-fellows.html>

**Dr. Wendy Norman** of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada has been appointed Canadian Institute of Health Research-Public Health Agency of Canada (CIHR-PHAC) Chair for Applied Public Health Research.

**Dr. Atai Omoroto**, a family physician from Uganda, is in charge of the Ebola Treatment Centre in Monrovia, Liberia. For more information read the article from the Globe and Mail: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/health-and-fitness/health/new-liberian-ebola-treatment-centre-overwhelmed-with-cases/article20817382/>

**Professor Wuraola Shokunbi**, Editor in Chief of the Medical Women's Association of Nigeria Journal, was inducted as a Fellow of Nigerian Academy of Science May 2014

## 10. OBITUARIES

**Dr Ameyo Adadevoh**, of the Medical Women's Association of Nigeria, due to Ebola Virus Disease. She was a brilliant Endocrinologist and diligent clinician involved in the management of the late Patrick Sawyer- the Liberian man who brought Ebola virus Disease to Nigeria.

## 11. BOOKS AND ARTICLES AND WEBSITES

**World Health Organization:** Implementation Research Toolkit: Workbook  
<http://www.who.int/iris/handle/10665/110523> .

**World Health Organization:** Twelfth General Program of Work 2014-2019. Not Merely the Absence of Disease.

**PAHO special issue on eHealth** in the Americas of the Pan American Journal of Public Health at:

<http://bit.ly/1nMC6QY>.

**Handbook for Cultural and Religious Leaders to End FGM**

<http://femnet.co/index.php/en/resources>

**Dr Omiepirisa Yvonne Buowari**, of the Medical Women's Association of Nigeria has released three books about her home town 'Grand Bonny Kingdom' in Rivers State of southern Nigeria: Who's Who In Grand Bonny Kingdom, The First Amongst Us, The People And Culture of Grand Bonny Kingdom, and two volumes of The Ibani Cultural Heritage

**Dr. Margaret Guthrie**, Different Stars for Different Times: Memoirs of a Doctor, Copyright 2014 Margaret Guthrie, ISBN:978.1500127671

**Dr. Margaret Guthrie**, An Enduring Savour, Copyright 2009, ISBN 9780-473-14917-8

**David Lockyer**, Beyond the Splendours of the Sunset, a Biography of Dr. Margaret Barnett Cruickhank. Copyright 2014, ISBN 978-0-473-26208-2

## I. ORGANIZATIONS

### 1. **World Health Organization (WHO)**

a. To date, WHO has an active and engaging presence on the following social media:

Twitter @WHO

Facebook Page <http://www.facebook.com/worldhealthorganization>

Google+ Page <http://gplus.to/WorldHealthOrganization>

YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/who>

Instagr.am @worldhealthorganization

b. **PAHO's** latest edition of e-health can be found at <http://www.paho.org/ict4health/>

c. Direct Link to Full 59-Page 2014 **MDG's Report**:

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2014%20MDG%20report/MDG%202014%20English%20web.pdf>

### 2. **United Nations**

a. The 65<sup>th</sup> annual **DPINGO Conference** took place at the United Nations in New York from August 27-29, 2014. The theme is 2015 and Beyond. See the report under UN reps by Drs. Keswani and Murthy.

b. **UN General Assembly** was held the week of September 20, 2014. The discussions were around the post-2015 agenda, Climate Change, strengthening international security, reforming the UN, and tackling Ebola. Please see the report by our UN reps earlier in the Update.

c. Former Irish President Mary Robinson has been appointed as the U.N. Secretary-General's **Special Envoy for Climate Change**

<http://www.trust.org/item/20140715105630-angz4/>

### d. **Saving Every Woman, Every Child: Within Arms Reach**

Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada and President Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania attended the 69th General Assembly of the United Nations in New York City, to continue the momentum generated by the 2014 Toronto Summit to end the needless and preventable deaths of mothers, newborns and children across the developing world within a generation. The Global Financing Facility for Every Woman, Every Child, has been formed. <http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2014/09/25/pm-highlights-canadas-leadership-role-world-stage>

**e. United Nations Development Program**

The Human Development Report can be found at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-report-2014>

e. **UN Human Rights** reminds the world about the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>

**1. CEDAW Quick and Concise: Explaining the Principle of Substantive Equality**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCtnD-6R2so>

**2. CEDAW Quick and Concise: Explaining the Principle of Non-Discrimination**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1SpUadCdug>

**3. CEDAW Quick and Concise: Explaining the Principle of State Obligation**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHJSp788wjU>

**f. Iceland announces a men-only Un conference on women and gender equality**

<http://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/other/iceland-announces-men-only-un-meeting-on-women/ar-BB6pUz6>

**3. Decision on refugee health a victory for compassion**

Winnipeg Free Press - Jul 16, 2014, Page:A9

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/opinion/analysis/decision-on-refugee--health-a-victory-for--compassion-267286311.html>

4. This year's **16 Days of Activism against gender based violence campaign** will have as its theme "From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women!" The priority areas for 2014 are: 1) Violence Perpetrated by State Actors; 2) Proliferation of Small Arms in Cases of Intimate Partner Violence; and 3) Sexual Violence During and After Conflict.

5. **Acid attack victims in India** pose for fashion photo shoot.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2014/08/20/world/asia/india-acid-attacks-photo-shoot/index.html?sr=fb082114acidattacksurvivors1pStoryGallLink>

6. A false belief offered for why many Canadians are increasingly facing **difficulties finding a family physician** to call their own is the fact that the workforce has become increasingly female, according to health researcher, Morris Barer. For a review of the literature that proves this is not true, visit:

<http://www.human-resources-health.com/content/12/1/32>

7. For a look at **women in national parliaments**, visit

<http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/world.htm>

8. **Girl Be Heard** was invited by President Barack Obama to attend an exclusive event at the White House, on Friday, September 18, 2014, to stop campus sexual assault.

[www.girlbeheard.org](http://www.girlbeheard.org)

#### 9. **WONCA**

In Lisbon, the Lisbon declaration was announced asking governments to make a bigger commitment to primary care. Also in Lisbon, and the latest news is that WONCA President, Michael Kidd announced a joint WONCA statement and pledge relating to workers health

#### 10. **World Medical Association**

**Declaration of Helsinki 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations will be held in Helsinki, 11 November 2014,**

#### **High-level summit on health issues in Melbourne, Australia, 13 - 14 November 2014**

Prior to the G20 Leaders' Summit in Brisbane this November, the WMA will join with the Australian Medical Association (AMA) and AMA Victoria to host a high-level summit to highlight health issues. "Healthy Confident People, Successful Economy."

#### **Meeting on Social Determinants of Health, March 2015**

On 24 - 25 March 2015, the WMA, together with the Canadian Medical Association, British Medical Association and the University College London (UCL) Institute of Health Equity, will host an international meeting on social determinants of health at BMA House in London, UK. This meeting will bring together national medical associations and front-line physicians to discuss strategies to support health equity work at the national and front-line levels. Subsequent to the meeting, the goal will be to produce two main resources; a meeting report highlighting the best practices in clinical SDOH interventions from around the world, and a series of recommendations for action by NMAs at the national and international level.

For more information please contact Ms Jenny Buckley at the CMA: [jenny.buckley@cma.ca](mailto:jenny.buckley@cma.ca)

#### 11. **Framework Convention on Tobacco Control**

Discussion is taking place about the option of using the TobLabNet standard for nicotine content in cigarettes for the research, analysis or other purposes. It is recognized that nicotine content is an area where research is currently ongoing and Parties may wish to consider requesting the Convention Secretariat to invite WHO to monitor ongoing research and prepare a report for consideration by the Article 9 and 10 Working Group.

### **III. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Please join MWIA at the regional meetings during this triennium and please mark your calendars now for the 30<sup>th</sup> MWIA International Congress in Vienna, Austria, from July 28-31, 2016. Registration is now open at [www.mwiavienna2016.org](http://www.mwiavienna2016.org).**

**The next Update will be published in December, 2014.**

**Please send us your reports, comments or any other interesting information by November 30, 2014, at the latest. We are always interested to put your name and your accomplishments in the Update.**