

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MWIA



Update

No. 32 December 2007

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MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION



1. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Atsuko Heshiki, Japan

More About Participation, Communication and Visibility

Since the first Executive Committee meeting in Ghana, I was able to get acquainted with two Vice Presidents, who were unable to join the rest of the executive in Ghana. I have been in e-mail communication with the Vice President for Latin America, Dr. Ruth Guillén de Maldonado from Bolivia. I met the Vice President for Southern Europe, Dr. Gwenaelle Vidal-Trecan from France in Rom in November at her first regional meeting. Both will be strong Vice Presidents, just like rest of the Vice Presidents.

Under the guidance of an experienced Secretary-General, Dr. Shelley Ross, several project committees have already begun working and the chairs have laid out the agenda.

Participation: If you are interested in joining a project group, please let your vice president and the Secretariat know. Details about the projects are found later in the Update.

I had the opportunity to attend the South European Congress of MWIA in Rome, November 16th to November 18th, 2007. The congress was organized by IADM (Associazione Italiana Donne Medico). The main theme was Women's Health, The Present and The Future. The conference was well attended from all over Italy. Non-Italians attendees were Dr. Gwenaelle Vidal-Trecan, Vice President for Southern Europe, Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus, Vice President for Central Europe, representatives from France and Belgium, fifteen members from Georgia and two from Ecuador. The highlight of the congress was having the Minister of Health, who is non-medical, join the symposium dealing with immigrant and women's health. In addition, Her Excellency, the Minster of Health expressed her help to IADM.

Communication! If you have local, regional or national meetings, please communicate both with the Secretariat so that others members can be aware of the meetings and secondly with the press so that the meeting can make the press and other modes of communication.

Visibility! I was interviewed by the European Society of Radiology about the working conditions of women radiologists. The person in charge was pleased to receive first-hand information and she will acknowledge MWIA when it published. If you are doing work on leadership for medical women, please keep MWIA informed, so that information can be shared with the membership.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank Drs. Keswani and Murthy for representing MWIA at the UN and Drs. Elizabeta Dulic, Elisabeth Blocklinger, Claudia Landerer and Corinne Bretscher-Dutoit for representing MWIA at WHO, Geneva, and Dr. Iris Habitzel for representing MWIA in Vienna.

I wish you all a peaceful Holiday Season and a happy New Year.

2. REQUESTS FROM THE SECRETARY- GENERAL

Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada

It has now been four months since our congress in Ghana and it has been a busy time for the members of MWIA. Later in the Update, you will hear word of various meetings where MWIA has been represented.

The projects are up and running, but there is still opportunity to join projects or committees. Please email me if you have a particular area where you would like to serve MWIA.

2008 holds the opportunity to meet colleagues at various regional meetings. In addition, please mark your calendar now for the 28th MWIA International Congress in Munster, Germany, which will be held July 27-31, 2010.

Please remember that although the vice presidents send news of their regions to the Updates, any member is welcome to send me information that they would like included.

The Commission on the Status of Women will be held in New York from February 25 to March 7, 2008. If you wish to attend, please let me know as I must register you before the 28th of December. Please note that all expenses are self-paid.

Similarly, if you wish to attend the World Health Assembly of WHO in Geneva, which is being held May 18-28, 2008, please let me know.

Would each national coordinator please send me their up-to-date contact information and also for the national president. Please include address, phone, FAX and e-mail.

The contact information for the new Secretariat is:

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7555 Morley Drive
Burnaby, B.C., V5E 3Y2, CANADA
Phone +1 604 439-8993
FAX +1 604 439-8994
e-mail: secretariat@mwia.net
website: www.mwia.net

3. ABOUT THE WEBSITE FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

Dr. Gabrielle Casper, Australia

At the first executive meeting after the congress in Ghana, our President, Atsuko Heshiki, asked me to take a leading role in the development of the web site – this should be one of the best roles in our organization!! The web is such a powerful medium to educate, inform and excite discussion – and who would do better than women doctors to undertake this challenge.

I have always wondered how many doctors read the update and to give me a guide please email or fax the secretariat and just write – read update. If there are not many replies, then we certainly should re-examine whether this is good medium or perhaps ought to trial others.

Our Secretary General Shelley Ross is at present changing the provider for our web site so it may be managed in Canada and then it should be very easy to update regularly. Please take a few minutes to look at our current web site and check that your national organization's information is up to date and let us know any issues you would like highlighted or send in material you feel is relevant. One of the areas specific to our needs is certainly the area under "issues for women doctors" and we would greatly appreciate any information you feel may assist our members in this area.

I would like to send you my best wishes for the new year and look forward to reading material you send in.

4. GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

Dr. Afua Hesse, Ghana

I am co-chairing the project on gender based violence with Dr. Gail Beck. This committee welcomes new members and invites all national associations to send names of persons who would be interested in working on the Committee to the Secretariat.

The 16 day period of activism for Violence Against Women is commemorated worldwide with various activities. When in South Africa, I saw a display of t-shirts hanging on a line and each of them carried a message from a victim or survivor of violence. The messages were from a variety of sources: some on behalf of women who had died, some from women still in abusive relationships who were still not able to leave for various reasons and some from children who were witnesses of violence.

I was particularly moved by a message written by friends of a woman who had died as a result of her beatings. It read, "I had 139 beatings and only once did I get flowers". This referred to the flowers that were placed on her grave!!

Women's rights are human rights and we must reaffirm this constantly.

5. ABOUT THE DUES FROM THE TREASURER

Dr. Gail Beck, Canada

As the New Year approaches, I want to remind members and their National Associations that MWIA needs you to pay your dues promptly.

The amount of dues is set at 8 Swiss francs per member in a National Association. Because of the fluctuation in the US dollar, those member associations wishing to pay in US dollars shall calculate their dues based on an amount of 8 US dollars per member.

We would also accept payment in Canadian dollars at the rate of 8 Canadian dollars per member.

By the same token, the dues for an individual member are 20 Swiss francs per year. While we have not done so in the past, an individual member who wishes to pay her dues in US or Canadian dollars can do so at the rate of 20 US or Canadian dollars for the 2007/2008 term.

Those wishing to pay in US dollars can send their dues to the Secretariat's account in Vancouver, Canada. Please contact the Secretariat at secretariat@mwia.net for the address and Swift Code.

This is a time of year when we think of friends and family. I want to wish you all the best for 2008. I hope to see as many of you as possible in the coming year.

6. LETTER FROM THE FINANCE CHAIR

Dr. Kyung Ah Park, Korea

MWIA would like to know the names of its country members. Could I please ask you to send the list the names of your members to the Secretariat when you pay your dues each year?

7. 2007-2010 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Dr. Atsuko Heshiki from Japan
Secretary-General	Dr. Shelley Ross from Canada
Immediate Past President	Dr. Gabrielle Casper, Australia
President-Elect	Dr. Afua Hesse from Ghana
Treasurer	Dr. Gail Beck from Canada
Finance Chair	Dr. Kyung Ah Park from Korea
Vice Presidents:	
Northern Europe	Dr. Olof Sigurdardottir from Iceland
Central Europe	Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus from Germany
Southern Europe	Dr. Gwenaelle Vidal-Trecan from France
North America	Dr. Shirley Hovan from Canada
Latin America	Dr. Ruth Guillen de Maldonado from Bolivia

Central Asia	Dr. Manju Mataliya from India
Near East & Africa	Dr. Frida Kazembe from Zambia
Western Pacific	Dr. Winnie Yang from Taiwan (ROC)
Chair of Finance	Dr. Kyung Ah Park from Korea
Chair Ethics and Resolutions	Dr. Shirley Hovan from Canada
Chair Scientific and Research	Dr. Olof Sigurdardottir from Iceland

MWIA's Representatives at the UN and WHO
 United Nations and Department of Public Information in New York
 Dr. Satty Gill Keswani
 Dr. Mini Murty

World Health Organization in Geneva
 Dr. Corinne Bretscher
 Dr. Elizabeta Dulic
 Dr. Elisabeth Blocklinger
 Dr. Claudia Landerer

United Nations in Vienna
 Dr. Iris Habitzel

8. 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

Denmark

The Danish Medical Women have printed information about the 90th anniversary of the Medical Women's Federation and about the Ghana congress in their newsletter in Danish.

Finland

The Finnish Medical Women are concentrating on networking for medical women. Their new website is <http://www.suomennaislaakariyhdistys.com>.

Iceland

Dr. Lilja Sigrun Jondottir is the new chairperson of the association.

Sweden

The Swedish Medical Women continue to work for fair wage compensation. They had a symposium November 28-30, 2007, on the topic of salaries received by medical women versus the male competition.

Plans are underway for the Northern European Congress in Malmo in September, 2008. In the spring, they have planned a meeting regarding women and violence.

The Netherlands

The medical women of The Netherlands have been concentrating on empowering leadership qualities in women, enlarging the share of women in decision-making positions, normalizing and making working hours more flexible, arranging payment / compensation / replacement during pregnancy leave, arranging pre- and post- school nurseries and looking at a code of conduct for medical doctors for cosmetic intervention (labia minor reductions etc).

United Kingdom—Dr. Dorothy Ward reports on the Medical Women’s Federation

The MWF celebrated their 90th Anniversary in style. On 1st November, 2007, we had a celebration dinner in the Apothecaries Hall in London – where the original medical “degrees” were given – a place resounding with medical history. Her Royal Highness, the Duchess of Gloucester, our patron, joined the celebrations as our guest and a former female Minister of Health gave the official address.

On the following day a very successful symposium was held in the Royal College of Gynaecologists & Obstetricians. The topic discussed was *90 Years and beyond Programme*. The first speaker was The Rt.Hon. Baroness Butler Sloss, who had been a High Court Judge and President of the Family Division and now sat in the House of Lords. She gave an interesting account of her rise through the Judiciary over 40 years. The final presentation was given by Prof. Gordon Williams - *A Holistic Approach in the Management of Vesico-vaginal Fistula in Ethiopian Women*. The Duchess of Gloucester gave the concluding remarks and presented the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Prize for the best Abstract Presentation to Dr Judy King (*Impact of Medical training*) and for the best Poster to Ms Mili Gupta, a medical student (*Quantifying Menstrual Blood Loss*).

MWF has also taken a great interest in migrant women doctors who have sought a new life in UK. Employment and retraining for them has not been easy but senior members of MWF do assist these doctors – often indirectly

“Medical Woman”, the Bulletin of the Federation, is published quarterly under the able editorship of Amanda Owen. The winter edition carries information about the 27th MWIA in Ghana and gives information about the Northern Regional Congress and the International Congress in 2010

MWF has responded to various discussion papers from Governments and other medical associations. MWF is continuing to improve the position of and to encourage medical women to be involved in academic medicine.

Central Europe

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

Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus, Vice President Central Europe, Germany

Austria

The Central European Regional Meeting will be held in Vienna in 2009, with the date not yet decided.

Dr. Inke Doench writes: The Austrian Women Doctors Association invited me to join their congress in Vienna on November 24, 2007.

The program began with an introduction of the local association. Dr. Iris Habitzel gave a short overview about the history and aims of MWIA, followed by the president of the Austrian Women Doctors, Dr. Edith Schratzberger, who gave a report about the congress of MWIA in Ghana 2007.

The scientific program was divided into two parts. The first part was titled: Hierarchies in medicine. The referee, Mrs. Bauer-Jelinek, gave an impressive lecture and workshop about women in hierarchies and how women can learn to play along the rules to improve one's career. Women behave different in hierarchies and Mrs. Bauer-Jelinek gave loads of examples and good suggestions how to survive in the medical system and how to climb the ladder by clever negotiation.

The second part de about the new breast cancer screening in Austria and the benefits of the mammogram. Prof. Dr. Susanne Taucher, director of the breast cancer center in Vienna, gave an overview about new forms of diagnostic and treatment of breast cancer. The psychotherapist and radio-oncologist, Dr. Tilli Egge,r explained in her wonderful and touching speech the aspects of psycho-oncology and how women feel and react when being confronted with breast cancer.

The whole day was informative, interesting and it was a great pleasure to meet old friends from Ghana. A full success! Thank you!

Czech Republic

Communication from Dr. Nada Kocnarova of the Czech Republic

Personal situation, situation of medical women in the Czech Republic, main problems for medical women.

There are several reasons why women are not in positions of leadership. Until now, women physicians have placed family responsibilities ahead of career advancement. In addition, the men make the decisions about appointments to higher posts and have felt women did not have the ability to lead. Unlike previous generations, there are now more medical women who elect not to have children and want to have career advancement. There are 10% of women among professors, 20 % among senior lecturers, less than half among assistents. But women are the majority in educational work. In many facilities, all the working physicians are women but the unit is run by a man.

On a personal note, in my generation, medical women between the age of 40 – 60 began running their own private surgeries and took over different responsibilities and roles. Being all at one time a private doctor, manager, accountant, employer of nurses and other auxiliary labours and trying to balance the role of mother, wife and household

managerkeeping person, while making sure they kept up their continuing medical education made life very demanding.

Germany

The German Women Doctors Association held their scientific congress in Regensburg in September. The theme was Quality of life: reality and claim. The scientific program covered many different aspects of quality of life in medicine such as plastic-reconstructive surgery and its psychological and psychiatric backgrounds, life-style pharmacology, and depression and burn out in women. Lectures were held about incontinence, its diagnosis, treatment and life quality before and after an operation.

Because in Germany eating disorders are a big challenge in medicine one morning was dedicated to this subject. Two thirds of female youngsters under the age of 18 have tried more than 3 diets and even more do not feel pretty with their current weight. In Germany 220.000 young women suffer from anorexia and bulimia. On the other hand many people are overweight.

During the congress we held a meeting with the members of the special interest group for young women doctors and medical students in Germany and I introduced our new interest group for young female doctors and medical students. They are very enthusiastic to help to organize a day for young doctors in Munster 2010.

The subject for our next German meeting will be how to improve the professional training after university for young female doctors and we will try to produce a leaflet to provide assistance during the five years of further training.

Switzerland

The Swiss Medical Women had a successful national meeting this fall.

Southern Europe

Belgium, France, Greece, Israel, Italy

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

I am glad to display active news from South Europe. Recently I had the pleasure to meet in Roma Professor Atsuko Heshiki from Japan, our president, Doctor Waltraud Diekhaus from Germany, vice president of central Europe, my predecessors at the vice president of South Europe, Doctors Marcella Sava Borgström from Italia and Myriam van Moffaert from Belgium, the former vice president for Central Europe, Doctor Nino Zhvania from Georgia, Doctor Claudia di Nicola, Honorary President of the Associazione Italiana Donne Medico, Doctor Ornella Cappelli, President of this association, Doctor Anna Fallanga, national coordinator for the MWIA. In Paris, previously, I had met Doctor Shelley Ross, secretary-general.

My contribution in the Roma Congress allowed benefiting to getting in touch with all these women doctors. I congratulate the Italian association for having organized a meeting so successful and I acknowledge Doctor Anna Falanga for having so quickly made a report of this congress.

Belgium

Dr. Lydie Schumacher reported on the 15th congress of the Belgian Medical Women. It was held in Brussels on November 15th. The topic was: "Stem Cells and Women's Health". Practical, ethical, psychological and legal aspects have been shown and discussed. Drs Agnès Vermeulen and Fabienne Liebens were the organizers. Dr Marie-Joseph Chopin honorary president of AFFM was present and has much appreciated the high level of the meeting.

France

Doctor Shelley Ross staying for a few days in Paris invited our president, Doctor Marie Dominique Ghnassia and me to share a breakfast on October 17th. It was really nice to meet her. Many thanks to Shelley to have managed to meet us. This allowed talking about our respective concerns regarding women and children health and women doctors.

- Our quarterly journal HYGIE n° 35 was published. It includes the letter mailed to the South Europe members of the MWIA translated in English, Greek, Hebrew, and Italian. What we have never done before. We will try to engage further in other translations to provide news from the MWIA translated in these languages. Furthermore, we will send it on a regular basis to the national associations and to individual members of European countries.

On October 5th, we organized in Paris the first meeting addressing our great cause 2007/2009. The speakers reported the available ways to answer issues of concerns regarding our increasing population of elderly in the Parisian region: home care, hospital, and day care in hospital...

On November 20th, an ADIAM seminar directed to healthcare workers for home care was organized. Three other seminars will take place in 2008. The AFFM is involved as a partner in these seminars of continued education and discussions.

MD Ghnassia was elected member of the committee of the National council of French Women (CNFF). The CNFF founded in 1901 regroups women associations. We will ask MD Ghnassia to explain more on this council in further updates.

Greece

Dr Anasthasie Lympelopoulou, AFFM secretary-general, called on the phone when she was staying recently in Athena, Drs Alexandra Kalogeraki, president of the Greek Association of women doctors, university professor of cytology in Héraklion (Crete) and Myrtia Sotiropoulou, national coordinator of MWIA, gynecologist - obstetrician and surgeon in Athena. They all were very pleased to get in touch with each other.

Israel

Our national French association had not been directly in touch with them since now. Therefore, my letter addressed to the presidents and national coordinators has been translated in Hebrew.

Italy

The second congress of MWIA South Europe was organized in conjunction with the XXVII Congress of the Italian Medical Women Association (AIDM) in Rome from November 16 to 18, 2007, at the beautiful venue of the National Historical Museum of Sanitary Art.

The meeting was very well attended. Besides the participation of many Italian members from all over the Country, the Italian President, Ornella Cappelli, the honorary President, Claudia Di Nicola, and all the Italian Council, there were representatives from Europe, Asia and Latin America. In particular were present the MWIA President Atsuko Heshiki, the Vice-president of Central Europe Waltraud Diekhaus, the past Vice-president of the South Europe Myriam Van Moffaert, the Vice-president of the South Europe Gwénaelle Vidal-Trecan, the President of the Georgia MWA (and past vice President of Central Europe) Nino Zhvania, accompanied by a large delegation of Georgian members, and finally a delegation of the Medical Pan-American Alliance from Ecuador.

The scientific program of the Conference involved very important and current issues concerning the women's health, including: the problems related to immigrant women, the recent introduction in Italy and in other Countries of the vaccine against the Human Papilloma Virus to prevent the cervix cancer, the prevention of maternal mortality from thrombotic complications in pregnancy, the treatment and prevention of chronic pain associated to various pathological conditions, and the most severe and restraining pathologies of the older age.

In addition three workshops were organized to discuss general issues that are relevant for Medical Women all over the World: 1. Changing in women's health work in Europe throughout the XX century; 2. Women's psychiatric problems; 3. Gender Medicine. The groups were very active in the discussion and some interesting proposals were generated and will be developed in next months.

The Conference was honored by the visit of the Italian Health Minister, Livia Turco, who came to greet the participants. She expressed her appreciation for the content of the scientific program, but she also declared her profound consideration for the medical women's work and her interest in developing rules to guarantee the recognition of merits and the professional career of women.

The highlight of the social program was the gala dinner in the ancient and fascinating Villa Grazioli on the top hills of Frascati, dominating from above the beautiful landscape of the whole city of Rome. All the participants enjoyed the dinner in a very friendly atmosphere.

The meeting was closed on Sunday November 18, at noon, with the hope to continue to work together and reconvene soon to share our experience.

Finally, I ask the national associations of South Europe such as individual members of the MWIA to send me the information they want to communicate in the MWIA updates such as upcoming meetings or thoughts or suggestion.

North America

Canada, United States of America

Dr. Shirley Hovan, Vice President North America, Canada

Please mark your calendars for the North American Regional Meeting to be held on board ship in the fall of 2009. Rather than repeating the trip to Alaska from Vancouver, this time we will see the eastern part of Canada and the USA, leaving from the province of Quebec and sailing to the North Eastern Seaboard of the USA. The schedules of the ships for 2009 are not yet available, but watch the website for further updates. The theme will be **Taking Care of the Caregiver**, namely women in medicine.

Canada

For this coming year, Dr. Ruth Wilson from Kingston, Ontario, is the President of the College of Family Physicians of Canada and Dr. Shamam Jetha from Vancouver is the President of the British Columbia Branch of the College of Family Physicians.

The Canadian Medical Association Journal of July 27, 1963, had an article about the Presidential Insignia of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada. The article states that the Arnhem Medal was a gift from the medical women of Holland to the Federation of Medical Women of Canada. It marked their recognition of the part played by Canadians in the liberation of Holland, particularly in the Battle of Arnhem, and also expressed appreciation for Canadian hospitality during the war years to the Queen and the Royal Family of the Netherlands. The Arnhem Medal was presented to Dr. Margaret Owens at the International Congress of Medical Women, held in Amsterdam in 19047. Since that time, it has been used at the Presidential Insignia of the federation and is presented annually.

United States of America

The American Medical Women's Association's Annual Meeting will be held March 7-8, 2008, at the Doubletree Inn in Anaheim, CA. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the Women's Healthcare Forum and promises to be one of the largest AMWA meetings in recent years.

AMWA has had the opportunity to talk with the Presidential candidates regarding their ideas about health care.

The American Medical Women's Association is rolling out a new division dedicated to pre-medical women, called the Association of Future Female Physicians (AFFP). The pre-medical division has been created to help educate, support and empower women interested in a career in medicine. The goal of AFFP is to promote service projects that benefit the community, while instilling leadership and awareness; foster valuable alliances with current female medical students and practicing female physicians; encourage and advocate for aspiring female undergraduate students; offer opportunities to gain insight about women's issues that help aid and commit them to improving women's health; and, offer forums that provide the knowledge, insight, and perspective that will further aid women through their progression in medicine. For more information, visit www.futurefemalephysicians.com.

The Foundation for the History of Women in Medicine is housed at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia. For information, contact fhwim@burkhargroup.com. The website is www.fhwim.org.

Latin America

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

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

The regional meeting for Latin America is the first regional meeting for 2008. It will be held in Puerto Rico from July 9-13, 2008. See further details under Meetings.

Near East and Africa

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

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

Kenya

In addition to her Pediatric practice, Dr. Florence Manguyu is involved in the research that is developing the HIV vaccine.

Nigeria

The 15th Biennial conference of the Medical Women Association of Nigeria (MWAN) took place in Port-Harcourt, Nigeria, from 19 to 23 September. The MWAN Executive gave the Special Interest Group for Young women doctors and medical students an opportunity to introduce the group.

Uganda

Dr. Christine Biryabarema was recently in Vancouver to attend a meeting for those researching toxemia of pregnancy. She is also involved in the Canadian initiative for International ALARM, which teaches emergency obstetric skills to practitioners.

The Ugandan Medical Women are working with the Department of Planning Association of Uganda to educate citizens about their reproductive rights.

Dr. Sarah Kiguli, who organized the Near East and African Regional meeting, when it was held in Uganda, is responsible for integrating gender into the medical school curriculum.

Central Asia

India, Thailand

Dr. Manju Mataliya, Vice President Central Asia, India

India

The West Bengal Branch of the Association of Medical Women in India continues to run the Mission Hospital in Calcutta. Donations of both money and medical supplies are always welcome. Please contact the MWIA Secretariat for contact details.

Western Pacific

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

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

Australia

The MWIA Western Pacific Regional meeting will be held in Melbourne October 17-19, 2008. The theme will focus on health, human rights, gender and leadership. Come and hear about carbon footprints, sustainability, climate change and health, and world

poverty. The Australian Medical Women welcome medical women around the world to join the conference.

Australia has had a change in the federal government and through relationship building, the medical women have a voice in their national health policies. The government asked the medical women to help provide members for tasks in remote regions where Aboriginal health care is lacking.

Mongolia

The activities of the Mongolian Medical Women's Association for this quarter were:

1. Preventive eye examination conducted among 380 poor elderly of 3 districts of Ulaanbaatar city and 75 elderly people of one soum (lowest administrative unit). Women doctors provided free of charge this diagnostic, counseling and patient education service for these poor elderly people.
2. In cooperation with WHO and the Gerontology Center a documentary entitled "Healthy environment -- healthy ageing" to promote healthy ageing among elderly people of Mongolia.
3. In cooperation with UNICEF and the Nutrition Research Center, a school based survey has been conducted on household use of iodized salt. Survey results are being processed.

Taiwan

The annual congress meeting of the Chinese Medical Women's Association Taiwan will They are now working hard to promote the HPV vaccination as a scheduled vaccine with other NGO's in Taiwan, such as the Girls Fund and the government. Genetic research of Taiwanese people and human blood transfusion are now the national projects.

9. INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMMITTEES AND PROJECTS

MWIA has **three standing committees**: Finance, Scientific and Research, and Ethics and Resolutions. Please email the Secretariat if you would like to serve on any of these committees.

The **Chair of the Finance Committee** is **Dr. Kyung Ah Park**. Vice Chairs are Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi and Dr Caroline Jehu-Appiah. The **Chair of the Scientific & Research Committee** is **Dr. Olof Sigurdardottir**. Vice chairs are Dr. Ruth Guillén de Maldonado, Dr. Gwenaelle Vidal-Trecan and Dr. Winnie Yang. The **Chair of the Ethics & Resolutions Committee** is **Dr. Shirley Hovan**. Vice chairs are Dr. Susanne Close and Dr. Deborah Colville.

PROJECTS

MWIA has decided on a number of projects in addition to the **ongoing work with**:

1. Gender and health.
2. Adolescent sexuality
3. Pink Collar Profession and Human Resource Planning
4. Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission in HIV AIDS Plus
5. Gender Culture Intersect in Health

6. Leadership for Women Physicians

The **new projects for the 2007- 2010 triennium** are:

1. Cervical Cancer including HPV and HPV vaccine
2. Gender based violence including trafficking and female genital mutilation
3. Primary Health Care
4. Gender perspective to Diabetes Mellitus

Please e-mail the Secretariat if you wish to serve on any of the committees or work on any of the projects. Please note that this is volunteer work and there is no financial compensation. A functioning e-mail address is necessary for successful communication for the committee work.

10. CALENDAR OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MWIA AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS - CONGRESSES AND MEETINGS



2008

1. **January 26, 2008** – Palais du Luxembourg, Paris, France
French Medical Women's Association. Topic is Women and Rheumatology.
Contact <http://affm.affinitesante.com>.
2. **25 February – 7 March, 2008** – New York, USA
Commission on the Status of Women, UN. Contact the MWIA Secretariat before December 28th if you wish to attend.
3. **March 7-9, 2008** --Anaheim Convention Center / Doubletree Hotel
Anaheim, California
American Medical Women's Association Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Women's Healthcare Forum. Use priority code WHFA803 and contact <https://www.expotracsshows.com/whf/2008/anaheim/> for the \$75 registration fee
4. **May 18-28, 2008** – Geneva, Switzerland
World Health Assembly of WHO
For further information contact www.who.int. Contact the MWIA Secretariat if you wish to attend.
5. **July 9-13, 2008** - Puerto Rico
MWIA Latin American Regional Meeting
Holiday Inn Isla Verde in Puerto Rico
For further information contact mirepint@yahoo.com.mx
6. **September 3-6, 2008** - Malmö, Sweden
MWIA Northern European Regional Congress

Theme: "Bridge the Gender Gap." Contact robert@malmokongressbyra.se

7. **September, 2008** - Malmo, Sweden
European Social Forum
8. **September 12-14, 2008** – Stockholm, Sweden
3rd International Congress of Gender Medicine
Contact gim-office@charite.de
9. **October 17-19, 2008** - Melbourne, Australia
MWIA Western Pacific Regional Meeting
For further information, visit the website <http://www.wafmw.org.au>
10. **October, 2008** – Seoul, Korea
World Medical Association
For further information contact www.wma.org

2009

1. **July 13-17, 2009** - Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
MWIA Near East & Africa Regional Meeting
Health and the Developing World
Towards the 2015 Millennium Development Goals
2. **September, 2009** – Cruise from Eastern Canada to the Eastern USA
MWIA North American Regional Meeting
3. **Central European Regional Meeting, Vienna, Austria**

2010

1. **May 7-9, 2010** – Paris, France
Southern European Regional Meeting
2. **July 27-31, 2010** The Residence in Munster, Germany
28th International Congress of MWIA
Theme is Networking in changing Times/World

11. 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.wafmw.org.au
Belgium	http://www.mwab.be
Canada	http://www.fmwcc.ca
Denmark	http://www.quindoc.dk
Finland	http://www.suomennaislaakariyhdistys.com
France	http://affm.affinitesante.com
Germany	http://www.aerztinnenbund.de
Iceland	http://www.fkli.is
Italy	http://www.donnemedico.org
Japan	http://www.jade.dti.ne.jp/jmwa
Korea	http://www.kmwa.org or www.kmwa.or.kr
Mongolia	gerontocenter@mongol.net
Netherlands	vnvemail@vnva.nl
Sweden	www.kvinnligalakare.se
Switzerland	http://www.medicalwomenSwitzerland
Uganda	http://www.auwmd.org
United Kingdom	http://www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk
United States of America	http://www.amwa-doc.org

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

The MWIA Congress held in Ghana in August this year was a huge success. Many female doctors and dentists from all over the world attended this meeting that featured a lot of high quality presentations covering various areas of medical practice especially as it affects female practitioners. One of the highlights of the Congress was a resolution forming the Young Doctors and Medical Students Special Interest Group of MWIA.

The aims of this interest group, to operate under the umbrella of MWIA, include the provision of a dedicated forum for the young demographic group of MWIA (under the age of 40) to articulate views on issues that are peculiar to this group and thereby present a common front for seeking solutions. Issues demanding attention include:

1. Problems associated with achieving a healthy balance between having a family and career as it relates to securing flexibilities at work in order to accommodate childbirth, nursing, paid maternity leaves, childcare facilities, etc.
2. Gender bias in the workplace.
3. Gender bias in research.

We are therefore asking you to lend your support by joining this active group of young colleagues. Every experience and opinion counts! At the congress in Ghana, the first executive members of this interest group were elected. They are:

Chairperson: Dr. Inke Doench, Germany
Vice chair: Dr. Adjoa Duker, USA
Secretary: Dr. Jane Mba, Nigeria.

For us young doctors (under the age of 40), it is not yet too late. We have time on our side and should be able to drive positive change for our own benefits and those of the ones coming after us. We, and only we, can chart our own course as we navigate the jungle of work life in our chosen noble career in medicine. Within our ever-shrinking world, the global village, with its immense opportunities, alliances are continuously being forged to build bridges across our differences. We as young female doctors should do the same: get closer together and learn from and help each other to grow together.

We would like a representative from each national association. Please advise the MWIA Secretariat.

13. 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.

14. 28th MWIA Congress in Munster, Germany July 27 to 31, 2010. Theme is Networking in Changing Times/World.

Did you know?

- Munster is the world's most livable city according to the organization for International Awards for Livable Communities
- Münster's history spans more than 1200 years and is reflected by the medieval ground plan of the Altstadt (old part of the city) and numerous historical buildings
- Munster is the Westphalian metropolis known as the city of the universities

II. ORGANIZATIONS

1. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)



Report on the visit of the PIP (pandemic influenza preparedness) conference at Geneva, 11-20-2007

The above mentioned conference was organized by the WHO and took place from the 19th to the 23rd of November 2007 at the building of the UN headquarters in Geneva. MWIA got an invitation to assist as an NGO.

Two of the three members of MWIA that have been designated as delegates in August 2007 seized the opportunity to get accustomed to the procedures of such conferences. They assisted the opening assembly on the 20th of November. The conference had been prepared in May 2007 already, and the crucial items now were the international collaboration in terms of sharing of the running influenza viruses (important for surveillance of potential pandemics) and enhance access to vaccines as well as other benefits.

Furthermore, the two delegates took the chance to introduce themselves to Mrs 'Peju Olukoya, coordinator, integrating gender into public health at the WHO gender, women and health department. She was very welcoming and repeatedly asked as on what behalves she could be helpful to MWIA. She offered for instance to coach volunteers who like to assist her at the WHO headquarter, a kind of internship in business administration. Furthermore she made interesting suggestions about unifying strategies or issues that might activate MWIA members. Specifically she mentioned the problems of aging women, an upcoming issue even in developing countries.

Elizabeta Dulic, MD
Elisabeth Blöchlinger, MD
(MWIA representatives to WHO Geneva)

South East Asia Regional (SEARO) Meeting of WHO- August 31-September 3, 2007

Dr. Pattariya Jarutat, immediate past vice president for Central Asia, attended the South East Asia Regional Meeting of the World Health Organization on behalf of MWIA. Dr. Juratat reports that the meeting was a joint meeting of the 25th meeting of Ministers of Health and the 60th session of the regional committee for South East Asia.

The Royal Government of Bhutan hosted the meeting in the Banquet Hall at Thimphu, Bhutan. The members states are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Eimor Leste, Thailand and Vietnam. NGO's such as MWIA, who are in official relations with WHO also sent representatives.

The objectives of the meeting were:

- i. To provide a forum to discuss important health issues in the region.
- ii. To forge bilateral and inter-country cooperation and regional solidarity.

- iii. To follow-up with actions on the decisions and recommendations of the 24th HMM
- iv. To determine future action of international health security and climate change and health.

Dr. Juratat met with Dr. Margaret Chan, Director General of WHO. Dr. Chan expressed interest in the Ghana resolutions.

The output of the meeting was the policy for health problem solving with emphasis for health promotion and non-communicable disease prevention.

Eastern Mediterranean Regional Meeting (EMRO) of WHO- October 20-23, 2007

Professors Shafika Nasser and Salma Galal from Egypt attended the 54th session of the EMRO region of WHO.

The address by Dr. Margaret Chan, Director-General of WHO, concentrated on the progress in the region in attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's). The world is at the mid point in the countdown to 2015, and the goals pertaining to health are least likely to be met. She called to return to the values and principles of primary health care and to pay attention to the health consequences of climate change.

The meeting concluded with the decision to hold the next session in Cairo in the fall of 2008.

Dr. Shafika Nasser shared in the discussions twice under the name of MWIA. This was recognized by participants and her suggestions were included in the recommendations. As MWIA has been active in WHO Regional meetings for EMRO for the past six years, Dr. Nasser recommends that MWIA continue its presence both at regional meetings and at WHO Headquarters in Geneva.

Pan America Regional Meeting of WHO (PAHO)—October 1-5, 2007

It was a pleasure to represent MWIA at the WHO Regional Committee for the Americas held in Washington D.C. This is the second conference I have attended. All of the documents for this meeting are on the website noted below. It is recommended that individual countries should review the documents of their country as well as the members of the regional committees. . The Regional offices are important medical and educational venues for MWIA members.

The conference opening day included important reports from Regional Directors, the Director General of WHO, Dr. Margaret Chan and other dignitaries. Day two was important for the committee discussions. I attended the Working Group for Health Agenda. The agenda and most of the reports are available to all on the web site.

Two areas of importance to our members are available on the website

1. An Overview of Regional Health
2. The International Health Security: A concept paper for world health day 207.

The social determinants of health are important guideposts for each country and speak to the unique aspects of health systems across countries and differ even within one country. I look forward to seeing the final report which will also be posted on the same web site: <http://www.paho.org/english/gov/csp/csp27index-e.htm>

WHO Headquarters, Geneva

MWIA has been pleased to work with Dr. 'Peju Olukoya and her team in the Department of Gender, Women and Health at WHO Headquarters in the area of integrating gender into public health. Following the completion of MWIA's Manual on Gender Mainstreaming in Health, MWIA has been involved in the development of the WHO manual on gender and health. MWIA looks forward to continuing this collaboration.

With MWIA's interest in HPV and the HPV Vaccine, MWIA was able to liaise with WHO headquarters. Through an invitation from Dr. N. Broutet, MWIA was represented by Dr. Vibeke Jorgensen and Dr. Aggi Kjaer at the meeting of policy makers and program managers in Copenhagen, May 29-31, 2007, to discuss "Strengthening cervical cancer prevention in Europe." MWIA hopes to be involved in the other regions as well.

WHO's World Health Report 2007 has recently been released. It deals with A Safer Future, Global Public Health Security in the 21st Century. It divides the global health threats into four areas: epidemic-prone diseases, food borne diseases, accidental and deliberate outbreaks, environmental disasters and the need for global collaboration to meet the threats to public health security.

2. UNITED NATIONS

DPI/NGO Conference at United Nations New York Dr. Satty Gill Keswani and Dr. Mini Murthy MWIA Representatives to ECOSOC and DPI

The 60th annual NGO/ DPI conference was held in New York from September 5-7, 2007. The theme at this years meeting was Climate Change: How it Impacts us all. Drs. Keswani and Murthy represented MWIA at the conference. The conference was well attended by NGOs and other civil society partners from 90 countries.

On Thursday September 6th afternoon Drs Keswani and Murthy had a Luncheon meeting with Dr. Wariara Mbugua, Principal Social Affairs Officer in the UN Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues (OSAGI), and presented her with the award conferred by MWIA for her support to the MWIA in the work to address women's global health issues. .

The conference provided a platform for national and international NGO representatives to interact with each other and the UN staff and representatives and exchange interactive dialogue, network and voice their opinion about the environmental and climatic change.

New UN Website

The UN recently launched a new website that will show how and where the world is succeeding or failing in meeting the Millennium Development Goals on ending poverty. The website is <http://www.mdgmonitor.org/>. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that the site would, for the first time, present all the information on the goals in one place, allowing closer monitoring and helping identify places in need of greater attention. The site gathers statistics from around the world to give a snapshot of how each country is doing in meeting the eight goals, from cutting infant mortality to reducing hunger.

3. WOMEN DELIVER

MWIA was well represented at this landmark conference held at the Excel Centre in London's Canary Wharf area October 18-20, 2007. The conference was aimed at investing in women. MWIA members were among the 1800 attendees who varied from government officials to UN agencies to NGO's, representing over 100 countries.

At the end of the conference, there was a pledge to make the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of improving maternal health "a high priority on the national, regional and international health agenda." Their statement called for the "increased commitment of financial and human resources" to prevent maternal deaths and expand health services.

In the closing remarks, there was a consensus on the three pillars for saving the lives of women and newborns: comprehensive reproductive health services, skilled care during and immediately after pregnancy and childbirth and emergency care when life-threatening complications develop. This promise was made to the women of the world: We recognize your contributions and value your lives. We will not allow this injustice and waste to continue. We will deliver.

The Lancet devoted an entire journal to women's health, which can be found at:

www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673607615724/abstract

4. GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION TO STOP CERVICAL CANCER

The Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) took an active part in the formulation of the ***Global Call of Action to Stop Cervical Cancer*** through participation at the London meeting of partners held in December, 2006. Subsequently, MWIA in collaboration with other partners launched the Global call during the YWCA Global Conference in Nairobi on July 6, 2007, and at the MWIA International Congress in Accra in August 1, 2007. MWIA is one of the initial signatories and is proud to stand beside other organizations who believe that women should not die from cervical cancer.

5. WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The World Medical Association meeting was held October 3-6, 2007, in Copenhagen, Denmark. Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus and Dr. Vibeke Jorgensen represented MWIA

The President Elect is from Israel and has suggested that MWIA make an address to introduce our organization and our main aims at the next WMA General Assembly in Seoul, October 15-18, 2008.

There were a number of female physician leaders attending. Dr. Nancy H. Nielsen will be inaugurated in Chicago on June 17, 2008, as the future female president of the American Medical Association. The Norwegian Medical Association has a female president, Dr. Torunn Janbu, who is an Orthopedic Surgeon. Dr. Irina Sebova, from Slovakia, was interested in founding a Slovakian Medical Women's Association.

Of the male physician leaders, Dr. Walter Dörner, president of the Austrian Medical Association, was interested to hear of the upcoming medical women's congress in Vienna. Professor Somsri Pausawasdi, the immediate past president of the Thai Medical Association spoke of our past Central Asia Vice Presidents, Dr. Chamaree Chuapetcharasopon and Dr. Pattariya Jarutat and promised to bring them greetings from MWIA.

Similar to MWIA's resolution in Ghana, the General Assembly passed a resolution that medical doctors have to document cases of torture. There were also statements on stem cell research, the ethics of telemedicine, human tissue for transplantation and tobacco cessation.

6. UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)

November 25 to December 10 annually mark the Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence. UNFPA is spotlighting five stories - involving domestic violence in Russia, sex slavery in India, self-immolation in Central Asia, gender-based violence and HIV and compensation' marriages

Approximately 14,000 women are murdered by their intimate partners annually in Russia, according to UNFPA, or one woman every 35 minutes - a yearly death toll comparable to the entire published number of Soviet troops killed during the decade-long conflict between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan.

In India, prenatal sex selection has led to a surging demand for young women trafficked from lower castes and from abroad who are forced into veritable household sexual slavery, the agency said. Often referred to as Dipraudis, these women are sometimes compelled to service more than one man.

The proportion of HIV-infected women continues to overtake that of men annually. Women are two to five times more biologically susceptible to contracting HIV from a male partner, but gender-based violence - including coercion, wartime rape, 'widow cleansing,' domestic violence and female genital mutilation/cutting - also contributes to the soaring rates, UNFPA said.

The Fund cited research showing a rise in the numbers of women and girls practicing self-immolation in Northern Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan as economic crises continue and many believe they have no way out.

Meanwhile, 'compensation' marriages - the practice of forcing a girl into arranged marriages as compensation for a murder perpetration by a family member, to repay debts or settle other disputes - is prevalent in Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province, Afghanistan, parts of the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa, UNFPA said, pointing out that girls in these situations often are systematically abused and becomes virtual slaves.

For more information and links: visit <http://www.unfpa.org/news/news.cfm?ID=1067>

7. EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY (EWL)



The European Women's Lobby is the biggest Coalition of Women's Organizations in Europe

Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus represents MWIA at the EWL and has been elected to the board for this coming term.

Report from European Women's Lobby - Borovets, Bulgaria, 26-28 October 2007.

The Executive and the Board had meetings 26th of October in the morning. In the afternoon there was a seminar "Advancing migrant women's rights in the EU To try to make migrant women visible and indispensable, EWL has a project "Equal rights, equal Voices- Migrant women in the European Union."

At the General Assembly in 2006, MWIA had an emergency motion about prevention of cervical cancer. The subsequent activities have had political influence.

I participated in two issue groups: Violence against women & migrant women, and trafficking & prostitution. In both groups there were lively discussions. I tried to strengthen the solutions of the groups by also mentioning the health risks of women, who are subjected to violence, trafficking and prostitution. I have not yet seen the final solutions.

Dr Karen Nielsen substituting for Dr Waltraud Diekhaus.

8. COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF MEDICAL SCIENCE (CIOMS)

The Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS) is an international, non-governmental, non-profit organization established jointly by WHO and

UNESCO in 1949. Through its membership, CIOMS is representative of a substantial proportion of the biomedical scientific community. The membership of CIOMS in 2003 includes 48 international member organizations, representing many of the biomedical disciplines, and 18 national members mainly representing national academies of sciences and medical research councils.

The main objectives of CIOMS are:

To facilitate and promote international activities in the field of biomedical sciences, especially when the participation of several international associations and national institutions is deemed necessary;

To maintain collaborative relations with the United Nations and its specialized agencies, in particular with WHO and UNESCO

To serve the scientific interests of the international biomedical community in general.

CIOMS is involved in two main areas. The first is in the **International Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research Involving Human Subjects**. The second is in the area of **drug safety**.

MWIA is not only member of CIOMS, but Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus, Vice President for Central Europe, sits on the executive as a Vice President.

Waltraud Diekhaus will strive to stress on the importance of a gender specific perspective in the medical sciences.

9. The International Consortium for Emergency Contraception (ICEC)

By Dr. Jean Fourcroy, USA

Worldwide, each year 80 million unplanned pregnancies occur; 19 million women suffer unsafe abortions and Pregnancy-related causes kill at least 530,000 women.

In 1996, the year The International Consortium for Emergency Contraception (ICEC) was founded, only a handful of countries had a "dedicated" Emergency Contraception (EC) product on the market. Now women in over 140 countries can buy emergency contraception - sometimes known as the morning after pill - and in 44 countries, EC is readily available over the counter. This is the 11th year that ICEC has met and I was glad to be able to represent MWIA.

ICEC and its member organizations have played a key role in introducing EC in a wide range of settings. Still, women's access to EC is far from assured, and our mission remains critical: to expand access to EC worldwide, with a focus on developing countries.

For more information please check the following websites:

<http://www.cecinfo.org/publications/index.htm>

<Http://ec.Princeton.Edu/index.Html>

10. Amberheart

Amberheart is a charity focused on creating programs related to early detection and increasing awareness of breast cancer. Amberheart centers its attention on breast cancer preventive measures, identifying women, who because of risk factors, have a high probability of developing breast cancer and those who, because of qualifying age and/or personal beliefs, do not participate in the government funded mammography screening program. The program concentrates mainly in Europe and Canada.

Our organization is governed by a small international board of directors. Because the organization intends to expand its educational activities and community research programs to ethnic, minority and other underserved groups as well as to develop collaborative biotech research programs, we are looking to expand our Board of Directors and to create a Scientific Leadership Council.

For more information about Amberheart, visit our website <http://www.amberheart.net/>. For more information about board membership please send a blank email to board@amberheart.net and for information on Scientific Leadership Committee to slc@amberheart.net.

11. World Doctors' Orchestra

The World Doctors' Orchestra was founded in 2007 and is dedicated to global symphony. It is meant to foster the international understanding and networking of physicians and support the development of medicine and health policy in the world.

The founder and conductor is Stefan Willich, Professor in Medicine at the Charite University Medical Center in Berlin.

Medical doctors from around the world are invited to participate. The inauguration concert will be in Berlin in March, 2008 and will be of 5 days duration. Proficiency in classical instrument and orchestra experience are requested.

For further information see www.world-doctors-orchestra.org

12. National Women's Council of Ireland

I am working for the National Women's Council of Ireland on an outreach project which involves working with a group of women in rural Ireland on women's health issues. They are particularly interested in exploring a service which provides a holistic approach to women's health, such as the type provided by Well Woman Clinics. While there are several such centres in Ireland, none are in rural areas, they tend to be situated in high density population areas so the argument usually made that centres would not be economically viable in rural areas.

I would be very interested in hearing about ways they may have addressed responding to women's health in rural areas in Europe, and perhaps through models such as mobile health units. If you are aware of any such projects or organizations you could put me in touch with I would be very grateful.

Nóirín Clancy, National Women's Council of Ireland
9 Marlborough Court, Marlborough Street
Dublin 1, Ireland
Email: noirinc@nwci.ie

13. WONCA—Working Group for Women

Dr. Cheryl Levitt of Canada heads the Working Group for Women in Family Medicine for the International Association of Family Physicians. Along with MWIA's Honorary Member, Dr. May Cohen, several women gathered in Hamilton and crafted the HER Statement (Hamilton Equity Recommendations). Details can be found at <http://www.cfp.ca/cqi/reprint/53/9/1415>.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Update will be published in March, 2008.

Please send us your reports, comments or any other interesting information by February 29, 2008, at the latest.

Letters to the editor are always welcome.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

On behalf of the executive committee of MWIA, let me take this opportunity to wish you a happy holiday season with time to spend in relaxation with your family. Thank you all for your continued dedication to the work of MWIA.



Members of the Executive Committee at the Ghana Congress