

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MWIA



Update

No. 42 June 2010

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The Year of the 28th International Congress

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MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

I. MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

1. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Atsuko Heshiki, Japan

“Leadership, Achievement and Accomplishment”

All of you are busy preparing for the 28th MWIA International Congress in Munster, Germany, which will be held from July 27th to August 1st, 2010. The German Medical Women's Association has put tremendous effort into the organization of the congress and has been most efficient. The scientific papers have been reviewed and the session chairs have been decided. The program is well on its way. I am looking forward to seeing all of you in Munster.

In April, 2010, I was honoured to be invited to the 1st China Medical Women's Congress in Beijing. The association was founded in 1995 as an NGO association and registered under the Ministry of Civil Affairs. They have 83 Executive Council Members and more than 20 regional associations. The president of the association, Dr. He Jiasheng, organized a gorgeous meeting in a big conference center, which was filled with delegates from around China. At the opening ceremony, governmental officials, honorary members, Drs. Cissy Yu (President) and Dr. Chan Kit-sheung (Vice-President) of the Hong Kong Women's Doctors Association, Drs. Yasuko Oda (President) and Kimiko Otsubo (ex-Board members) of Japan Medical Women's Association and Dr. Gail L. Rosseau from the US were at the high table. Soon, they will send us an application to become a member of MWIA.

After Beijing, I was invited to the 113th German Medical Association annual meeting, held in the International Congress Center in Dresden, Germany, from May 10th to 14th. President Professor Dr. med. and Dr. h.c. Jorg-Dietrich Hoppe and his associates invited many delegates from all over the world, mostly from former Eastern countries. From MWIA, Dr. Waltraud Diekhans, VP of Central European Region, and I were honorable guests. We were able to discuss with the delegates from Albania and Slovenia the possibility of joining MWIA. At least, we will be able to see them in Munster.

I am in the process of analyzing the grand questionnaire about the status of the women in medicine and the findings will be presented in Munster.

Please have a safe journey to Munster and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

2. REQUESTS FROM THE SECRETARY- GENERAL

Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada

These are exciting times for women in medicine and women around the world.

July is the month of the **MWIA 28th International Congress in Munster, Germany**, being held July 27-31, 2010. There is still an opportunity to register on the website at www.mwia2010.net. If you have not done so, please complete the information requested in the Second Special Update and return it to the Secretariat as soon as possible. If anyone needs a letter in order to obtain a visa, please contact: Mrs. Kerstin Drach whose e-mail is k.drach@kelcon.de.

In September, Melbourne will host the **Department of Public Information NGO Conference**. Our delegation will be led by Dr. Mini Murthy and many of our Australian colleagues have come forward to participate. MWIA's workshop, entitled, "Incorporating gender into health care and its effect on global health and achievement of the MDG's," has been accepted.

MWIA was pleased to review and be an original signatory to the **WHO Department of Reproductive Health paper on Global Strategy to Stop health-care providers from performing Female Genital Mutilation**. The link can be found at http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/fgm/rhr_10_9/en/index.html

The UN has created a new agency called **UN Women**, which will consolidate the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), the office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues (OSAGI), and the UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW).

Canada recently hosted the G8 Summit and Prime Minister Harper announced the **Muskoka Initiative for Maternal and Child health**. MWIA released a press release following the Summit, calling on countries to make sure that maternal health does not get forgotten, as the countries meet later in the year in Seoul, Korea.

Women Deliver held its second international congress in Washington, DC in June. Women's well-being determines a country's well-being. When women survive, families thrive.

Dr. Shafika Nasser, the National Coordinator from Egypt, and I represented MWIA at the **World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization** May 16-21, 2010. WHO's Director General, Dr. Margaret Chan, unveiled a statue commemorating 30 years since the eradication of smallpox. A code of practice for on the international recruitment of health personnel was accepted, as well as a breakthrough global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol. The guest speaker was President Sirleaf of Liberia. She noted that after 14 years of war, Liberia has made significant progress towards rebuilding the country's health system and reaching the Millennium Development Goals.

Please keep the Secretariat informed of changes in your national officers and of upcoming meetings and activities in your organizations.

For those who have not paid their annual dues, the Secretariat would like to remind you that yearly dues are needed July 1st each year.

The contact information for the Secretariat is:

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website: www.mwia.net

3. NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

Dr. Gail Beck, Canada

International Congresses are always rewarding experiences for those who attend and the host National Associations always go out of their way to ensure a positive experience for delegates and guests. I am looking forward to seeing many of you in July. I would like to remind members and National Coordinators that only members or National Associations with their dues completely paid up for the past triennium will be eligible to participate in the General Assemblies during the congress. For National Associations, the dues are set at 8 US dollars. Individual members who have no National Association pay 25 US dollars.

Dr. Ross and I will both be available prior to voting at the Congress to assist members and National Associations in determining the dues they have paid during the 2007-2010 triennium so that we begin the Congress with up-to-date lists.

4. NEWS FROM THE VPs AND THEIR REGIONS

Northern Europe

Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, The Netherlands, United Kingdom

Dr. Olof Sigurdardottir, Vice President for Northern Europe, Iceland

There is a vacancy for the position of Vice-President for Northern Europe for the term 2010-2013. There will be a meeting of the members of the Northern European Region to nominate a candidate during the Vice Presidents' Meeting 1700 hours on Tuesday, July 27th in Munster.

United Kingdom

The Spring meeting of MWF was held in 14 – 15 May 2010 at the Park Inn Hotel Nottingham.

On the first day the topic of the of the scientific symposium was “Women and Mental Health” and included keynote addresses and discussion on:-

Anorexia Nervosa: Issues and anxieties

Young women offenders their mental health and their families

Psychiatric Causes of Maternal Death – this was presented by a Perinatal Psychiatrist as the Annual Dame Hilda Rose memorial lecture, a benefactor of MWF.

Other presentations included:-

Madness in 19th Century Women: Menopause, Menarche and Misogyny

Dr Frankenstein’s Monster: a Women’s Fantasy and several abstracts.

Four workshops on Living Wills/Advanced Directives, Mental Capacity and Consent, Preparing a CV and Portfolio and Academic Awards were held.

The two student Essay prize winners presented their papers “How to manage your finances as a medical student” and “Do graduate entry students make better doctors”

At the Annual General Meeting the new President, Clarissa Fabre, an Australian now living and working in UK, was installed as the new MWF President.

On the second day the MWF Council met and received MWF’s business plan for the 12 months. This included continued support and publicity for MWIA and links with the Fistula Hospital in Addis Abba. To encourage more awareness of MWIA’s history the NC produced a historical document which outlined MWF’s involvement and dedication to MWIA since 1919. This was distributed to all Council Members and other MWF members attending Council

Reports were received from the MWF Officers on the continued work of MWF in supporting women doctors and medical students, from MWF representatives on BMA Committees and other important medical committees

Several motions from local MWF groups were debated and passed by Council e.g. maternity leave payments for general practitioners and night duty for pregnant women doctors. The challenge of assisted suicide by doctors and whether all MWF members should be involved in this discussion was also debated..

There was, of course, a social programme to enjoy. This included a buffet supper at the home of a MWF member on the evening before the Spring meeting, a Council dinner and a visit to the home of the poet, Lord Byron, followed by a meal in a Japanese restaurant. The Nottingham MWF members made excellent arrangements including ferrying members by car to the various social events

Central Europe

Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Switzerland

Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus, Vice President Central Europe, Germany

I made it my business to constantly contact the national associations of my region, to forward relevant documents and to ask them for news of their country. At the moment of course I have had a great deal of contact with the German Medical Women's Association because of the preparations for the MWIA- Congress. With deep respect I can only say that they are doing a great job! I do hope that many colleagues from all over the world will participate in the MWIA Congress in Muenster and I can only repeat again and again that these international congresses of MWIA are an unforgettable event.

From 29- 31 Jan I took part in the EWL board meeting and we decided to deal with the topic of women's health, sexual and reproductive rights. The EWL now is preparing a position paper on women's health.

Furthermore together with Atsuko Heshiki, I represented MWIA at the Deutscher Ärztetag, which is the GA of the German Medical Association (German Medical Chamber) from 10 – 14 May.

Southern Europe

Belgium, France, Greece, Israel, Italy

Dr. Gwenaëlle M Vidal-Trécan, Vice President Southern Europe, France

Belgium

Contacts have been established with Professor Myriam Van Moffaert , past President of MWABe (2000/2001), past Vice President of MWIA Southern Europe , with Dr Christiane Pouliart , founder of the MWABe in 1989 , past President of this association (1989-1991) and past Vice President of MWIA Southern Europe and with Dr Agnès Vermeulen, President of MWIABe since 2007.

France

General Assembly and Executive Committee of AFFM: 2010.January 30th in Paris: No election in 2010 and no change in the Executive Committee.

The same day the annual congress was held on" Presentation and Treatment of Environmental Diseases "chaired by Professor Dominique Belpomme, a cancer specialist.

In 2010 as in 2007, 2008 and 2009, a computer formation for members of AFFM working in liberal practice is organized by Laurent Ephrati of Delphes Electronic and Dr Marie-Dominique Ghnassia (AFFM) with the financial support of FAFPM (Fonds d'Assurance Formation de la Profession Médicale).

National Great Cause for 2010: "Fight against Violence towards women": AFFM since 2009 is one of the 25 French Associations working as a group.

On March 8, 2010 for the 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day French President Nicolas Sarkozy met with the representatives of the Collective including Dr Cecile Renson AFFM President at the Elysée Palace.

Cecile Renson for March 8's celebration on PRATIS TV spoke about the difficult lives of Medical Women and the fight for their rights.

In April and May a spot made under the supervision of the Collective, focusing on indifference towards the violence against women, was aired several times on France Television and RFO stations.

On April 16th during the General Assembly of the French Women National Council (CNFF) Marie-Dominique Ghnassia has been reelected as a member of the executive Committee with the post of General Secretary.

On May 14th at the instigation of Shelley Ross a meeting was held in REGIMEDIA office in Saint Cloud near Paris where is located the administrative secretariat of AFFM. (Cf UPDATE June 2010)

On June 3rd Dr Marie-Noelle Mayer, President of the section PACA, organized a regional meeting in Avignon with the presence of Cecile Renson.

Doctor Eve Salomon-Saint Jean a neurologist of the Sleep Center of la Timone hospital in Marseille treated the subject: "All problematic on Sleep".

MWIA CONGRESS-SOUTHERN EUROPE:

2010 Friday November 19, Saturday November 20.

Saint James and Albany Hotel. 202 Rue de Rivoli . 75001 Paris

www.mwia-affm-2010.com

Greece

Anastasia Lympelopoulou, Secretary general of AFFM has relations with Dr Myrtia Sotiropoulou from Athens, MWIA National Coordinator and with Professor Alexandra Kalegoraki from Heraklion, President of the Medical Women Association of Greece. Alexandra Kalegoraki is a proposed candidate as VP Southern Europe for MWIA 2010-2013.

Israel

Dr Hava Tabenkin is in contact via e-mail with AFFM

Italy

Dr Ornella Capelli has been reelected as President of the Italian Association of Medical Women (AIDM) in November 2009. Dr Antonella Vezzani is the National Secretary. Dr Anna Falanga is the MWIA National Coordinator. They have sent to Dr Gwenaelle Vidal-Treccan VP Southern Europe a synthesis of 2009 AIDM activities (Cf UPDATE June 2010).

In February 2010 Dr Ornella Capelli met in Bari(CardioPneumo AIMF meeting) Dr Gwenaelle Vidal-Treccan who gave a conference on invitation about "Gender inequalities and health in the European Community : which strategies ?"

North America

Canada, United States of America

Dr. Shirley Hovan, Vice President North America, Canada

Canada

Dr. Lianne Lacroix represented MWIA at the Hope for the Nations Conference being held in April. It is organized by the United Nations-Canada NGO Informal Regional Network (IRENE). The purpose is to bring NGO's together to elevate the awareness of the Millennium Development Goals. A paper will be developed that will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council High Level Substantive Session of the UN.

The Federation of Medical Women of Canada in collaboration with the Canadian Women's Health Network, presented a WEBNAIR on April 29th. Presenters were Drs. Janet Dollin, Kathleen Gartke, Barbara Lent, and Cheryl Levitt. The presentation was entitled, Creating Climate Change for the Medical Workplace: Lessons on physician work-life balance from around the world. The presenters looked at international data in context with what we have learned in Canada to ensure healthy medical workplaces, to improve gender equity in the ranks and within leadership, and to build family-friendly workplaces within our institutions.

United States

2010 marks the 50th anniversary of the approval of the birth control pill by the US Food and Drug Administration. Within two years of its approval, 1.2 million American women were taking the pill every day. By 1964 the pill was the most popular contraceptive in the country, used by more than 6.5 million married women and untold numbers of unmarried women. But "the pill," as it quickly came to be known, was more than simply a convenient and reliable method to prevent pregnancy. For its advocates, developers, manufacturers and users, the pill promised to solve the problems of the world.

Dr. Omega Silva was awarded the foremother Award of the National Research Center for Women and Families. Dr. Silva's accomplishments are many, including first woman president of the Howard University Medical Alumni Association, the first African-American to be awarded a clinical investigatorship in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the second African American president of the American Medical Women's Association, founder of the International Women in Medicine Hall of Fame and winner of the Bertha Van Hoosen Award. Her long-time advocacy for universal health care and her committed support of women in medicine are well known. She was the second African-American woman to be honoured with a Mastership in the American College of Physicians.

AMWA is launching the task force on women in conjunction with STOP Obesity Alliance, which is a collaboration of organizations joined together to take a closer look at the disproportionate grip obesity and chronic disease has on women in the United States.

Latin America

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru

Dr. Ruth Guillen de Maldonado, Vice President Latin America, Bolivia

The Medical Women of Ecuador are hosting the Pan American Medical Women's Association in Guayaquil, Ecuador on October 27-31, 2010. Guayaquil is only an hour plane ride from the Galapagos Islands. The venue is the Grand Hotel Guayaquil (contact www.grandhotelguayaquil.com).

Near East and Africa

Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia

Dr. Frida Kazembe, Vice President Near East and Africa, Zambia

WHO is gathering members who having been working on the cervical cancer initiative to write the findings of their meeting last year. MWIA was represented by Dr. Kazembe.

Central Asia

India, Thailand

India

The Association of Medical Women in India will be presenting the Jhirad Oration plaque at the congress in Munster.

Western Pacific

Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, New Zealand, Philippines, Taiwan (ROC)

Dr. Winnie Yang, Vice President Western Pacific, Taiwan (ROC)

Australia

The Association of Medical Women in Australia did a project entitled, " Bridging Leadership Barriers." This strengthened women's voices and representation in existing national, academic and health networks. Key aspects of this government grant included development of a leadership portal, leadership training, website development and skills training for medical women.

Hong Kong

1st Chinese Women Doctors' Association Annual General Meeting, Beijing

The 1st AGM of Chinese Women Doctor's Association was held on 15 - 17 April 2010 in Beijing Convention Center. The meeting was attended by over 1000 women health care workers from all parts of China. Dr Cissy Yu (President of HKWDA), Dr KS Chan (Vice-president of HKWDA) and several members attended the meeting. Dr KS Chan presented a paper on "*A retrospective study to review the clinical significance of atypical glandular cells detected on cervical smear*" which was very well received by local delegates.

China Medical Women's Association Outstanding Contribution Award

Professor Grace Tang (President of Hong Kong Academy of Medicine and Former Dean, Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong) was awarded the "China Medical Women's Association Outstanding Contribution Award". This prestigious award is awarded to Chinese women doctors who have significant contributions to the profession in the past years. This year, 20 Chinese women doctors were awarded this award and we are very proud that HKWDA honorary adviser Professor Grace Tang was elected as one of them.

Easter Project in Sichuan (Butuo), China

During the Easter holidays (1 April – 6 April 2010), 4 Obstetrics and Gynaecology specialists and 2 medical students joined this community service project in Sichuan, China. We shared our experience with local doctors and provided medical service and children health check for villagers. Our members and medical students found the trip very rewarding.

Ripple action

Ripple Action, as mentioned in previous Newsletter updates, is a collaborative effort of several women professional groups including doctors, nurses, lawyers and accountants in providing community service to under privileged women in Hong Kong. On 5 June 2010, we shall visit Barnabas Christian Service Lamma Island centre which is a drug rehabilitation centre for women addicts. We shall have singing and sharing sessions with residents in the centre. On 3 July 2010, we shall visit another area in Hong Kong (Kwun Tong) to provide free cervical screening and psychiatric assessment for local women.

5. REPORT FROM NEW YORK UN REPRESENTATIVES

Dr. Satty Gill Keswani and Dr. Padmini Murthy MWIA NGO Reps to the UN

Drs. Keswani and Murthy are charged with the duty of attending weekly briefings by the DPI at the main UN head quarters. In addition, recent activities have included representing MWIA at the Millennium Development goals civil society briefings at the UN, organizing a workshop for the DPINGO conference in Melbourne and working on the women's health task force to the NGO Committee on the Status of Women Committee.

6. CALENDAR OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MWIA AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS - CONGRESSES AND MEETINGS

2010

1. **July 28-31, 2010** The Residence in Munster, Germany
28th International Congress of MWIA
Globalization in Medicine: Challenges and Opportunities
www.mwia2010.net
2. September 30-October 2, 2010
Macedonia Medical Association
www.zeva.w.mk/<http://www.zeva.w.mk>
nachamed@t-home.mk, lkm@lkm.org.mk
3. **September 20-24, 2010** – Berlin, Germany
EUGIM Margherita von Brentano Summer School 2010 on
Gender Medicine
<http://gender.charite.de/under> current issues
4. **September 25-26, 2010** – Toronto, Canada
The Many Faces of Medical Women
AGM for Federation of Medical Women of Canada
fmwcmain@fmwc.ca
5. **October 13-16, 2010** Vancouver, Canada
World Medical Association Meeting
www.wma.net
6. **October 27-31, 2010** - Guayaquil, Ecuador
Pan American Medical Women's Association meeting
www.grandhotelguayaquil.com
7. **November 12-13, 2010** - London, UK
Medical Women's Federation Autumn Meeting
Grand Connaught Rooms
www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk
8. **November 19-20, 2010** Paris, France
Southern European Regional Meeting of MWIA
<http://affm.affinitesante.com>
9. **November 30-December 3, 2010** – Tel Aviv, Israel
5th International Conference on Gender Medicine
www.igm2010.com

2011

1. **May 19-21, 2011**, Breukelen, The Netherlands
Regional Meeting of the Northern European Region

vnv@mail@vnva.nl

2. **May 26- 29 , 2011** Tokyo, Japan
Western Pacific Regional Meeting
Keio Plaza Hotel, Tokyo, Japan
<http://www.jade.dti.ne.jp/jmwa>

7. NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

With the relocation of the Secretariat, this is an excellent time for all the national associations and individual members to update their contact information. Please send to the Secretariat at secretariat@mwia.net the following:

1. The name of your President and National Coordinator with mailing and email addresses, phone and fax numbers
2. The website of your national association. You will find below a list of websites for the national associations. Please update the information.

Websites of National Associations

Austria	www.aerztinnenbund.at
Australia	http://www.afmw.org.au
Belgium	http://www.mwab.be
Canada	http://www.fmwc.ca
Denmark	http://www.quindoc.dk
Finland	http://www.suomennaislaakariyhdistys.com
France	http://affm.affinitesante.com
Georgia	http://www.gmwa.org.ge
Germany	http://www.aerztinnenbund.de
Hong Kong	www.hkwda.com
Iceland	http://www.fkli.is
Italy	http://www.donnemedico.org
Japan	http://www.jade.dti.ne.jp/jmwa
Kenya	kenyamewa@gmail.com
Korea	http://www.kmwa.org or www.kmwa.or.kr
Mongolia	gerontocenter@mongol.net
Nigeria	www.mwannational.org
Sweden	www.kvinnligalakare.se
Switzerland	http:// www.medicalwomen.ch
Tanzania	www.mewata.org
The Netherlands	vnv@mail@vnva.nl
Uganda	http://www.auwmd.org
United Kingdom	http://www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk
United States of America	http://www.amwa-doc.org

8. Formation of the Special Interest Group for Young Doctors and Medical Students

Please remember that MWIA has a Special Interest Group for Young Doctors and

Medical Students. **Please nominate a young woman under the age of 40 to represent your country at the MWIA International Congress in Munster in July, 2010.**

The committee contacts are through the Secretariat and are:

Chairperson: Dr. Inke Doench, Germany

Vice chair: Dr. Adjoa Duker, USA

Secretary: Dr. Jane Mba, Nigeria.

9. Donations and Bequests

In addition to paying your dues on time and in full, please consider MWIA at the time of year when you make charitable donations and when you are updating your will. We have had a number of such donations over the years and are happy to publicly acknowledge your contribution if you wish to make a bequest or donation.

10. 28th MWIA Congress in Munster, Germany

July 28 to 31, 2010.

The theme is Globalisation in Medicine: Challenges and Opportunities

Please mark your calendar for the 28th MWIA International Congress in Munster, Germany from July 28-31, 2010. The website is available for registration at www.mwia2010.net.

The theme is Globalization in Medicine: Challenges and Opportunities.

The **sub themes** are:

nutrition (lifestyle diseases, over- and under- and mal-nutrition)

addiction (drugs, alcohol, etc., internet and gambling addiction, etc.)

epidemic plagues (both communicable eg. AIDS, Malaria, TB, HPV and non-communicable eg diabetes, heart disease)

gender strategies (leadership, gender mainstreaming, empowerment, gender based violence, adolescent sexuality)

primary health care

Social events include the **Get-together evening** at 1800 hours on the 27th of July. It will be in the "Regierungspräsidium", the regional government of Münster.

The Conference Gala evening will be held in "**Bröker's Speicher No. 10**," formerly used as a bakery to cater for the German Armed Forces during World War II. This is why the building was not destroyed by the allies and remained in its former glory.

11. Names in the News

Dr. Cheryl Levitt of Canada was awarded the WONCA Fellowship, the most prestigious award bestowed on individuals who have rendered outstanding service to WONCA.

Dr. Omega Silva was awarded the foremother Award of the National Research Center for Women and Families.

Dr. Gunilla Sjolín-Forsberg has been appointed Secretary-General of CIOMS (Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences)

Dr. Jean Swenerton was recently honoured with a Canadian Medical Association Honorary Member award for her work in women's health.

Dr. Linda Warren was recently honoured with a British Columbia Medical Association Silver Medical of Service for her outstanding service to the women of British Columbia in starting and maintaining a screening mammography program.

Dr. Ruth Wilson of Canada has been awarded the WONCA 5 STAR DOCTOR Award, conferred on those who have made a significant impact on the health of individuals and communities.

Dr. Winnie Yang, Vice President for Western Pacific, is being promoted to Superintendent of the Taipei Municipal Yang Ming Hospital, a 500 bed teaching hospital, and clinical professor of the National Yang Ming University

12. Books

Dr. Lucy Candib, an MWIA member from the USA, has edited a book entitled, **Woman-Centered Care in Pregnancy and Childbirth**. Another MWIA member, Dr. Wendy Savage from the UK has provided a foreword. For a 20% discount, follow the link below and put in the code EFSC210 to get the discount. <http://www.radcliffe-oxford.com/books/bookdetail.aspx?ISBN=1846191610>

Kimberly Jensen, a professor of history and gender studies at Western Oregon University, published a book entitled, "Mobilizing Minerva, American Women in the First World War." She pictures Dr. Esther Pohl Lovejoy on the front cover and speaks of the American Women's Hospital Services. ISBN 978-0-252-07496-7. Contact mroux@uillinois.edu to purchase.

Kimberly Jensen, features the Medical Women's International Association's Geneva Meeting on the front cover in her new book, entitled: "Women and Transnational Activism in Historical Perspective." ISBN13 978-90-8979-038-5

Dr. Padmini Murthy of the School of Public Health at NY Medical College in Valhalla, NY, has published her book, **Women's Global Health and Human Rights**. ISBN number is 978-0-7637-5631-4.

Physicians Health Program of British Columbia, Canada has published “Medicine and Motherhood—Can We Talk?” It can be reproduced from <http://www.physicianhealth.com/medicineandmotherhood>

Dr. Dorothy Ward, former President of MWIA from Scotland has written a book, entitled “History of MWIA.” This long-awaited book will be available for sale at the MWIA Conference in Munster.

WHO in Europe, tells the story of the WHO Regional Office for Europe from its beginnings to 2010. It covers five WHO regional directors for Europe along with the hundreds of programs and policies they helped create and carry out. For more information and to order, visit http://www.euro.who.int/InformationSourcesPublications/Catalogue/20100122_2

II. ORGANIZATIONS

1. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

a. Dr. Shafika Nasser, National Coordinator for Egypt, and Dr. Shelley Ross represented MWIA at the **World Health Assembly** in Geneva Switzerland May 16-21, 2010. WHO’s Director General, Dr. Margaret Chan, unveiled a statue commemorating 30 years since the eradication of smallpox. A code of practice for on the international recruitment of health personnel was accepted, as well as a breakthrough global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol. The guest speaker was President Sirleaf of Liberia. She noted that after 14 years of war, Liberia has made significant progress towards rebuilding the country's health system and reaching the Millennium Development Goals.

b. MWIA was pleased to review and be an original signatory to the **WHO Department of Reproductive Health paper on Global Strategy to Stop health-care providers from performing Female Genital Mutilation**. The link can be found at http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/fgm/rhr_10_9/en/index.html

c. **The Department of Gender Women and Health** is field testing its latest modules on gender and clinical practice and gender and working with men in India and MWIA has submitted names of those who could participate.

d. **WHO Patient Safety**

Following the success of their safe surgery checklist, WHO Patient Safety is working on a Safe Childbirth Checklist and a Trauma Checklist.

2. UNITED NATIONS

a. The UN has this past week established the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, to be known as UN Women. UN Women will be a dynamic and strong champion for women and girls around the world, providing them with a powerful voice at the global, regional and local levels. UN Women will unite the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), the office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues (OSAGI), and the UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW). The new body will have two main roles: to support inter-governmental bodies to formulate policies, and to assist Member States implement these standards and forge partnerships with civil society. UN Women will also hold the world accountable for its own gender equality commitments, the Deputy Secretary-General said.

b. UN Member States will again come together this September in New York for an ‘**MDG Summit**’ (High-level Plenary Meeting), with the primary objective of accelerating progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, taking into account the progress made towards the internationally agreed development goals. As a part of the process leading to the summit, the General Assembly held ‘**Hearings**’ with **representatives of civil society** and the private sector from 14-15 June. The outcomes of these hearings will be integrated into discussions at the summit and the outcome document. Dr. Satty Gill Keswani and Dr. Mini Murthy represented MWIA at these hearings.

With an aim of keeping interested civil society stakeholders informed on the latest developments related to the summit process, the UN Millennium Campaign and the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS) have launched a **dedicated website**: www.un-ngls.org/mdg2010

This website will report on all the latest developments related to the summit, give voice to perspectives from civil society and provide information on how to be engaged in the summit process. 189 world leaders made an historic promise at the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000 when they signed onto the Millennium Declaration and agreed to meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. This summit offers an opportunity for citizens to let their leaders know that they expect them to deliver on these promises and that they expect them to come to this meeting ready to clearly spell out exactly how they plan to do this.

c. UN NGO **Informal Regional Network (IRENE)** had a Canadian meeting in Kelowna, British Columbia, April 23-24, 2010, which was attended by Dr. Lianne Lacroix. The objective was to gather various NGO’s to brainstorm in order to produce a paper on Gender Equity for the UN Economic and Social Council.

d. DPINGO (Department of Public Information NGO section)

This year, the 63rd Annual DPI/NGO Conference will be held in Melbourne, Australia, August 30 to September 1, 2010. The general theme is *Advance Global Health—Achieve the MDG’s*. Dr. Padmini Murthy is on the Planning Committee. MWIA will be well represented by Dr. Murthy and several Australian physicians, namely Dr. Gabrielle

Casper, Dr. Desiree Yap, Dr. Susie Close, Dr. Raie Goodwach, Dr. Magdalena Simonis, Dr. Jo Wainer and two medical students, Ashleigh Smith and Madhura Naidu.

We are pleased to have as co-sponsors: the Australian Federation of Medical Women, the International Society of Doctors for the Environment, the Australian Women's Coalition, the Australian Women's Health Network, the Public Health Association of Australia, and Physicians for Social Responsibility, and the Women's Electoral Lobby. MWIA is honoured that **our workshop, "Incorporating gender into health care and its effect on global health and achievement of the MDG's,"** has been accepted.

3. CIOMS (Council For International Organizations Of Medical Sciences)

Notification from Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus, VP of MWIA Central Europe Region and VP of CIOMS

A distinguished Swedish medical scientist has been appointed as the new Secretary General of CIOMS. And? She is a woman! She is specialist in Dermatology and venereology, specialist in Clinical Pharmacology, currently Head, Department of Drug Safety, Medical Products Agency, Uppsala, Sweden. Her name is **Gunilla Sjölin-Forsberg**, married, Swedish Citizen. MWIA would like to send congratulations and best wishes to Gunilla for luck and success in the future.

The Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences provides an international, multidisciplinary forum to study the impact on society of progress in the biomedical sciences and its implications in such fields as bioethics, health policy, medical education, and health services research.

Its main fields of activity in the last few decades have been:

- to conduct across professional and political boundaries an international dialogue on ethics and human values in relation to health policy;
- to pursue means of representing human values, equity and ethics in the health policies and practices of different cultures and countries
- to develop internationally harmonized terminology
- to promote international monitoring of medical product safety.

4. WOMEN DELIVER CONFERENCE

The message from the June *Women Deliver* Conference held in Washington, DC was that women deliver enormous social and economic benefits for their families, communities, and nations. Investing to improve maternal health and save women's lives—and achieve Millennium Development Goal 5—is the right thing to do. It is also sound economics.

Women's well-being determines a country's well-being:

- Women drive economic development: they operate the majority of small businesses and farms in developing countries
- Women's work makes everyone more productive: more of their income goes for food, medicine, education, and other family needs

- Women contribute to economic growth: their unpaid work at home and on the farm equals about 1/3 of world GDP
- When women survive, families thrive

Maternal deaths are preventable.

There is global consensus on these maternal cost-effective solutions:

- Family planning programs
- Skilled care for mothers and newborns before, during, and after childbirth, including emergency obstetric care
- Safe abortion, when and where legal

Delivering these solutions requires that we:

- Prioritize young people
- Strengthen national health systems that deliver for women
- Advance and protect human rights for girls and women

www.womendeliver.org

5. WONCA WOMEN

WONCA met in Cancun, Mexico in May. The WONCA Women should be congratulated for getting changes in the bylaws that endorse gender equity standards for meetings. This means that every WONCA committee has at least 25% of its membership as women. Acceptance by the Wonca Executive of the Ten Gender Equity Standards for Wonca scientific meetings was the other major achievement of the WWPWFM. Visit www.womenandfamilymedicine.com

6. INSTITUTE OF GENDER IN MEDICINE (GiM) in Berlin, Charité-Universitätsmedizin, is proud to announce its first Summer School on Gender Medicine to be organized together with all partners of our EUGIM (European Curriculum Gender In Medicine) project. This includes the universities in Budapest, Innsbruck, Maastricht, Nijmegen, Sassari and Stockholm. For more information please refer to our website http://gender.charite.de/en/education/eugim/eugim_summer_school/.

7. WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The World Medical Association will meet in Vancouver in October, 2010, with the president being Dr. Dana Hanson from Canada.

8. EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY -- Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus

Dr. Diekhaus represented MWIA at the European Women's Lobby in Madrid, Spain. Here is information from this 20th anniversary meeting, entitled Practising Feminism in the 21st Century.

In the context of the celebrations of the European Women's Lobby's 20th anniversary, the EWL Annual Conference 2010, held in Madrid on 11 June, saw a vibrant and inspiring debate between EWL members and women's rights supporters with various backgrounds and approaches to 'Feminism in the 21st Century'. Generously hosted by the Spanish Ministry for Equality, the event welcomed as speakers prominent activists, academics,

policy-makers and experts to present the diversity of feminist activism throughout Europe.

The panelists addressed issues as diverse as the impact of modern media and business interests on women's perceptions of body images and experiences of well-being (Susie Orbach), the importance of accepting and expressing diversity (Rosa Valls) and how to shape public policy to effectively combat violence against women and promote equality (Laura Seara).

Highlighting the complementarities of the feminisms they practice, the passionate appeal presented by psychoanalyst, author and campaigner, [Susie Orbach](#), for young women to 'dare to accept how lovely you are' was concretely reflected in the grass-roots mobilization against 'lads mags' presented by Kat Banyard from [UK Feminista](#). These actions, along with those of French group '[La Barbe](#)' very publicly showing up 'old-boys networks', portray a sassy and tongue-in-cheek feminism, confident in front of the camera and the computer keyboard. There is no lack of imagination and dynamism in the feminism of Rebecca Gomperts either. From '[Women on Waves](#)' to '[Women on Web](#)', Rebecca has recently taken her mission to prevent unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions into the virtual world.

As the EWL enters into its third decade of activism and advocacy, these women are an inspiration to us all. The vitality and richness of their diverse contributions to the cause of women's rights and gender equality in Europe today demonstrates how feminism today is very much a living concept.

Brigitte Triems from Berlin, representing the German Women's Council, was re-elected as President.

9. **WIDOWS RIGHTS INTERNATIONAL** was informed by the International Museum of Women their work was recently in their latest exhibition, *Economica: Women and the Global Economy*. The International Museum of Women (I.M.O.W.) is a groundbreaking social change museum that inspires global action, connects people across borders and transforms hearts and minds. The mission of I.M.O.W. is to value the lives of women around the world. Learn more at www.imow.org. WRI is featured in the "Take Action" section of the *Economica* website and the link to where we are highlighted <http://www.imow.org/economica/stories/viewStory?storyid=3685>

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Let me take this opportunity to encourage you to attend the 28th Congress in Munster, Germany, in July, 2010. Visit the website at www.mwia2010.net. If you have never attended a MWIA International Congress, you have not experienced the camaraderie that goes beyond usual scientific meetings. Friends are made that will last a lifetime. Please join us!

The next Update will be published in September, 2010.

Please send us your reports, comments or any other interesting information by August 31, 2010 at the latest. We are always interested to put your name and your accomplishments in the Update.

Letters to the editor are always welcome.