

Inauguration speech 31th July 2016 in Vienna MWIA president Prof. Dr. Dr. Bettina Pfleiderer

Dear Prof. Kyung Ah Park, immediate past president of MWIA, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, my dear friends and my dear family!

It is wonderful that I can share this special moment with you and of course with my family, who are here with me today - my daughter Rachel, my aunt Margot - sister of my mother- and my sister Anette Thank you for coming from Germany to share this special moment with me!

I would never have thought when I co-organized the International Congress in Münster 6 years ago that I would be standing in front of you today as MWIA president. Münster was my first MWIA congress, Seoul was my second, where I was elected President -Elect and today is my third congress. But I fell in love with MWIA at first glance back in Münster!!!

When Professor Afua Hesse as new MWIA president asked me after the Münster congress if I would like to chair the MWIA scientific committee I was thrilled, because I had thought before that I would like to get more involved with MWIA.

It was lovely meeting all of you in Vienna - sharing memories, lively discussions, difficult decisions and acquiring knowledge in the last 4 days. I have made many new friends in the MWIA family. Thank you!!!

A special thanks from my heart goes to Waltraud Diekhaus, former Secretary-General and VP for Central Europe who has been my strong mentor in the activities of MWIA. She has become a dear friend over the last few years and it is wonderful to know that she will continue to support me in the coming years.

Now I will start my three year term as president of the Medical Women's International Association. The theme of triennium will be:

“Medical Women- Ambassadors of Change!!

I will focus on 3 broad areas:

Firstly, **the role of medical women in society and health care**

This includes making our voices heard and raising awareness of health issues such as violence, work-life balance, gender equality, migration and refugee issues, obesity and related diseases. Empower through knowledge!

Secondly, **develop strategies together with all of you to sharpen the profile and increase the visibility of MWIA** in the global health area and advocate on human

rights issues. I also want to attract more young physicians to MWIA, to secure our sustainability and future.

Thirdly, **gender and health**. I want to work on the integration of the perspective of gender and health into medicine on all levels.

What will I do to achieve these goals?

- Go more digital
- Initiate a president's blog
- Make better use of our resolutions
- Start research projects which will have the benefit of MWIA member participation
- Have workshops at MWIA regional meetings on violence and gender issues. I envision a summer school on gender and health
- I have also initiated two ad-hoc committees:
 - *Strategy and membership*
 - *PR and social media*

What can you do to support MWIA?

- Visit our MWIA webpage for updates and participation opportunities
- Please become a member of one of our committees to share your ideas, competence and knowledge.
- Send e-mails to me as your president with your ideas and suggestions

A president cannot act alone. I need you all at my side as a source of inspiration to make MWIA a lively active association of wonderful and knowledgeable women!

Last but not least, in 2019 MWIA will be 100 years old. I am honored to serve as president in this centenary triennial. Let us work together to make this a wonderful occasion and a meaningful event - bridging the past with the future, and to bring my vision of the future of MWIA into life.

Medical women are ambassadors of change!

Thank you!