LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

WELCOME MEMBERS,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNWAVERING SUPPORT OF THE YMWIA BULLETIN. WE ARE VERY PROUD OF THIS ISSUE WITH REPRESENTATION FROM MANY DIFFERENT REGIONS. WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THIS WORK BY SUBMITTING YOUR ARTICLES, READING THE LATEST ISSUES, AND ENCOURAGING YOUR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES TO GET INVOLVED.

MWIA has been very active in the past six months and one of the highlights is our annual attendance at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, which takes place in March, focused around International Women’s Day.

This year our event was incredibly well attended and had a very strong Young Forum presence. Students from the United States, Australia, Nigeria, Canada, and many others were in attendance. Drs. Rosemary Ogu and Pamela Liao, YMWIA executives, made a brief presentation about the work of YMWIA, notably the launch of the webinar series.

Please visit our website. You will find information on:

- Dates for the next webinar!
- Previous newsletter issues
- Submission form link for newsletter articles
- Facebook group link

We look forward to your continued support and are happy to discuss article ideas with you.

DRS CHARLOTTE ROHRBORN AND PAMELA LIAO
MEDICAL WOMEN INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION — YOUNG FORUM
YMWIA BULLETIN COMMITTEE
WEBPAGE: HTTP://MWIA.NET/YOUNG-MWIA/
**REACHING OUT TO SCHOOL CHILDREN AND YOUTHS**

OMIEPIRISA YVONNE BUOWARI  
River State Branch of Nigerian Medical Women Association  
Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria

The Medical Women Association of Nigeria (MWAN), Rivers State Branch is one of the branches of the Medical Women Association of Nigeria. It holds an annual weeklong programme dedicated to reaching out to women and children in the communities. The MWAN Rivers State Branch Week 2011 comprised of Medical Outreach and School Health talks to three secondary schools in Rivers State, Southern Nigeria. Rivers State with Port Harcourt as its capital is located in Southern Nigeria. It has both urban and rural communities with several islands. The School Health Programme was a one-day programme where members were divided into three groups and assigned to the different schools. All the schools chosen were co-educational and located in urban areas. The Health Talk comprised of several aspects of health education: sex education, personal hygiene, breast self-examination. Leaflets of Breast Self Examination designed by MWAN, Rivers State Branch was distributed and the students were encouraged to share all information they had gathered with their friends, mothers, sisters, aunts and other female relatives and friends. The students thanked MWAN, Rivers State Branch for taking out time to disseminate such important knowledge as most of their parents and guardians do not have time to discuss such issues with them because of tight schedule and cultural norms. MWAN Rivers State Branch plans to have more of such health education talks in the rural areas and islands, which are difficult to access because of difficult terrains and transportation difficulties.

**English seminar of yMWIA Japan**  
Kei Hayashi  
Tokyo, Japan

English language training needs to be improved in Japan. On Feb 23rd, I attended an English seminar organized by MSACT, a group for medical students and young doctors to expand their horizons. It is one of the committees of the JMWA (Japan Medical Women’s Association). Dr. Mariko Fujikawa, the founder of MSACT and Dr. Arino Yaguchi, National Coordinator of IMWA organized this seminar. In this seminar we received instruction by professional English lecturers on how to improve the practical skills of medical doctors with regards to presentations and writing papers in English.

I enjoyed the seminar very much. What excited and surprised me most was how
CONFIDENT AND PASSIONATE THE PARTICIPANTS WERE. I THINK THIS IS BECAUSE PEOPLE WHO ARE WILLING TO SPEND THEIR PRECIOUS DAYS OFF AND MONEY TO STUDY ENGLISH ARE HIGHLY MOTIVATED SO THEY ARE PROACTIVE IN MANY FIELDS. I AM NOT SURE IF ONE CAN BECOME MORE CHARMING BY ATTENDING AN ENGLISH SEMINAR BUT IT IS A START.

WE ALSO ENJOYED A NICE DINNER PARTY TO PROMOTE FRIENDSHIP AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS. I APPRECIATE THE PROGRAM INCLUDING THE DINNER AT THE END OF THE SEMINAR. FROM THIS EXPERIENCE, I DECIDED TO KEEP SEARCHING FOR AND PARTICIPATING IN INTERESTING SEMINARS AND STUDY CIRCLES. I WANT TO BE MORE CONFIDENT ABOUT MYSELF AND HAVE A GREATER PASSION TO STUDY.

AFTER AN INSPIRING WELCOME SPEECH BY DR. TAKAKO TSUDA, THE PRESIDENT OF JMWA, PROF. ATSUKO HESHIKI GAVE US A LECTURE. I MET PROF. HESHIKI FOR THE FIRST TIME AND ONLY KNEW SHE USED TO BE THE PRESIDENT OF IMWA AND WAS ONE OF THE DELEGATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FROM JAPAN. HER WAY OF BUILDING HER CAREER IMPRESSED ME DEEPLY. SHE IS A RADIOLoGIST WHO WAS AFFILIATED WITH JOHNS HOPKINS. SHE STUDIED ENGLISH AND MEDICINE SO HARD THAT SHE BECAME A RESIDENT OF THE US SOON AFTER HER GRADUATION WHEN STUDYING AND WORKING ABROAD WAS VERY RARE FOR WOMEN. SHE WAS INSPIRED BY RADIOLOGY WHICH WAS A FOREFRONT OF MEDICINE AND US RADIOLOGISTS WHO ARE MUCH MORE ASSERTIVE THAN JAPANESE DOCTORS. SHE PLANNED EVERYTHING SHE WANTED TO DO AND STUDIED THEM ONE BY ONE, SUCH AS MANAGEMENT, EDUCATION, CLINICAL WORK AND RESEARCH. FROM HER SPEECH, I WAS REMINDED HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO MAKE CLEAR WHAT WE REALLY WANT TO DO. IF WE HAVE CLEAR GOALS AND HAVE A LOT OF PASSION TO ACHIEVE THEM, WE CAN DO ALMOST ANYTHING EVEN IF THEY SEEM IMPOSSIBLE AT FIRST. I ALSO REALLY WANT TO STUDY AND WORK ABROAD SO SHE IS GREAT EXAMPLE FOR ME. I LIKE HER WORDS ‘DON’T BE AN INSECURE GIRL, BE A CONFIDENT LADY’. I NOTICED THAT I SHOULD HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE IN WHAT I AM PURSUING. I DEFINITELY RECOMMEND MANY JAPANESE WOMEN MEDICAL STUDENTS TO ATTEND THIS SEMINAR AND HOPE TO GET INSPIRED BY PROF. HESHIKI!

THE VICTORIA MEDICAL WOMEN’S SOCIETY APPROACH TO INTERNSHIP APPLICATIONS
MARISSA DANEILS
THE PRINCE CHARLES HOSPITAL AND UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF MEDICAL WOMEN (AFMW), SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1927, HAS SOUGHT TO ENSURE EQUITY FOR AUSTRALIAN WOMEN DOCTORS THROUGHOUT ALL STAGES OF THEIR PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL LIVES.

ALL AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL GRADUATES START THEIR CAREERS AS INTERNS, AND THE INTERNSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS CAN BE PARTICULARLY STRESSFUL, COMPOUNDING THE DEMANDS OF FINAL YEAR MEDICAL SCHOOL.

THIS GUIDE PROVIDES A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO THE PREPARATION OF A PROFESSIONAL RESUME AND CURRICULUM VITAE (CV), AS WELL AS THE MEDICAL INTERVIEW. PREPARED BY A TEAM OF EXPERIENCED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AND JUNIOR DOCTORS, IT OFFERS INSIGHTS FROM THE PERSPECTIVES OF BOTH PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYER AND MEDICAL GRADUATE.

READERS ARE CHALLENGED TO CONSIDER:
• WHAT DISTINGUISHES ME FROM OTHER CANDIDATES?
• HOW DO I WANT TO PRESENT MYSELF?
• HOW DO I USE LANGUAGE TO STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD EFFECTIVELY?

THE SUCCESS OF THIS BOOKLET HAS BEEN MATCHED BY THE POPULARITY OF ANNUAL “CV AND INTERVIEW PREPARATION WORKSHOPS”. AT THESE WORKSHOPS A PANEL OF PRESENTERS, COMPRISING SENIOR PRACTITIONERS AND NEWLY HIRED INTERNS, LEAD AN INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION WITH MEDICAL STUDENTS ON TOPICS PERTAINING TO THE INTERNSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS. ALWAYS WELL ATTENDED, SOME WHO ONCE PARTICIPATED AS A STUDENT RETURN TO OFFER ADVICE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION!

THE SKILLS ATTAINED DURING THESE WORKSHOPS, AND OUTLINED IN THE VMWS GUIDE TO CV WRITING AND SUCCESSFUL INTERVIEWS, ARE NOT JUST APPLICABLE TO PROSPECTIVE INTERNS, BUT ALL MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS. IN THE WORDS OF ASSOCIATED PROFESSOR DEB COLVILLE, OPHTHALMOLOGIST AND MEDICAL EDUCATOR, "SAY YES, YOU CAN DO THE JOB... AND YOU WILL THRIVE".

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CALL FOR RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS
{EDITORS NOTE: THE MWIA AND YMWIA ARE NOT OFFICIALLY INVOLVED IN THIS STUDY AND PUBLICATION IN THIS NEWSLETTER DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT. PARTICIPANTS SHOULD CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THE ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND DIRECT ANY QUESTIONS TO THE AUTHOR.}

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND WOMEN’S HEALTH: EDUCATING FUTURE CLINICIANS
SARAH ANTOINETTE ROCKEFELLER
MONASH UNIVERSITY

SEXUAL VIOLENCE IS NOT ONLY A HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE BUT CARRIES A SIGNIFICANT BURDEN OF DISEASE WORLDWIDE1. IN AUSTRALIA BETWEEN 1 IN 3 AND 1 IN 5 WOMEN IDENTIFY AS BEING VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE WITH SIMILAR INSTANCES WORLDWIDE2, 3, 4. SEXUAL VIOLENCE LEADS TO A DECREASE IN PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL

www.mwia.net
WELLBEING INCLUDING STRONG LINKS TO DEPRESSION AND SUICIDE5, 6, 7. THEREFORE, IT IS IMPORTANT DOCTORS ARE TRAINED TO RECOGNIZE PATIENTS WHO ARE SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND PROVIDE THEM WITH HOLISTIC MEDICAL CARE.

DESPITE THE COMMON OCCURRENCE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE, DOCTORS OFTEN FAIL TO IDENTIFY VICTIMS8. PATIENTS ARE UNLIKELY TO SPONTANEOUSLY DISCLOSE THEIR SEXUAL VIOLENCE HISTORY DUE TO SHAME, EMBARRASSMENT AND FEAR OF JUDGMENT5, 8, 9. DOCTORS IDENTIFY COMMON BARRIERS TO INQUIRING ABOUT SEXUAL VIOLENCE INCLUDING INSUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE TO RAISE THE TOPIC OR NOT KNOWING HOW TO PROCEED10, 11.

MY NAME IS SARAH ROCKEFELLER. I AM A MEDICAL STUDENT FROM MONASH UNIVERSITY IN MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA DOING A RESEARCH PROJECT UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A/PROF JAN COLES AND PROF. GABRIELLE CASPER. MY RESEARCH AIDS TO EXAMINE THE SEXUAL VIOLENCE EDUCATION NEEDS OF MEDICAL STUDENTS. TO DISCOVER MORE ABOUT THIS TOPIC I AM CONDUCTING PHONE INTERVIEWS WITH DOCTORS ABOUT THEIR OWN TRAINING REGARDING WOMEN’S HEALTH AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND WHAT THEY BELIEVE STUDENTS SHOULD LEARN ABOUT THIS TOPIC IN MEDICAL SCHOOL. THIS PROJECT (CF14/43 – 201400015) HAS HUMAN ETHICS APPROVAL FROM THE MONASH UNIVERSITY HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING OR WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE I CAN BE CONTACTED VIA EMAIL AT SAROC1@student.monash.edu

LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU SOON.

5. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION. WORLD REPORT ON VIOLENCE AND HEALTH: CHAPTER 6 SEXUAL VIOLENCE. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, 2002.


Original submissions for the next issue of the Young Forum’s Newsletter are currently being accepted.

Please send news items, articles, commentaries, school exchange reports, local MWIA activities to our editors.

Reports must be carefully proof-read prior to submission.

Please include author name, country, email, photo, and articles not exceeding 500 words.

Submission link available on our facebook page and www.mwia.net