

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

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# MWIA



# Update

No. 70 June 2017

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**MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

**THEME OF THE 2016-2019 TRIENNIUM**

**“MEDICAL WOMEN: AMBASSADORS OF CHANGE”**

## I. MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

### 1. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

#### **Professor Dr. Dr. Bettina Pfeleiderer, Germany**

As you can see in this report, the last 3 months have been extremely productive! Without the great support and hard work of the MWIA executive and members of our MWIA committees this would have been not possible. Thank you very much!



One highlight was certainly the centenary celebrations of the British Medical Women's Federation (MWF) in London in May. The MWIA executive was in attendance. Their conference was entitled *100 Years of Medical Women Past Present and Future*. It was an excellent program, linking the past with the present and looking into the future. MWF raised the bar for our centennial celebrations really high. The picture shows MWIA president Bettina Pfeleiderer and MWF president

Parveen Kumar (to her right) who were cutting the centennial cake. A MWIA network meeting was organized by MWIA President-elect Dr. Clarissa Fabre and the VP Northern Europe Dr. Tuula Saarela. Many of our MWIA members who participated at MWF's centennial meeting took the opportunity to attend the networking meeting. It was a premiere, but since it was well received, we will continue having those meetings when possible.

The MWIA executive met face-to-face in London for 2 days. We were able to move forward on many important issues which had been high on my agenda when I became president:

- Timelines for drafting and approving Resolutions were agreed upon and are available online now: <http://mwia.net/about/resolutions/>
- A MWIA members guide to General assemblies including voting for Executive positions and Resolutions can be also found under the same link.

This would have not been possible without the hard work of the MWIA Ethics & Resolution committee chaired by Dr. Helen Goodyear.

- The MWIA congress organization manual was overhauled completely by a working group chaired by Secretary General Dr. Shelley Ross.
- The MWIA survey had been completed with about 1150 responses. Many thanks to all of you who responded. Dr. Clarissa Fabre will provide a report to be shared with the MWIA members.
- The charitable status of MWIA was discussed and the MWIA treasurer, Dr. Gail Beck, and the MWIA president looked into the tax rules and spoke with treasurers of other international working organizations. Taking all information into account, it became clear that MWIA will not qualify for charitable status.
- The MWIA Scientific committee is currently working on a survey on sexual harassment; this was very high on the priority list of members. The aim of the survey is to describe sexual harassment at work and at medical school experienced by MWIA members, to

formulate MWIA policy, to encourage and support prevention and to enable effective responses to sexual harassment. You will hear more about that this fall.

- The MWIA Centennial committee – in close collaboration with AMWA- is working on the congress program and securing the venue for the Centennial Congress in New York. The date of the congress has been moved into summer: 24-27<sup>th</sup> of July, 2019. A MWIA Centennial Scientific subcommittee chaired by the MWIA president was formed and will work together with AMWA on the scientific topics, the congress program and the review of abstracts. The planned MWIA publication “100 years on 100 pages” is progressing well and we received templates from 35 countries.

I had the honor to present MWIA as international guest of honor at the German medical chamber meeting in Freiburg 21-25<sup>th</sup> of May, where I had the chance to speak with many European presidents of medical associations and other international medical leaders about the situation of medical women in their countries and introduced MWIA.

Last but not least I attended the general assembly of the European Women’s lobby in Bruxelles as a member of the board and MWIA’s representative in June. EWL celebrated 25 years of EWL’s observatory against violence with this theme: “*loud and united- end violence against women and girls.*”



I will be attending the upcoming MWIA Western Pacific Regional Conference in Hong Kong on the 25-27<sup>th</sup> August (<http://www.hkwda.com>). Hope to meet many of you there!

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

**Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada**

May was a busy time for regional meetings. Congratulations to the Medical Women’s Federation of the UK on a very successful Centennial Meeting held in London May 10-12, 2017. The Latin American Regional congress of MWIA saw a large turnout in Panama City May 17-20, 2017. Mark your calendars for the Western Pacific Regional Meeting in Hong Kong August 25-27, 2017. [www.hkwda.com](http://www.hkwda.com).

The MWIA survey drew a large and geographically diverse response. Please see the report from Dr. Fabre later in the newsletter.

MWIA had its largest delegation to the World Health Assembly in Geneva in May. We were particularly pleased to have four of our yMWIA members with us. There are a number of opportunities for national associations to be part of MWIA’s workplan with WHO, including participating in gathering data for how migrant women involved in health care access care for themselves using the model of the Carer Support, becoming involved in the new Quality Agenda,

and with the AA-HA! (Global Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents.) Please let the Secretariat know if you would like to be involved.

Please visit the link to the template for resolutions <http://mwia.net/about/resolutions/>. As a refinement to the process, resolutions will need to be received 6 months prior to the congress. Only urgent emerging issues will be considered for resolutions during the congress. All registered members for the congress will receive the documents for the congress and the voting information and the resolutions four weeks prior to the congress.

The Federation of Medical Women of Canada is leading the way on a HPV Prevention Week that has the opportunity to spread to all of your associations. Watch the hashtag #CANADAvsHPV to see events unfold.

As a reminder to National Coordinators, it is anticipated that you will circulate this newsletter to your membership. In addition, if you have not accessed the secure site for NCs please let the Secretariat know.

Please see the **calendar of events** later in the Update to see dates of various MWIA regional meetings and other meetings of interest upcoming.

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)

### 3. **2016-2019 EXECUTIVE with email addresses:**

President	Prof Bettina Pfleiderer, Germany	president@mwia.net
Past President	Prof Kyung Ah Park, Korea	past_president@mwia.net
President Elect	Dr. Clarissa Fabre, UK	president_elect@mwia.net
Secretary-General	Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada	secretariat@mwia.net
Treasurer	Dr. Gail Beck, Canada	treasurer@mwia.net
VP Northern Europe	Dr. Tuula Saarela, Finland	VP_northerneurope@mwia.net
VP Central Europe	Prof Khatuna Kaladze, Georgia	VP_centraleurope@mwia.net
VP Southern Europe	Dr. Antonella Vezzani, Italy	VP_southerneurope@mwia.net
VP North America	Dr. Padmini Murthy, USA	VP_northamerica@mwia.net
VP Latin America	Dr. Maite Sevillano, Brazil	VP_latinamerica@mwia.net
VP Near East/Africa	Dr. Mabel Aboah, Ghana	VP_africa@mwia.net
VP Central Asia	Dr. Piyanetr Sukhu, Thailand	VP_centralasia@mwia.net
VP Western Pacific	Dr. Cissy Yu, Hong Kong	VP_westernpacific@mwia.net



The Medical Women's International Association Executive 2016-2019

Front row left to right Kyung Ah Park, Clarissa Fabre, Bettina Pfleiderer, Shelley Ross

Back row left to right: Piyanetr Sikhu, Mabel Aboah, Padmini Murthy, Maite Sevillano, Cissy Yu, Khatuna Kaladze, Tuula Saarela, Antonella Vezzani (absent: Gail Beck)

#### **4. MWIA SURVEY**

**Dr. Clarissa Fabre, Chair Strategy and Membership Committee, UK**

We had an excellent response to our survey, with 1150 responses from our members. Around 25% of the sample was under the age of 40. Job satisfaction was generally high, around 50% of respondents said that they had suffered from stress at some point, and 42% had suffered from sexual harassment or bullying.

When asked about MWIA's strengths, good networking opportunities, giving women doctors a political voice, tackling women's health issues and discrimination against women and girls came out on top.

The top five issues which MWIA should address are, in order:

Work-life balance

Violence against women and girls

Leadership, mentoring and empowerment

Career progression

Sexual harassment of women doctors and medical students.

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

### **Brazil**

Scientific Sessions of second trimester by ABMM and ABMM- São Paulo Section

April 17: “Gender Differences in Dyslipidemia” Dr Marilene Melo chatting with cardiologist Elizabeth Alexandre

May 17:” Corporative Governance: Its Importance for Women” organized by Dr Ana Regina Vlainich

June 22 “Anal HPV- Diagnosis and Importance of Prevention” Dr Mariza Kobata

MWIA Survey and ABMM: Brazil was in 9<sup>th</sup> place out of 70 countries to answer the survey Clarissa Fabre was very satisfied with our results.

Commemoration of International Day of Women at APM (Association of Medicine of São Paulo State):

There was a tribute to Dr Adriana Melo from the state of Paraíba, for her important work as first professional to see the link of Zika virus with microcephaly. Other tribute was to Dr Marisa Demeurer, pediatric surgeon, from UNIFESP (federal school of medicine in São Paulo) for her work with populations at the bank of Amazon River on a hospital boat of the Brazilian Marine Ministry.

Members of ABMM at International Events:

Maite Sevillano, Vice President Latin America went to London for the Medical Women’s Federation 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting in May.

Ivone Meinão, President of ABMM –section São Paulo and President of Alianza Panamericana de Mujeres Medicas (2015-2017), went to Panama City for the Congress of Alianza Panamericana organized by SOMEPA (Women Doctors Association of Panama), The next President of Alianza is Dr Gysele Padilha from Panama (2017-1019) The congress was held from 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> of May with a program with very important issues: wellbeing and healthcare of women; main mental issues of women; sexual and reproductive health, social health; contagious and non contagious diseases; cancer and women. There was a speech of Nise Yamagushi, about the last subject. Dr Yamagushi is director of ABMM Brazil and professor of oncology in São Paulo. Maite Sevillano from Brazil was also present as representative of Latin America to MWIA.

Marilene Melo, Elizabeth Alexandre and Anna Maria Martits all from the executive of ABMM, represented Brazil at the” 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the OSSD ( Organization for the Study of Sex Differences)” held in Montreal from 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> of May. The theme of the meeting was “Sex Differences across Lifespan.” It was a very high level scientific and multidisciplinary meeting about the important science of sex differences. Marilene, Elizabeth and Anna Maria are organizing two meetings about the highlights of the OSSD meeting, one in October/17, one next year, continuing their effort in introducing the important concept of Gender Medicine in Brazil through the Gender Medicine Dept of ABMM.

There were two items of good news about gender medicine: thanks to the efforts of our president, Fatima Alves, a Professor of Otorhinolaryngology, Prof Wilma Lima, president of Brazilian Society of Otorhinolaryngology, decided to include the theme of Gender/Sex Medicine in the next Brazilian Congress of Otorhinolaryngology in Movember/17 and in the continuing education program of ORL.

Dr Elizabeth Alexandre, director of ABMM, cardiologist and director of the Dept of Women Cardiology of the Brazilian Society of Cardiology, wrote the chapter about cardiovascular disease in women in a new book of cardiology.

Change in Internal Regiment of ABMM: ABMM will accept new members who are not associated to a state section in order create new regional sections

Activities of ABMM- Parana Section: Dr Chang Yen Li:

Conference about “Ischemic heart disease in women” and about the Syndrome of “shaking baby”  
Anna Maria Martits

### **Canada**

On May 31<sup>st</sup>, the Federation of Medical Women of Canada (FMWC) announced in the federal Parliament that Canada will be the world’s first country to declare a **HPV Prevention Week** that will take place from October 1-7, 2017. A series of events and initiatives will educate Canadians about a condition that is estimated to affect as many as 75% of sexually active women and men in their lifetime. Keep your eyes peeled on the hashtag #CANADAvsHPV to see how events unfold.

Canada is proud to be hosting the next **Women Deliver Conference** in Vancouver June 3-6, 2019. Following is a quote from Canada’s Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau:

“Everyone benefits from a more gender equal world, but little progress on gender equality can be made without a strong focus on the health and wellbeing of women and girls, especially their sexual and reproductive health and rights. Organizations like Women Deliver understand this, which is why I’m so proud to announce that Canada will host their next conference in 2019.”

### **Nigeria**

There was very exciting news on May 7<sup>th</sup> when 82 of 276 kidnapped Chibok girls were returned to their families. Please see the link at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-39833309>

Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi was part of the Nigerian government delegation to the Commission on the Status of Women, where the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security was presented. <http://www.sddirect.org.uk/news/2017/03/blog-sddirect-reports-from-the-un-commission-on-the-status-of-women-in-new-york/>

### **Panama**

The Association of Medical Women of Panama (ASOMEPA) felt that the congress was a success beginning with its convening, the sponsors, the national and international assistants and exhibitors who came from afar with the intention of sharing their knowledge. I will detail the participants, goals and achievements.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by personalities representing the Ministry of Health and the new Director General of the Social Security Fund, in addition to the deputy mayor of the capital district.

Total number of participants: 240 people. There was broad participation of the public sector, both the Ministry of Health and the Social Security Fund, National Police, Medical Emergencies, and State University, with 99% from the health sector (medicine, dentistry, psychology, holistic

medicine, wellness, fitness, nutrition, other medical specialties). One person represented the social communication sector, with broad interest in writing about the alternatives offered by medicine in holistic treatment and we hope to know the opinion of this participant in his writings in the national and international media. There was also one engineer in attendance.

Sponsoring laboratories: 15 in total.

Craftsmen: 12 permanent posts

Exhibitors (national and international): 53

General objective ACHIEVED: that all participants can be enriched with the experiences and the latest advances to date in the knowledge and development of tools to improve the lives of our patients, with a comprehensive approach to the health of women and men, which goes beyond physical health, including the mental and emotional health of the individual. A HOLISTIC APPROACH. The slogan of the motto: "Towards a holistic approach to women's health: challenge or utopia" had a marked impact on our results, since each issue was developed from a holistic perspective without neglecting the innovations that exist in medicine. There was also a preventive approach in each topic addressed. There was a marked interest in beauty, beyond the "external." Well-being (as defined by one of the panellists) is more than just looking good. It is feeling good and living life in a congruent way, encouraging all participants to give their maximum potential in medical practice and practice and strengthen the power of the medical woman in society and in the future of our generations to come. I quote one of the presenters: "Investing in women is improving health, benefiting families in general, increasing productivity, reducing poverty and hunger, creating sustainable nations and strengthening economies."

In general, we as a medical society of Panama and the responsibility that was in us, we assume that the experience with this past congress was more than SUCCESS and we have the impact of the work accomplished. Satisfaction surveys indicate our success and gave us congratulations on the issues and the panellists.

### **Russian Federation**

The Central European Regional meeting of MWIA was held in Moscow in November. An excellent video of the event can be found on YouTube.

<https://youtu.be/vEbM0pwYRQU>

### **United Kingdom**

Dr. Parveen Kumar wrote in the MWF Newsletter about the wonderful week of centenary celebrations! She stated that it was a great showcase for the Medical Women's Federation and a chance for us to reflect on our history and achievements over the past 100 years. Over the course of 3 days we welcomed more than 300 guests to join us in celebrating '100 Years of Medical Women: past, present and future'. We also had discussions about where the next 100 years will take us and I hope the next generations will take on the leadership. We have been delighted to receive such wonderful feedback from all the delegates. Selected photographs from each of the events can be found [here](#) so please do take a look.

Going forward, we must take advantage of the momentum of our centenary and look to the future of MWF. I'm setting a challenge for all of you to go out and recruit at least three new members over the next 6 months. We need to spread the word about what MWF does and how we work to help women doctors and their patients. As an organisation, we now have a

responsibility to ensure we are encouraging women to improve their leadership and management skills and to hold higher offices within the profession.

You can read the centennial issue of Medical Woman [here](#).

### **United States**

In **April** AMWA partnered with Region VIII Federal partners to organize the 2017 Webinar Series under the National Prevention Strategy: Health Across the Life Span series.

A webinar on Tobacco Free Living was organized on April 20, 2017, which was well attended.

AMWA also co-sponsored lecture series From Farmer's Daughter to Physician: The Advocacy, Activism and Legacy of Dr. Mary Bennett Ritter and her Contemporaries on April 25 at the Countway Library of Medicine, Harvard School of Medicine.

On **May 3**, AMWA co-sponsored Diabetes Heart Connection Event in Sacramento with Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease (PFCD). This took place at the State Capitol in Sacramento.

On **May 10<sup>th</sup>**, AMWA partnered with Emmy-nominated filmmaker, Tiffany Shlain, on 50/50 Day to promote a global conversation about gender equality in which MWIA participated.

AMWA members, Dr. Connie Newman, President-elect of AMWA, Dr. Karen Poirier-Brode and Dr. Padmini Murthy attend the Medical Women's Federation Centennial Celebration in London.

In June, AMWA co sponsored the Women's Health Care Innovation and Leadership showcase conference with Healthcare Business Women Association, Johnson and Johnson and Rutgers University at Rutgers Piscataway campus. Drs Connie Newman, Satty Gill Keswani and Eliza Chin attend the meeting, representing AMWA and MWIA.

## **6. REPORT FROM MWIA'S REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UN**

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

Drs. Keswani and Murthy and Aishu Narasimhadevara have been attending briefings at the United Nations. Dr Murthy has been re-elected as member at large to the NGOCSW Committee NY for a 3 year term commencing in June 2017 and will represent MWIA on the board. She has also been nominated and elected to NGO Committee on Mental Health for a 2 year term starting June 2017. Aishu Narasimhadevara represented MWIA as a DPI Youth representative and spoke to Korean High School students via skype at an event to discuss the role of youth in promoting SDGs in June 2017. Aishu Narasimhadevara represented MWIA at the Oceans Conference at the United Nations in June 2017. Padmini Murthy represented MWIA at the Yoga and Health on occasion of Yoga day on June 21<sup>st</sup> at the event organized by the World Health Organization and Permanent Mission of India to the UN. Murthy has also been invited as a NGO rep and professor to attend an event on Advancing UN SDG 3 (Good health and Well Being) on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Drs Keswani and Murthy continue to work with AMWA leaders in planning the upcoming MWIA centennial congress in New York City in July 2019.

## **7. REPORT FROM WHO REPRESENTATIVE**

### **Dr. Clarissa Fabre, UK**

Our MWIA delegation to the World Health Assembly in Geneva in May this year was transformed by the addition of four young doctors (from the UK, Australia and Austria), as well

as two doctors from Taiwan and one from Japan. We met with members of WHO staff involved in our key areas of interest, and attended many and varied events.

WHO is keen that we help with the distribution of their Clinical Handbook on Violence against Women and Girls, which has been translated into many different languages ([www.who.int](http://www.who.int)). They are soon to launch a medical school curriculum which builds on this Handbook, and an in-service training manual for health professionals. They were very interested in our online Violence Training Module (<http://mwia.net/mwia-training-module-violence/>) with all its case studies. We would encourage you to use our Module, as well as the WHO manuals, as a basis for workshops at MWIA national and regional meetings when the module has been fully developed later in the year.

The WHO Safe Childbirth Checklist (SCC) with which we have been closely involved will be discussed at an important meeting in Colombo on 28-30 August. The Better Birth Trial, conducted by Professor Atul Gwandi from the Harvard School of Public Health and the WHO, used the Checklist in many centres in northern India. It showed a reduction in perinatal mortality, and significant improvements in behaviour, for example hand washing, and better monitoring. It did not show a reduction in maternal mortality, but many deaths occurred outside health facilities. WHO is keen that we continue to encourage use of the Checklist, in both high and low income countries.

With falling levels of illness in young children, WHO has turned its attention also to the health of adolescents. AA-HA! (Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents) was recently launched by the WHO, and one of our members, Dr Natalie Yap, was closely involved at the final stages of the document, as a WHO intern. This document is aimed at those involved in planning and implementing adolescent health programmes. MWIA members could help with its dissemination. Road injury, self-harm, lower respiratory infections, iron deficiency anaemia and depressive disorders are highly ranked burdens in most regions.

I attended a very interesting side event at the World Health Assembly which focused on Attacks on Health Professionals. Since 2014 there have been 900 attacks in 20 countries, with 1300 deaths, more than half of which occurred in Syria. There has been no reduction in the number or intensity of attacks. There is always an accepted risk, but deliberately targeting medical workers and facilities is unacceptable. Governments of all countries have a responsibility and should be drivers of change. We heard that we must all work together to find a solution, but at present no-one seems to be taking coherent action.

And finally, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is the newly appointed Director-General of WHO, replacing Dr Margaret Chan, who had been in the role since 2007. A former health minister in Ethiopia he has vowed to champion the extension of universal healthcare around the world. He said: "At present only about half the world's people have access to healthcare without impoverishment. This needs to improve dramatically." I would highly recommend that you listen to his acceptance speech ([www.who.int](http://www.who.int)).



**Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, Director General of WHO  
with yMWIA members Drs. Carmen Hagen, Natalie Yap and Claire Felmingham**

**8. EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY**

**Dr. Edith Schratzberger Vecsei and Prof. Bettina Pflaiderer**

**Report on the General assembly of the European Women Lobby (EWL)  
Bruxelles, Belgium June 9-10, 2017**

The European Women's Lobby (EWL) represents about 2500 grass roots organizations and promotes gender equality, advocacy and networking, raises awareness as well as organizes marches and street actions ([www.womenlobby.org](http://www.womenlobby.org)). MWIA is well represented by 2 representatives: Edith Schratzberger-Vecsei (the current EWL president (right in the picture)) and MWIA president Bettina Pfleiderer (member of the board).



EWL celebrated 25 years of EWL's observatory against violence with a street action ("*loud and united- stop violence against women and girls*") and panel discussions in the town hall of Bruxelles, Belgium. During the General Assembly there was an inspiring keynote lecture by the European commission First vice president Frans Timmermans on "Populism and women's rights."

Other topics included the rights of migrants and member engagement strategies and energy motions.

Additionally, on the International Day of Health, the EWL along with Mothers Matter and Mental Health Europe released a paper on postpartum depression, which highlights the issue of abuse and disrespect women face during childbirth and how it impacts on women's mental wellbeing.

[More information and full declaration](#)

## **9. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MEDICAL WOMEN'S FEDERATION ON THE SUCCESS OF ITS CENTENNIAL CONGRESS**

**Dr. Shelley Ross**

On behalf of MWIA, the executive would like to thank the Medical Womens Federation for hosting a fantastic Centenary Meeting in London in May.

The executive was able to participate in many of the events starting with the launch at the Royal Society of Medicine on the Thursday evening, May 11<sup>th</sup>. The theme was Global Health and the guest of honour was Anne, the Princess Royal, who is the Patron of Save the Children. The keynote speakers that night were Lord Nigel Crisp of the NHS and Professor Lesley Regan, only the second female head of the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynecology in its long history.

The Great Hall of the British Medical Association was the venue for the main conference, entitled 100 Years of Medical Women Past Present and Future. It was a day full of excellent speakers on topics covering all eras and speaking of a bright future for women in medicine as we move into the next 100 years.

Baroness Ilora Finlay, Professor of Palliative Medicine at the University of Cardiff in Wales, invited us to the House of Lords for dinner on the Friday evening. The guest of honour was the

Duchess of Gloucester, who delighted the attendees with a personal word to all, moving from table to table during the evening. The beautiful weather allowed a stroll along its balcony with a view of the London Eye captured in many a photo.

At the Royal College of Surgeons on the Saturday, Dr. Tuula Saarela, Vice President for the Northern European Region, held a business meeting for members. This was followed by a MWIA Networking Meeting. This gave MWIA an opportunity to inform members of the work of MWIA and selected presenters from various regions then spoke of projects in their areas. The meeting was well received.

The Centenary Meeting had a grand finale with a cruise on the River Thames from Festival Pier to Greenwich, the site of the Trafalgar Tavern, where a few hardy women doctors founded the Medical Womens Federation in 1917. With the larger number of participants now, the Tavern could not hold us all, so we had a lovely dinner at the Old Brewery in Greenwich, then sailed back along the Thames to say farewell and thanks to our British hosts for a job well done.

Mark your calendars now for MWIA's Centennial Meeting in New York July 24-27, 2019, where we shall continue to celebrate the achievements of women in medicine!

#### **10. CONGRATUATIONS TO THE MEDICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF PANAMA ON ITS SUCCESSFUL LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL CONGRESS**

**Dra. Marta Maite Sevillano**

The congress was a success above all expectations, with an attendance of 240 doctors as well as a variety of health related attendees. The physicians of Panama attended in mass and the association's membership increased by 35% due to the congress.

The focus of the congress was scientific information as well as popular ideas of well being.

The Presidents of the associations of Ecuador, Peru, Mexico, and Panama attended. The final resolution at the board meeting was to strengthen and revitalize the Pan American Alliance (PAMWA), which has been in existence since its inauguration in 1947.

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

##### **2017**

- 1. August 25-27, 2017, Hong Kong**  
Western Pacific Regional Meeting  
Women Health Empowerment  
<http://www.hkwda.com>
- 2. September 15-17, 2017, Ottawa, Canada**  
Federation of Medical Women of Canada Annual General Meeting  
Women's Health and Well-Being, Connected, Compassionate and Courageous...  
[www.fmwc.ca](http://www.fmwc.ca)

3. **October 11-14, 2017**, Chicago, USA  
World Medical Association General Assembly  
[www.wma.net](http://www.wma.net)

4. **November 3, 2017**, London, UK  
Fall meeting of the Medical Women's Federation  
Celebration and New Beginning: A Hundred Years Past and into the Digital Future  
[www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk](http://www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk)

## 2018

1. **March 12-23, 2018**, New York, NY, USA  
Commission on the Status of Women in New York  
Priority theme: Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls;  
Review theme: Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women (agreed conclusions of the forty-seventh session);  
[www.unwomen.org](http://www.unwomen.org)

2. **March 22-25, 2018**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
North American Regional Meeting and AMWA AGM  
[www.amwa-doc.org](http://www.amwa-doc.org)

3. **April 27-28, 2018**, Palermo, Italy  
Southern European Regional Meeting of MWIA  
[Vp\\_southerneurope@mwia.net](mailto:Vp_southerneurope@mwia.net)

4. **May 21-29, 2018**, Geneva, Switzerland  
World Health Assembly of WHO  
[www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

5. **September 6-8, 2018**, Bangkok, Thailand  
8<sup>th</sup> Central Asia Regional Meeting of MWIA  
Theme is "Women's wellbeing-a global perspective"  
Montien Hotel, Bangkok  
[www.carc2018.com](http://www.carc2018.com)  
[www.tmwa.or.th](http://www.tmwa.or.th)  
[2018carc@gmail.com](mailto:2018carc@gmail.com)

6. **October 1-6, 2018**, Geneva, Switzerland  
Eighth Session of the conference of the parties to the  
**WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control**  
Rue de Varembe 17, 1211 Geneva  
[www.who.int/fctc](http://www.who.int/fctc)

7. **October 3-6, 2018**, Reykjavik, Iceland  
World Medical Association General Assembly  
[www.wma.net](http://www.wma.net)

## 2019

1. **June 3-6, 2019**, Vancouver, Canada  
Women Deliver Conference  
<http://womendeliver.org/conference/2019-conference/>
2. **July 24-27, 2019**, New York City, USA  
**Centennial Congress of the Medical Women's International Association**  
[www.mwia.net](http://www.mwia.net)

## 12. NAMES IN THE NEWS

**Dr. Jan Christilaw**, of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada, was awarded the Order of Canada.

**Dr. Satty Gill Keswani**, of the American Medical Women's Association was honoured by Saint Barnabas Medical Centre at the Physician Service Awards for a distinguished career of over 40 years of work as part of the Saint Barnabas ObGyne staff.

**Professor Parveen Kumar**, of the Medical Women's Federation, has been honoured with a Damehood in the Queen's Birthday Honours, for her services to medicine and medical education.

**Dr. Padmini Murthy**, of the American Medical Women's Association, and Vice President for North America for MWIA, was re-elected as a member at large to the NGO CSW Committee.

**Dr. Gysele Padilha**, from the Panama Medical Women's Association, has been elected President of the Pan American Medical Women's Alianza.

**Dr. Shelley Ross**, Secretary General of MWIA, was honoured with the University of British Columbia Medical Alumni Award.

**Dr. Olwen Williams**, of the Medical Women's Federation, was awarded a fellowship of the Learned Society of Wales.

## 13. OBITUARIES

**Professor Babatunde Oshotimehin**, the head of UNFPA recently passed away suddenly and unexpectedly.

## **II. OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

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

a. The World Health Assembly voted for its new **Director General** to succeed Dr. Margaret Chan. The successful candidate was Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus from Ethiopia who has held government positions in Ethiopia including Minister of Health and has chaired the board of the Global Fund and the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health. His education includes PhD in Community Health and Masters of Science in Immunology

b. Following WHO's recent launch of its **Quality Equity and Dignity Network** for improving quality of Maternal Newborn Child Health, it has decided to concentrate support on nine countries in Africa and the subcontinent.

c. WHO along with USAID's Maternal and Child Survival Program has developed the Second edition of WHO's *Managing Complications in Pregnancy and Childbirth (MCPC)*  
Find the Second Edition *MCPC* here – <http://bit.ly/2u9D7xG>

There is also a summary brief, **Managing Complications in Pregnancy and Childbirth (MCPC): A Guide for Midwives and Doctors**. This brief summarizes the revision process and selected **highlights from the World Health Organization's 2017 Second Edition MCPC** including updated clinical guidelines from a subset of revised chapters: emotional and psychological support; hypertensive disorders of pregnancy; bleeding in early pregnancy and after childbirth; and prevention and management of infection in pregnancy and childbirth. Find the brief here – <http://bit.ly/2s9O6dH>

### **2. United Nations**

a. The analysis of the sixty-first session of the **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)** and the Agreed Conclusions by Ms. Lakshmi Puri, UN Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Director of UN Women is available if you

**[Please click here to read/download the CSW61 analysis.](#)**

b. For the upcoming **62<sup>nd</sup> session of CSW**, any individual, non-governmental organization, group or network may submit communications (complaints/appeals/petitions) to the Commission on the Status of Women containing information relating to alleged violations of human rights that affect the status of women in any country in the world.

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/communications-procedure#claims>

c. **UN Women** has a Training Centre Community of Practice for training in gender equity. Please contact [tc.cop@unwomen.org](mailto:tc.cop@unwomen.org) or read the [promotional flyer on the CoP](#). There is an interview series running through to the end of August.

3. The **American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists** issued [recommendations to limit use of many common interventions and instead adopt safer, underused care options](#) with low-risk women around the time of birth. Childbirth Connection Programs at the National Partnership for Women & Families prepared a [guide to help childbearing women understand and consider the new recommendations](#) with their maternity care providers.

Similarly, in 2014 (reaffirmed in 2016) ACOG and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine issued far-reaching [recommendations for safely preventing primary cesareans](#) , and they also issued a [summary of the cesarean prevention recommendations for women](#).

4. The JAMA Intern Med contained a recent publication showing that Patients hospitalized for medical conditions who are **treated by female physicians** are less likely to die or be readmitted within 30 days than those treated by male physicians.

Reference

Tsugawa Y, Jena AB, Figueroa JF, Orav EJ, Blumenthal DM, Jha AK. Comparison of hospital mortality and readmission rates for Medicare patients treated by male vs. female physicians. JAMA Intern Med 2017;177(2):206-213.

5. The Canadian government has developed a policy that commits Canada to a new **feminist approach to international assistance** that supports the empowerment of women. [View this document online or download the pdf version](#)

6. **United to End FGM** developed a free online platform for professionals regarding FGM. [http://www.endfgm.eu/files/2016/11/UEFGM\\_for\\_End\\_FGM\\_Nov\\_2016\\_CC\\_Presentation.pdf](http://www.endfgm.eu/files/2016/11/UEFGM_for_End_FGM_Nov_2016_CC_Presentation.pdf)

7. Oxfam has released a **Guide to Measuring Women's Empowerment** <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/gt-measuring-womens-empowerment-250517-en.pdf>

8. May 13<sup>th</sup> was the **Save the Mothers** ([www.WalkForMothersDay.com](http://www.WalkForMothersDay.com) ) Mother's Day Walk held at Central Park in Burnaby, Canada. This charity was started by a Canadian obstetrics physician, Dr. Jean Chamberlain Froese. She worked in Uganda and realized hundreds of mothers and infants were dying unnecessarily from birth complications that were preventable.

9. **UNESCO** is a specialized agency of the United Nations, with the mission is to contribute to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue, through its work in education, the sciences, culture, communication and information. A new interactive booth will allow UN visitors to discover UNESCO's work and programmes, along with its crucial role in supporting Member States in achieving the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

10. 16 Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women begins November 25<sup>th</sup>, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. In 2017, the campaign theme will remain “**From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Make Education Safe for All!**” **The Partnership**

11. **The Partnership for Women and Children’s Health (CanWaCH)** were the local hosts for the Global Adolescent Health Conference: Unleashing the Power of a Generation, held in Ottawa May 16-17, 2017. The WHO’s AA-HA! Document was released at this conference.

### **III. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next Update will be published in September, 2017, the fifth in the new triennium. Please send us your reports, comments or any other interesting information by August 31, 2017, at the latest. We are always interested to put your name and your accomplishments in the Update. We are pleased to post the meeting information for your national association’s annual meeting.