

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MWIA



Update

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MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

THEME OF THE 2013-2016 TRIENNIUM

“PREVENTION AND ELMINATION OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE”

I. MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

1. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Kyung Ah Park, Korea

It is a great pleasure for me to deliver greetings to you all.

During the last three months, I have been planning two projects. The first is the "Contacting North Korea" project. The Korea Foundation for International Healthcare (KOFIH) proposed that we work together for medical support for North Korea. For the first step, the Vice President for the Western Pacific Region, Professor Hiroko Yamamoto, is going to visit Rajin Province, the region at the northern end of North Korea. She is going to survey the actual situation in the hospitals. The initial plan was to do this December 21st, but with the political situation in North Korea being unpredictable during the last few weeks, we will postpone the visit until the summer of 2014.

The second project is "Helping the Philippines." As all of you know, the Philippines had a disaster from the typhoon in November and I thought MWIA should lend a helping hand to the victims left by this natural disaster. I asked the Korean Medical Women's Association for support as KMWA has experience with medical support in the Philippines during the last three consecutive years. Three weeks ago, four members of KMWA visited the disaster area and provided medical services for three days.

Now we need to organize MWIA Medical Support Team and I am going to ask for your participation. Because of the geographical location, I shall ask Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong and China to join. I believe that the Philippine Medical Women's Association could join us. The other countries could help by fundraising for our project. Our team will depart for the Philippines on January 23rd for a week.

It will be Christmas soon and I wish all of you a wonderful and joyful Christmas season, followed by a prosperous New Year 2014, the year of the horse.

2. REQUESTS FROM THE SECRETARY- GENERAL

Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada

It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of Dr. Dorothy Ward on December 2, 2013. Dr. Ward was President of MWIA from 1992 to 1995, and continued on as National Coordinator for the Medical Women's Federation of the UK for 25 years. She was the author of "They Cure in a Motherly Spirit: History of the Medical Women's International Association." MWIA sends its condolences to the family and mourns the loss of a great leader and mentor.

MWIA acknowledges and mourns the passing of a great world leader in Nelson Mandela. May we continue in his ways of collaboration and peace in order to achieve progress.

MWIA congratulates Dra. Michelle Bachelet on her election as President of Chile. Dra. Bachelet is the immediate past Executive Director of UN Women.

The Secretariat sends our thoughts and best wishes to our Philippine colleagues at the time of devastation in their country.

As we approach the festive season, the **Seoul Congress** brings happy memories of a great MWIA International Congress. Many thanks once again to our Korean colleagues for hosting such a successful event. The next International Congress will be in **Vienna, Austria July 28-31, 2016**, so mark your calendars now. There are many opportunities to attend regional meetings during the triennium and the dates can be found in the calendar of events later in the newsletter.

Thank you to the national associations who completed the **survey on Domestic and Sexual Violence**. The Scientific Committee is reviewing the surveys at present in the process of writing the Training Manual.

The **Commission on the Status of Women** will be held at the United Nations in New York March 10-21, 2014. The **World Health Assembly** of the World Health Organization will be held the week of May 19, 2014 in Geneva.

Thank you for the great response to the call for **membership on the MWIA committees**. Those who applied to serve should have had a welcoming message from the chair and for some committees, work is underway.

Dr. Pam Liao and Dr. Charlotte Roehrborn of yMWIA have planned a **webinar series on topics that address the realm of violence against women**. They are keen on hosting as many speakers as MWIA has experts, so are asking our members to suggest speakers that you would find interesting, and also in the case that you would like to present work of your own, to submit an abstract of up to 200 words with the title of your work and your credentials to pam.liao@mail.utoronto.ca or c.roehrborn@gmail.com.

Should you wish to contact any of the executive, the **website** now has the capability of accepting emails according to office. For example, if you wished to contact Dr. Kyung Ah Park, you would address your email to president@mwia.net. If you wished to contact any of the Vice Presidents, taking the example of Dr. Carole Williams from North America, you would send you email to VP_northamerica@mwia.net .

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

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3. 2013-2016 EXECUTIVE with email addresses:

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VP Central Asia	Dr. Usha Saraiya, India	VP_centralasia@mwia.net
VP Western Pacific	Prof Hiroko Yamamoto	VP_westernpacific@mwia.net

4. NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGIONS

Australia

Dr. Magdalena Simonis wrote about the October, 2013 launch of the catalogue that acknowledges University of Melbourne Medical Women Alumni over 125 years. Dr. Marilyn Murnane AM, authored the first chapter which preceded the one page biographies. Dr. Simonis authored the Victoria Medical Women's Society biography and Dr. Desiree Yap contributed a bio. There were several members featured throughout the catalogue. There were around 300 attendees and prior to the launch, we all gathered at the medical museum on campus to wander through the exhibit that depicted the women's lives and achievements.

The AFMW has been approached to partner with Dr Heather Sheard on a project which will seek to Commemorate of Australia's Women Doctors Contribution to World War One. It is believed that more than twenty Australian women doctors acted as surgeons, pathologists or medical officers during WWI. One, Dr Laura Forster, died of typhoid in Zalesichiki, Russia (now in the Ukraine) in January 1917. They served in many arenas including England, France, Belgium, Egypt, Serbia, Galicia, and Greece and in incredibly varied conditions. To do so, they had to circumvent military officialdom who firmly denied their attempts to enlist as doctors throughout the Empire. Their work and amazing stories deserve to be recorded and honoured and are particularly relevant in the context of the rapidly approaching centenary of WWI.

The AFMW has partnered with Monash University, Family Planning Victoria Inc, The Jean Hailes Foundation; Southern Health Victoria and Women's Health Victoria; and has been successful in receiving an Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grant - the topic is "Elucidating the increasing demand for genital cosmetic surgery among girls and women in Australia" 2013-2016.

The Australian government has launched the Foundation to Prevent Violence against Women and their Children, with Natasha Scott Despoja AM as Chair (pictured right). It comes as part of a welcome tide of national and state initiatives against domestic violence.

The NSW government asked for public input about its proposed Domestic and Family Violence Reforms, committing \$9.8 million over three years. And not a moment too soon: almost 30,000 domestic assaults have been recorded in NSW within the past year -- an estimate likely to be less than half of the actual occurrence rate because people affected rarely report to police.

The Herald Sun has set in motion a workplace program called "Take a Stand" in Victoria, which works with businesses to change attitudes and behaviours that support violence against women. The campaign kicked off in late July after it was reported that Victorian police call-outs to family violence reached a record 50,382 in 2012.

This resource from White Ribbon lists three steps that you can take against domestic violence to say, "It Stops Here".

Austria

Dr. Edith Schratzberger-Vécsei wrote that on the 9th of November the Austrian Medical Women's Association had its annual meeting in Vienna. The topic this year was 'justice.' We had participants from all over Austria, and some coming from Switzerland and from Germany. The president elect of MWIA, Bettina Pfeleiderer, came to our conference and led a workshop on 'gender mainstreaming and MWIA' – which was especially helpful and interesting for us since we've already started with the planning for 2016. Bettina Pfeleiderer also handed over this year's 'Lore Antoine Prize' which is dedicated for an outstanding scientific work on gender medicine.

On the 25th and 26th of November the EIGE (European Institut for Gender Equality), the WHO (World Health Organization) and the City of Vienna held a big conference with the title 'End Violence against Women.' I presented the '2013 report on rape' that was written by the EWL. (<http://www.womenlobby.org/publications/rapports/?lang=de>)

Concerning the world conference in 2016 we have had our first meeting of the organizing and the scientific committee and we ask all of you to save the date in 2016 that you'll all be able to come to Vienna!

Brazil

Dr. Anna Maria Martits wrote that the XXI Congress of the ABMM- (Brazilian Association of Medical Women) was organized by the São Paulo State Section and was held in Oct 25-26 2013 at the headquarters of the São Paulo State Medical Association. The theme was "Quality of Life of the Woman Doctor." The last scientific meeting of the year was held November 21st and was on Gender Medicine in Menopause and Andropause.

The ABMM was honored by the link on MWIA's website of our translation to Portuguese of the "Training Manual for Gender Mainstreaming in Health." We will translate shortly the revised edition of 2013.

Dra. Marilene Melo, President of ABMM attended the III Global Forum on Human Resources for Health. The main proposal of the Forum was to have a commitment from all countries for universal health coverage. 40 countries signed this proposal. At the end of the Forum was published “**The Recife Political Declaration on Human Resources for Health and commitment toward universal health.**” The declaration is in the site of WHO.

Cameroon

The President of the Cameroon Medical Women Association (CMWA), Dr. A.E. Njom Nlend wrote that since July, 2013, the new executive team of the CMWA has successfully prepared activities of the project entitled, “Enhancement of Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV” in four health districts of the central region through community mobilization and male involvement. The official launching of this project is planned during the AIDS week. In addition to this main project, pink October 2013 was an opportunity to have a TV talk on the breast self examination and to raise advocacy around the cost of mammography. The West Branch of CMWA in Bamenda has been highly involved in the breastfeeding week which has been postponed to November this year. Along with these activities, refreshment of membership was conducted as well as recruitment of new members. A CMWA award was given to the second female doctor newly graduated as a medical doctor from the University of Yaounde.

Email: acafem_org@yahoo.fr

Canada

Female family doctors in Quebec provide better patient care even if they see fewer patients, a researcher with the Université de Montréal says. Valerie Martel studied the work practices of 870 family doctors and found female doctors spend more time with patients, do more follow-up, and are more apt to follow clinical practice guidelines. (La Presse, Oct. 17)

France

On October 17th AFFM, following its Great Cause 2013/2015 “Ethics and Medicine,” held a conference on Ethics and medicine, thoughts about the end of life,” featuring Professor Christian Herve, President of the French Association of Medical Ethics.

On November 7th a meeting has been organized by the National Council of French Women (CNFF) on “Women and Precariousness: prevention of the breaking and help: role and actions of the CNFF’s associations “with the participation of eight associations including AFFM with Dr Cécile Renson and Dr Grégoire Moutel for “ Health’s management and problems of access to care.”

On November 16th Dr Françoise Nico- MWIA’s Coordinator- , Dr Francine Violette - Vice President- and Dr Marie-Dominique Ghnassia-Honorary President- have represented AFFM to the 18th Symposium of Medical Women’s Association of Belgium in Brussels. The theme of the symposium organized by Dr Mireille Vergucht, President of MWABe, was: “DRUGS split up the addict, the family and the society: a gender analysis.” Dr Christiane Pouliart, Vice President of Southern Europe, thanked the French delegates for their attendance.

The annual meeting of AFFM will be held on Saturday January 25th 2014 in the Auditorium of European Georges Pompidou Hospital, 20 rue Leblanc Paris 15^{ème}. The theme is “Women’s Cardiovascular Diseases.”

To celebrate its 90 years, AFFM has opened a new site: <http://affm-asso.fr/>

Ghana

Isabel Herbst wrote to express her thanks to Professor Afua Hesse for making her heartily welcome at Korle-bu Hospital in Accra to do a pre-medical elective. She also thanked Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus, past Vice-President for Central Europe for helping her make the necessary contacts. She found her experience eye-opening and extremely educational, allowing her a deep insight to medicine in Western Africa.

India

It was announced in September that the four men convicted of the brutal gang rape in December, 2012, of a woman medical student on a moving bus, were sentenced to death by hanging. The story made world headlines as this woman was penetrated with a metal rod then dumped out on the roadside. She died two weeks later of her injuries.

Korea

On October 20, 2013, forty medical professionals, 29 of whom were board members of the Korean Medical Women’s Association, including Dr. Kyung Ah Park and Dr. In-Sook Park, attended a train-the-trainer program on the prevention of sexual assault. This was provided by the Korea Support Centre for Sexual Violence Prevention Education. The curriculum includes: understanding sexual violence, sexual violence laws and policies for supporting victims, and practice of sexual violence prevention education.

Latin America

Dr. Mercedes Viteri reported on the Latin American and Caribbean Santo Domingo Consensus that was approved to advance gender equality. The Intergovernmental Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) invited delegates to the Dominican Republic for the XII Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. There was also agreement to promote legislative and educational measures to eradicate and punish sexist, stereotypes, discrimination and racism in the media, software and games. Added to this is the support given to the use of ICT and social networks as resources to prevent violence against women and improve the efficiency and quality of health services.

Mexico

The Mexican Medical Women’s Association held its annual meeting on November 28-30, 2013. Dr. Veronica Rodriguez is President of the association

United Kingdom

The MWF of the UK held their fall meeting on November 8th in the Grand Connaught Rooms. The topic was: **Patients' and Doctors' Safety: Can women change the culture of the NHS?** - MWF Autumn Conference 8th Nov 2013, Grand Connaught Rooms London

United States

Along with the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, AMWA co-sponsored a special conference on sex trafficking in New York December 14-15, 2013.

5. REPORT FROM UN REPRESENTATIVES

Dr. Satty Gill Keswani and Dr. Padmini Murthy

On Thursday, Sept. 19, Dr. Murthy attended the UN Global compact — a platform which brings together UN agencies, NGO leaders and businesses to engage in constructive dialogue geared toward improving the health of global communities. One of its events I attended, “Empowering women to lead the way to a low-emission and high-resilient future,” focused on the role of women —as instruments for change — in protecting the environment and conserving energy. She also attended a high-level panel discussion on global education chaired by Sara Brown, the wife of former British Prime Minister and UN Special Envoy for Global Education Gordon Brown. It was an interesting, interactive discussion detailing the importance of education investments and the strong links to health, with examples of best practices from Asia and Africa.

On Monday, Murthy Sept 23rd attended two great sessions — one on the rights of disabled women, and the other focusing on children. These were held at the UNICEF headquarters in New York and the Millennium Hotel. These sessions were eye-openers for me as a physician and a public health professional, hearing and witnessing the hardships of those with special needs. So many of these people live in countries where they do not have access to education, health care and are often marginalized.

On Monday September 23rd Drs. Keswani and Murthy attended the morning session of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on disability and development. There is an ongoing effort by various UN agencies, UN member states, foundations, activists and NGOs to include disability awareness in the General Assembly Agenda toward 2015 and beyond.

On Thursday September 26th Dr. Murthy represented MWIA on behalf at the Freedom From Fistula Foundation launch of the US division at the NY Tennis and Racket Club. Freedom From Fistula Foundation has expressed interest in co-sponsoring a parallel event at the upcoming CSW

6. REPORT OF AFRO WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Dr. Princess Campbell and Dr. Kayode Iyasere from Nigeria attended the AFRO regional committee meeting on behalf of MWIA. They provide an extensive report, which can be found on the MWIA website. Areas of interest discussed were enhancing the use of traditional medicine, healthy ageing, strengthening the capacity for regulation of medical products, addressing the challenges for women, the use of e-health, progress report on immunization, neglected tropical diseases, universal health coverage, guidelines for using anti-retrovirals in the treatment of AIDS.

7. WHO REPRESENTATIVE

Dr. Clarissa Fabre

Dr. Fabre attended the annual meeting of the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS). The aims of CIOMS are to identify new issues of major

relevance for the medical community where there is a need for review and global adoption of common principles and standards in the areas of drug development and use and bioethics. It is currently working on Vaccine Safety.

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

2014

1. **January 25, 2014**, Paris, France
The Association of French Medical Women's Annual meeting
Female Cardiovascular Disease
www.affm-asso.fr
2. **March 14-16, 2014**, Washington, DC
American Medical Women's Association 99th Anniversary Meeting
Women in Medicine: Successfully Facing Future Challenges and Advances
<http://www.amwa-doc.org/meetings-and-events/upcoming-meetings#sthash.2CXWfHlf.dpuf>
3. **May 9, 2014**, Birmingham, UK
Spring Meeting of the Medical Womens Federation
www.mwf.org.uk
4. **September 4-6, 2014**, Copenhagen, Denmark
Northern European Regional meeting
Rungstedgaard Conference Centre and Hotel
5. **September 19-21, 2014**, Vancouver, Canada
Annual meeting of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada
www.fmwc.ca

2015

1. **April 24-25, 2015**, Taipei, Taiwan
Western Pacific Regional Meeting
Evergreen International Convention Centre
2. **August, 2015**, Accra, Ghana
Near East and Africa Regional Meeting
3. **September, 2015**, Toronto, Canada
Annual meeting of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada
www.fmwc.ca

2016

1. **July 28-31, 2016**, Vienna, Austria
30th International Congress of MWIA

2017

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

9. NAMES IN THE NEWS

Correction from the September Update:

It was actually **Dr. Melanie Jones** who along with **Dr. Helen Goodyear** achieved their MA's in Managing Medical Careers. My apologies to Dr. Jones for substituting her name with another.

Dr. Manana Gogol is Secretary General and **Dr. Khatuna Kaladze** is President of the Association of Women Surgeons of Transcaucasia.

Dr. Raie Goodwach has become Vice President of the Australian Federation of Medical Women.

Professor Elaine Frade Costa and Dr. Anna Maria Martits are co-authors of the Brazilian Guidelines on Late Onset Hypogonadism (andropause).

Dra. Marilene Rezende Melo, President of Association of Brazilian Medical Women, is the Director and first female President of WASPalm (World Association of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine).

Dr. Rosemary Ogu of Nigeria made an oral scientific presentation at the European Society of Gynecological Oncology 18th International Meeting in Liverpool.

Dr. Bong Ok Kim of Korea was appointed Director of Chungnam National University Hospital, the first female to hold such a position in Korea

Dra. Ewalda Stahlke of Brazil was elected to the Regional Council of Medicine of the State of Paraná. These Councils are the main authorities in ethics and other important aspects of the medical profession.

10. BOOKS AND ARTICLES AND WEBSITES

Moving Toward a Just Peace, The Mediation Continuum by Jan Fritz with contributions by **Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi**. For information please visit:

<http://www.springer.com/social+sciences/book/978-94-007-2884-4?otherVersion=978-94-007-2885-1>

What You Need to Know about Diabetes by Dr. Omiepirisa Yvonne Buowari or Rivers State Branch of the Medical Women's Association of Nigeria. For further information visit www.authorhouse.com.

11. OBITUARIES

Dr. Geraldine Mowbray of the American Medical Women's Association passed away at age 97 on October 31, 2013.

Dr. Brita Silverstolpe of the Swedish Medical Women on August 20, 2013, four days before her 94th birthday. Dr. Silverstolpe served as a Vice President for MWIA for Northern Europe.

Dr. Dorothy Ward, of the Medical Women's Federation of the United Kingdom, passed away December 2, 2013. Dr. Ward was **MWIA's dearly beloved President from 1992 to 1995**, and continued on as National Coordinator for the Medical Women's Federation for 25 years. She was the author of "They Cure in a Motherly Spirit: History of the Medical Women's International Association."

II. ORGANIZATIONS

1. World Health Organization (WHO)

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

Twitter	@WHO
Facebook Page	http://www.facebook.com/worldhealthorganization
Google+ Page	http://gplus.to/WorldHealthOrganization
YouTube	http://www.youtube.com/who
Instagr.am	@worldhealthorganization

b. A **polio** outbreak has been confirmed in Syria.

c. The **World Health Assembly** will take place in Geneva the week of May 19, 2014.

2. United Nations

a. The Commission on the Status of Women will take place at UN Headquarters in New York March 10-21, 2014. The theme is “Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls.” MWIA has applied to hold a parallel event.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join MWIA at the regional meetings during this triennium and you're your calendars now for the 30th MWIA International Congress in Vienna, Austria, from July 28-31, 2016.

The next Update will be published in March, 2014.

Please send us your reports, comments or any other interesting information by February 28, 2014, at the latest. We are always interested to put your name and your accomplishments in the Update.

The executive of MWIA wishes you and yours a happy festive season and health and happiness for 2014.



The Medical Women's International Association Executive 2013-2016

Front row left to right: Shelley Ross, Bettina Pfliderer, Kyung Ah Park, Afua Hesse

Back row left to right: Mercedes Viteri, Carole Williams, Hiroko Yamamoto, Khatuna Kaladze, Shafika Nasser, Christiane Pouliart, Gail Beck, Bong Ok Kim, Helen Goodyear