

## 9<sup>th</sup> Historic teaser: The 10<sup>th</sup> decade: MWIA in the digital and online era (2009-2019)

### *Highlights and Challenges of the decade*

Medical feats were achieved in this decade including 2011 - world's first synthetic organ transplant, 2013 -first creation of human embryonic stem cell cloning, first gene therapy and complex surgeries performed by robots.

In December 2013, the world lost an icon, Nelson Mandela, who championed Global women's health and rights. 2013 to 2016, witnessed the most widespread outbreak of Ebola virus in history mostly in the West African region. The middle of the decade was the deadline for the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in 2015 and birth of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) The Nobel Peace prize went to the physician Dennis Mukwege and Nadia Murad in 2018 for their efforts at ending the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war.

MWIA went with the times and the decade saw the increased use by MWIA of digital technology, webinars and skype meetings:

- 2011: Piloting of first MWIA online journal 84 years after MWIA hard copy journal of 1927
- 2013: Overhaul of MWIA website.
- 2014: Launch of a MWIA webinar series.
- 2016: Launch of a MWIA teaching module on violence with case studies.
- 2017: MWIA membership survey; over 1150 responses.
- 2017/2018: MWIA survey on sexual harassment.
- 2017: New MWIA flyer in English, Spanish and Portuguese.
- 2017: New Facebook page and group: <https://www.facebook.com/mwia.network>
- 2018: Piloting the first MWIA workshop on violence at the MWIA regional meeting Africa & New East, Nairobi, Kenya
- 2019: Modernization of MWIA statutes and by-laws



MWIA executive (2016-2019)



yMWIA executive (2016-2019)

### ***MWIA Meetings***

- 2010: 28th Congress, Muenster, Germany. Muenster, Germany. *Globalisation in Medicine – Challenges and Opportunities.*
- 2013: 29th Congress, Seoul, South Korea. *Medical Women Advance Global Health.*
- 2016: 30th Congress, Vienna, Austria. *Generation Y Challenges of the Future for Female Medical Doctors.*
- 2019: 31th centennial Congress, New York, USA. *Ambassadors of Change in a Challenging Global World*



Participants at International MWIA Congress, Vienna, Austria, 2016



Sand painting, Seoul, South Korea, 2013

### ***MWIA Membership development***

MWIA's membership included at the end of the decade 35 member countries and individual members from 9 countries. Sadly no communication with many of the previous individual members was seen. Cessation of national medical women associations: Sierra Leone, Norway, Israel, Argentina.

### ***Further MWIA Activities:***

- Birthing kits for Afghanistan and India
- Donation of ultrasound machines by DAK Foundation, Australia to Nigeria and Sierra Leone

**The MWIA presidents of that decade were** Atsuko HESHIKI\*, Japan (2007-2010), Afua AJ HESSE, Ghana (2010-2013), Kyung Ah PARK, Korea (2013-2016) and Bettina PFLEIDERER, Germany (2016-2019).

**Honorary members were:** Joan Ford, Canada (2010), Gabrielle Casper, Australia (2010), Margaret Maxwell, New Zealand (2013), Susanne Close Australia (2013), Deborah Colville, Australia (2013), Kyung Ah Park, Korea (2016), Afua A J Hesse, Ghana (2016), Ameyor Adadevor, Nigeria posthumously \* (2016)

**Members of Honor** added in the decade were Dr. Wariara Mbugu, USA (2007) and the DAK Foundation (the Rickards Family) 2019.



From left: Atsuko Heshiki (2007-2010), Afua Hesse (2010-2013), Kyung Ah Park (2013-2016), Bettina Pfleiderer (2016-2019)

**Sources:**

Ward D. They Cure In A Motherly Spirit: History Of MWIA, Fledgling Press, Glasgow, 2010.

Pictures: Courtesy of MWIA, Dr Uzoma M. Agwu Picture Gallery, Austrian Medical Women's Association

(<https://www.history.com/topics/womens-history/womens-history-us-timeline>)