

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MWIA



Update

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90th Anniversary Year

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MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

I. MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

1. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Atsuko Heshiki, Japan

"Leadership, Achievement and Accomplishment"

It was my great pleasure and honor to participate in the Central European Meeting of MWIA, held in Vienna, Austria. Dr. Edith Schratzberger-Vecsei, President of Austrian Women's Medical Association, and her colleague came to Rome during the Southern European Society Meeting in the fall of 2007 and asked me to deliver the keynote speech. To know the plan in advance is so important for me and I am pleased in particular in this regard. Furthermore the meeting was well attended by Austrian, German colleagues and other members in Europe as well as Dr. Shelley Ross, Secretary-General, Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus, VP of the region and Dr. Kyung Ah Park, Finance Committee Chair.

The main theme of the meeting was "Women in Medicine", which included Gender based speakers on gender-based Oncology. Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus and Dr. Shelley conducted the workshop on gender-based medicine.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organizing committee and members of Austrian Medical Women's Association for their hospitality.

Good News came from Korean Medical Women's Association just recently. Dr. Il-Ok Choo, former President of MWIA, has been awarded the Korean Medical Association - Pfizer International Cooperation Award. Not only that, she is going to donate the prize, amounting to approximately US8000 to MWIA. I would like to share this good news with the MWIA membership and thank Dr. Choo for her generosity.

My mission of enhancing the leadership in academia continues within Japan. I shall have the opportunity to speak on leadership during the Near East & Africa Regional Meeting in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, July 15-17,2009.

I am developing a survey to gather information about women in medicine. Soon, you will receive the grand survey questionnaires of "status of women physician" from your national coordinator. Please take time to answer the questionnaire, so we can have an up-to-date data base of women in medicine.

2. REQUESTS FROM THE SECRETARY- GENERAL

Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada

The year 2009 is our 90th anniversary year. Come out and help us celebrate!

Thank you to the Austrian Medical Women for hosting the Central European Regional Meeting of the year in Vienna. A fabulous time was had at the Josephinum in Vienna, the home of medical history.

There are two other regional meetings this year. The Near East and Africa Regional Meeting is in Dar Es Salaam on July 13-17 and the North American Regional Meeting is onboard the cruise from Boston to Montreal on September 19-26. For those who have always wanted to see Anne of Green Gables, this is your opportunity, as the cruise stops in Charlottetown for a day.

Several members attended the World Health Assembly at WHO Headquarters and the Palais de Nations in Geneva. MWIA is continuing to work with WHO on various activities from gender and health to female genital mutilation to cervical cancer to gender based violence.

It is time once again to think of representation at the Department of Public Information (DPINGO) annual congress, which will be held in Mexico City in September. If anyone is planning to attend, please inform the Secretariat.

Also in the autumn, the WHO Regional Meetings are held. Please let the Secretariat know if you would like to attend.

It is only a year until the MWIA International Congress in Munster, Germany. Please mark your calendars for July 28-31, 2010.

Nominations are still being received for the venue for the 2013 congress.

June 30th is the end of the fiscal year for MWIA. Please make sure you have paid your dues.

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3. 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

Norway

Dr. Angela Maienborn has relocated from Germany to Norway and hopes to meet with the medical women of Norway.

Recently, the UN Deputy Secretary-General, Asha-Rose Migiro, met with the European justice ministers in Tromsø, Norway, where they focused on breaking the silence of domestic violence. She highlighted Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's UNiTE Campaign, which calls on world leaders to spur action through national campaigns and to achieve five key outcomes by 2015. She hoped that by 2015 all countries will have the strong laws, action plans, preventive measures and data collection systems that are the essential elements for stopping and defeating all forms of domestic violence.

United Kingdom

The Medical Women's Federation Spring Meeting, "Women in Medicine," held in Brighton on Friday, May 8, was a stimulating event. Dr. Helena McKeown gave the keynote address on General Practice services and the need to retain autonomy in the current political climate. We also heard about the plight of refugee women in medicine with a personal story from Dr. Zara Hussein. This was followed by a thought-provoking debate, "Are there too many women in medicine," proposed by Sir Bernie Ribeiro, Past President of the Royal College of Surgeons, and opposed by Professor Sheila Hollins, Past President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. The winners of the Katherine Branson Essay Competition, Hannah Harvey and Helena Carley, read their prize-winning essays on "Are there too many women in medicine" and "How can doctors safeguard children better?"

Dr. Helen Goodyear, MWF President, presented the bi-annual survey of the flexible working group from the committee in the afternoon session. The Elizabeth Garret Anderson Prize was awarded to Pippa Dwan on "How are we tackling the problem of student drinking?" showing innovative posters and schemes. Our second keynote address was given by Karen Hughes on Public Health issues relating to the promotion and protection of the health of young people in nightclub environments. The Dame Hilda Rose Memorial lecture in the evening was given by Professor Diana Lawrence-Watt, recently retired Professor of Anatomy, giving an account of her research work in Duchenne muscular dystrophy and anatomy teaching at the Brighton and Sussex Medical School. This was followed by a tour of the Royal Pavilion and a splendid dinner. Pictures are available on MWF's website now. (www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk)

At the Council meeting the next day, motions were passed for the abolishment of the gender pay gap, time and consultation prior to the introduction of the Health Minister's Darzi centres and ensuring training within the confines of the European Working Time Directive.

Central Europe

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

Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus, Vice President Central Europe, Germany

Austria

The Austrian Medical Women Organization celebrated the 90th anniversary of MWIA and its own organization that was constituted the same year. On May 15-16, the meeting of the Central European Congress took place in the medical- history museum in Vienna, known as the Josephinum. This was named for Emperor Joseph, son of Empress Maria Theresia. In this museum are wax models of anatomy, used to train physicians when anatomy labs were not available. The models are similar in quality to today's Body Works, which are made from human cadavers, and have remained preserved since 1786. Guests from all over the world joined the meeting and just to mention some of them- we were pleased to welcome Dr. Atsuko Heshiki from Japan, President of MWIA, the Secretary General - Dr. Shelley Ross from Canada, Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus, the Regional Vice President of Central Europe and the Presidents of the German Medical Women, Dr. Astrid Bühren and the Medical Women Swiss, Dr. Marianne Laifer.

The topics of the scientific program presented a great variety from gender specific differences in oncology, medical women in politics and gynaecological problems of migrants up to religion and philosophy in medicine.

The get-together dinner was a great success, which the trio of the husband and two sons of Dr. Schratzberger providing outstanding entertainment with piano, violin and cello. During the dinner, the Dr. Lore Antoine Prizes for outstanding scientific medical publications on gender specific topics were awarded to Dr. Jensen- Jarolim and Dr. Priglinger. Dr Edith Schratzberger-Vecsei the current president of the Austrian Medical Women Organization and her vice president, Dr. Iris Habitzel, nominated Dr Gertrude Harrer to President of Honour. Dr. Harrer was one of the few medical women Dermatologists in Vienna in the late 1940th and a close friend of Dr. Antoine who was one of the pioneers of the Austrian Medical Women Organization and president of the MWIA between 1966 and 1969.

The meeting closed on Saturday evening in a typical Austrian winery. We were very happy that everything ran successfully and everybody enjoyed the sessions. Now we are looking forward to the 28th International MWIA Congress in Münster, Germany next July and hope to meet everybody again.

Georgia

The Georgian Medical Women's Association (GMWA) established a new branch in Gurjaani, Kakheti's Region and a practical scientific Conference to celebrate its inauguration. At the conference, a donation was made for the welfare of children in the region. GMWA also presented doctors with the pharmacological formulary that was edited by WHO. This was a well-attended and most successful conference.

GMWA also has new website: <http://www.gmwa.org.ge>

Southern Europe

Belgium, France, Greece, Israel, Italy

Dr. Gwenaelle M Vidal-Trecan, Vice President Southern Europe, France

France

AFFM thanks Shelley Ross and Iris Habitzel for sending information after the Central European Regional Congress of Vienna. Sandrine Souchon , past Secretary General and present member of the Conseil d'Administration of AFFM , was ready to attend the meeting but she had a personal emergency.

AFFM has been approved as one of the associations partners of the Collectif for the National Great Cause 2010: "Violence Against Women." The Prime Minister has labeled this the "Campaign of General Interest."

On June 4th Cecile Renson, Marie-Claire Brusset and Marie-Dominique Ghnassia were invited to the Palais du Luxembourg by Marie-Anne Montchamp, past minister, Deputy of Val de Marne and President of "Fondamental," a foundation for research and therapy in Mental Health. Two surveys were presented: one on the perception of mental diseases, the other on their social cost: 1/5 of the French population affected; 12000 deaths by suicide each year (one every 40 minutes); first hospital expenditure, first cause of disability, second cause of sick leave; costing 107 Million Euros each year, which is nearly 1/3 of the state expenditure.. .but only 2% of health investment and 2% of the budget for medical research.

The "Second Day of Women's Health" took place June 16th with the presence of Nicole Ameline, past minister of Parity and Professional Equality, deputy of Calvados, member of CEDAW (UNO). The conference gathered 170 persons with very interesting subjects discussed: Perineal pathology and therapy, How to fight the ageing process of the skin, and Nutrition and cooking.

PACA: Marie-Noelle Mayer, President of the Section, has organized a meeting in the Provence Country Club of Saumane de Vaucluse on May 12th with the help of Bionutrics laboratory. The subject presented by Virginie Pons, specialist in reconstructive and esthetic surgery , was " How to introduce anti-aging medicine in Esthetic surgery ?"

SAVE THE DATE: May 14 - 15, 2010: MWIA Southern European Regional Meeting:

**Faculte de Medecine Paris Descartes - 15 Rue de l'Ecole de Medecine . Paris . VI°.
(Odeon-Saint Michel)**

North America

Canada, United States of America

Dr. Shirley Hovan, Vice President North America, Canada

Canada

Once again, the Federation of Medical Women of Canada is having a smear campaign against cervical cancer, which will be October 26-30, 2009. This is the second year of the event, with 500 women receiving a Pap smear during last year's campaign.

Please plan to attend the North American Regional meeting, being held onboard the Maasdam of Holland America line. The topic is "Caring for the Caregiver" which is relevant for all of us. I am very much looking forward to a cruise on the Eastern Seaboard in the fall, September 19 - 26, 2009, and I hope that if you can get away at that time you will consider attending. The topics will include Resilience, Nutrition and Exercise, Aesthetic Solutions, The Role of Gender in Care Giving, and Retirement Planning. Please check the website for more details! (<http://www.mwia.net/>). For those of you who always wanted to see Anne of Green Gables, this is your opportunity.

The Federation of Medical Women plans to have its Annual Board and General meeting at the end of the cruise in Montreal at the Intercontinental Hotel on September 26-27. To register, go to www.fmwca.ca.

United States

The American Medical Women's Association is held its annual meeting in March 27-29, 2009, in Williamsburg, Virginia. Dr. Roberta Ruben was recently honoured with the Dr. Bertha Van Heusen Award for her dedicated work for AMWA.

AMWA is developing a permanent exhibit in the lobby of Drexel University's new building for the Institute for Women's Health and Leadership (Philadelphia, PA). The institute is also the home for the Archives & Special Collections on Women in Medicine, the largest collection of material pertaining to the history of women in medicine,

including AMWA's historical documents and photos from the founding meeting in 1915 to the present day.

Next year's meeting will be March 26-28, 2010, in Washington, DC.

Latin America

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

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

Mexico

The Mexican Medical Women's Association is holding its annual meeting September 9-12, 2009, at the University of San Luis Potosi in the auditorium of the Faculty of Medicine. For information, contact Dra. Ana Luisa Molina Gonzalez at 01 444 8 17 4965 or for reservations contact reservaciones@hotelpanorama.com.mx.

Peru

As July 4th is Friend's Day in Peru, the Peruvian Medical Women would like to send warm greetings to all their MWIA friends.

Near East and Africa

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

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

Nigeria

With 1,100 women dying during pregnancy or childbirth for every 100,000 live births, Nigeria has one of the highest maternal mortality ratios in the world. In 1994, the Nigerian government committed to reducing maternal mortality by 75% by year 2015 when it signed on to the Program of Action at the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo. Yet, a new analysis finds that policies aimed at reducing maternal mortality have not been implemented effectively and are seriously under funded.

The study, [Barriers to Safe Motherhood in Nigeria](#), found that the provision of prenatal care critical to reducing maternal mortality has not improved over time. More than 40% of Nigerian women still do not visit a trained health care provider during pregnancy. And while the proportion of women whose delivery is attended by a trained provider has increased from 30% in 1990 to 37% in 2003, Nigeria still has one of the lowest rates of professional-assisted births in West Africa.

Tanzania

The 5th Near East and Africa Regional Congress is almost here, with a great program in store. Please visit the website at www.mewata.org for details. Look to the September MWIA Update for details of the congress.

Uganda

There is currently a bill in the Ugandan parliament to outlaw female genital mutilation, which would make it illegal by fall, 2009.

Central Asia

India, Thailand

Dr. Manju Mataliya, Vice President Central Asia, India

India

The Association of Medical Women in India, Mumbai Branch will host the "Central Asia Regional Conference" in Mumbai at Mayfair Rooms Worli in 30th & 31st January 2010. The conference will consist of Orations, Guest Lecture, Symposia & Free Papers..

Western Pacific

Australia, Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of China (Hong Kong SAR of China), Japan, Korea, Mongolia, New Zealand, Philippines, Taiwan, Province of China

Dr. Winnie Yang, Vice President Western Pacific, Taiwan, Province of China

Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of China (Hong Kong, SAR of China)

Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the People's Republic of China

Hong Kong Women Doctors Association is a member of the organizing committee of the Hong Kong Women Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the People's Republic of China, and Hong Kong Medical Sectors celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the People's Republic of China. The committee has organized a series of events to celebrate the 60th birthday of our nation. Coming will be a Celebration Gala Dinner on 28 August 2009 and the Asia Pacific Women Forum 2009 on 29 August 2009.

4th Ripple Action

The 4th "Ripple Action" was successfully held on 4 July 2009. Ripple Action is a series of community service projects, which is a collaborative effort of several women professional groups (including doctors, nurses, lawyers and accountants), aiming at providing community service to women in need in Hong Kong. Apart from providing free cervical screening, seminars on female rights and financial management were conducted by our co-organizers.

Third Annual General Meeting (AGM) of HKWDA

Our 3rd AGM will be held on 27 August 2009. Same as meetings in the past 2 years, this year's meeting will be followed by a seminar on current health issues (Topic of this year is "Exercise and osteoporosis"), and a celebration dinner to celebrate the 3rd birthday of our Association.

Seminars for Members

1/ Prevention and Treatment of skin aging— an evidence based approach

This was successfully held on 25 April 2009. The response from members was overwhelming, and audience showed great interest in the topic and actively participated in the discussion that followed.

2/ Careers talk for house officers

A seminar titled "Planning for your Medical Career-- writing your CV, preparing for your job interview and going to the right specialty" for house officers will be held on 7 November 2009. The talks will be conducted by senior members of the profession, aiming to provide guidance and advice for our young members in choosing their specialty after graduation. Special emphasis would be on practical skills in job interviews and in writing up their Curriculum vitae.

For the latest news and photos of our activities please visit our website:

www.hkwda.com

Korea

Dr. Il-Ok Choo has been awarded the Korean Medical Association's Pfizer International Cooperation Award and donated the prize to MWIA via Dr. Kyung-Ah Park, Chair of the Finance Committee MWIA.

7. CALENDAR OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MWIA AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS - CONGRESSES AND MEETINGS



2009

1. **July 6-9, 2009 Geneva, Switzerland**
The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) High-Level Segment
www.un.org
2. **July 13-17, 2009 - i**
MWIA Near East & Africa Regional Meeting
Developing World Towards Achieving Health Related MDG in 2025
Venue: Dar Es Salaam Kunduchi Beach Hotel
Further details can be found at www.mewata.org
3. **September 9-12, 2009 San Luis Potosi, Mexico**
Annual meeting of the Mexican Medical Women
Venue: Faculty of Medicine of the University of San Luis Potosi
Contact Dra. Ana Luisa Molina Gonzalez at 01 444 8 17 4965
For hotel reservations: reservaciones@hotelpanorama.com.mx
4. **September 9-12, 2009 Isfahan, Iran**
WHO Regional Committee Meeting for the Eastern Mediterranean Region
5. **September 9-12, 2009 Mexico City, Mexico**
62nd Annual DPI/NGO Conference
Theme: For Peace and Development: Disarm Now
www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/conference
6. **September 14-17, 2009 Copenhagen, Denmark**
WHO Regional Committee for Europe
7. **September 19-26, 2009 - Cruise from Boston to Montreal**
MWIA North American Regional Meeting
Taking Care of the Caregiver: Physician Heal Thyself
Bookings must be through SeaCourses at www.seacourses.com
8. **September 26-27, 2009 Montreal, Canada**
Annual meeting of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada
following the North American Cruise at the Intercontinental, Montreal
Further details can be found at www.fmwc.ca

9. **October 21-25, 2009** Washington, DC, USA
Annual Global Meeting of the Bone and Joint Decade.
Visit www.usbjd.org
10. **November 14, 2009** Brussels, Belgium
Does Medicine Treat Men and Women the Same?
Parliament Congress Hall, Chaussee de Louvain 21, Brussels
11. **November 13, 2009** London, UK
Autumn Meeting of the Medical Women's Federation
Women As Leaders
The New Connaught Rooms, 61-65 Great Queen Street, Covent Garden
www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk

2010

1. **January 30-31, 2010** - India
Central Asia Regional Meeting
Mayfair Rooms Worli in Mumbai
www.mwia.net
2. **March 26-28, 2010** Crystal City, Virginia, USA
American Medical Women's Association Annual Meeting
The Crystal Gateway Marriott
www.amwa-doc.org
3. **May 14, 15, 16, 2010** - Paris, France
Southern European Regional Meeting
<http://affm.affinitesante.com>
4. **May 23-29, 2010** Sophia, Bulgaria
Sophia Women's World Conference
MDG#3 Gender Equality and Empowerment
www.sophia2010.org
5. **July 28-31, 2010** The Residence in Munster, Germany
28th International Congress of MWIA
Globalization in Medicine: Challenges and Opportunities
www.mwia2010.net

2011

1. **May 26- 29, 2011** Western Pacific Regional Meeting
Keio Plaza Hotel, Tokyo, Japan

5. NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

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

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

Websites of National Associations

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

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

Please remember that MWIA has a Special Interest Group for Young Doctors and Medical Students. Please nominate a young woman under the age of 40 to represent your country.

The committee contacts are through the Secretariat and are:

Chairperson: Dr. Inke Doench, Germany

Vice chair: Dr. Adjoa Duker, USA

Secretary: Dr. Jane Mba, Nigeria.

Inke Doench participated in the Central European Regional Meeting in Vienna and a good turn-out is planned for the meeting in Dar-Es-Salaam.

7. 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.

Thank you to Dr. Il-Ok Choo who donated her Korean Medical Association Pfizer International Cooperation Award monies to MWIA.

8. 28th MWIA Congress in Munster, Germany

July 28 to 31, 2010. Theme is **Networking in Changing Times/World**

Please mark your calendar for the 28th MWIA International Congress in Munster, Germany from July 28-31, 2010. The website is www.mwia2010.net and further details will appear during 2009.

The theme is Globalization in Medicine: Challenges and Opportunities.

The sub themes are:

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

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

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

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

primary health care

It is an honour that Ursula von der Leyen, German federal minister for family affairs, senior citizens, women and youth agreed on being the patroness for the MWIA world congress 2010 in Münster. She is a medical doctor herself and a mother of seven. Many of the topics of this meeting are very important to her such as e.g. prevention strategies of obesity in children, gender inequality to name a few.

9. Names in the News

Dr. Jennifer Alexander, a past finance chair of MWIA, has become CEO of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in Sydney.

Major Karen Breeck, a past president of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada was awarded the Canadian Society of Physician Executives Excellence in Medical Leadership Award for her work with FMWC and with aerospace medicine, serving in the Canadian Armed Forces for 20 years, including looking after the famous Snow Birds. In giving her acceptance speech, she stated that you often have to “feel the fear but do it anyway” and “fake it until you can make it,” both good advice from the military.

Dr. Il-Ok Choo has been awarded the KMA(Korean Medical Association) - Pfizer International Cooperation Award and donated the prize to MWIA via Dr. Kyung-Ah Park, Chair of Finance of MWIA.

Dr. Jan Christilaw, a long-time member of the FMWC was appointed as President of Childrens and Women’s Hospital of BC, which is the largest obstetric and children’s hospital in the province.

Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus was awarded the Ewald Sprawe award for civil courage, for social and humanitarian commitment and for tolerance and human dignity. The award is named after the first Lord Mayor of Dortmund.

Dr Gertrude Harrer was awarded the first President of Honour Award of the Austrian Medical Women’s Association.

Professor Olasurubomi Ogedemgbe of Nigeria was elected President-elect of the West African College of Surgeons.

Dr. Kyung Ah Park is Vice President of the Korean Medical Association

Dr. Miriam Priglinger was awarded the Dr. Lore-Antoine prize for her work in gender medicine at the recent Central European Regional Meeting in Vienna, Austria.

Dr. Shelley Ross was elected Honorary Secretary-Treasurer of the British Columbia Medical Association

10. Books

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

Dr. Eileen Cambon, a Past National coordinator for Canada, has recently written a book entitled: **Uppity Women We Are! 100 Year History of Medical Women of British Columbia (1893 - 1993)**

Dr. Jean Fourcroy, Past Vice President for North America, has edited a book entitled **Pharmacology, Doping and Sports**. It can be ordered from orders@taylorandfrancis.com.

Dr. Mamta Gautam wrote the ever-popular book, **IronDoc**, telling us how to take care of ourselves. She will be the keynote speaker on the North American cruise.

The World Health Organization recently published **Closing the Gap in a Generation**, which is the report from the Commission on the Social Determinants of Health and WHO has recently released their publication on the importance of primary care in the health care system, entitled, "Now More Than Ever."

Women's Global Health and Human Rights. ISBN number is 978-0-7637-5631-4.

II. ORGANIZATION S

1. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)



The 62nd World Health Assembly

The 62nd World Health Assembly took place in Geneva May 18-22, 2009. MWIA was well represented by several colleagues from various regions. We were pleased to meet with Dr. Peju Olukoya from the Department of Gender, Women and Health, Dr. Claudia Garcia-Moreno of Gender Based Violence, Dr. Heli Bathija from Female Genital Mutilation and Dr. Nathalie Broutet from Cervical Cancer. MWIA members are involved with projects with each of these areas.

The World Health Assembly discussed

- pandemic influenza preparedness: sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits;
- implementation of the International Health Regulations;
- primary health care, including health system strengthening;
- social determinants of health; and
- monitoring the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals.

Dr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations and Sarah Brown, wife of the British Prime Minister and Patron of the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood gave the keynote addresses.

Summary of WHO Media Mailings

1. UNICEF and WHO received a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to conduct crucial research to increase child size medicines designed and formulated specifically for children.
2. The WHO Executive Board appointed Dr. Shin Young-Soo of Korea as regional director for the Western Pacific and Dr. Samlee Plianbangchang was reappointed for a second term as regional director for South East Asia.
3. Health ministers from the countries with the greatest burdens of drug-resistant TB have agreed to a Call to Action to accelerate efforts to halt and reverse the global

epidemic of TB. One out of every four TB deaths is HIV related, which is twice as many as previously recognized.

4. April 2nd was World Autism Day and the WHO reaffirmed its commitment to provide technical assistance to member states to deliver integrated health services to people with autism and other mental and developmental disorders of childhood.
5. World Health Day 2009 was celebrated by focusing attention on the large number of lives that can be saved during earthquakes, floods, conflicts and other emergencies through the better design and construction of health facilities and preparing and training of staff.
6. International film star Jet Li has been appointed WHO's Goodwill Ambassador.

2. UNITED NATIONS

DPINGO (Department of Public Information NGO section)

While UN Headquarters in New York remain under renovation, for the second consecutive year, the DPINGO conference will be held outside UN Headquarters. Last year, it was held at UNESCO in Paris. MWIA was pleased to have three of our French members: Dr. Marie-Dominique Ghnassia, Dr. Simone Zerah and Dr. Cecile Renson represent us at the conference in Paris.

This year, the 62nd Annual DPL/NGO Conference will be held in Mexico City on September 9-11, 2009 on the general theme of **For Peace and Development: Disarm Now**. Dr. Cathey Falvo and Dr. Sorosh Roshan will represent MWIA. If anyone else plans to attend, please let the Secretariat know.

Beijing + 15

The theme will be **The Global World Through Women's Eyes: A New World for All**. The NGO CSW, NY in collaboration with the NGO CSW, Geneva and the NGO CSW, Vienna will review the history of the Beijing Conference as well as Beijing + 5, and +10. We will draw from those conferences (as well as Mexico City, Copenhagen, Nairobi) to follow their recommendations, complement their efforts and achievements. Our ultimate goal is implementation and gender parity. At the outcome of Beijing + 15, there will be a concise document produced with a clear message, one that is user-friendly, can be translated and used repetitively. Through the Department of Public Information, preparations are beginning for the 2010 NGO Global Women's Forum for Beijing + 15. Dr. Mini Murthy will represent MWIA at these sessions.

The homepage for NGO at CSW is <http://www.ngocsw.org/en/main>

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) High-Level Segment is taking place in Geneva July 6-9, 2009.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) coordinates the work of UN agencies related to economic and social development. It discusses international economic and social issues and formulates policy recommendations at meetings and consultations through the year.

At the high-level segment of ECOSOC, ministers and executive heads of international institutions and other high-ranking officials join civil society and private sector representatives to discuss key issues on the international agenda.

The high-level segment this year focuses on health. It will open with a ministerial review of the internationally agreed goals and commitments on global public health. It will also examine the impact of global trends - notably the financial and economic crisis - on public health.

The Director-General of WHO will give a keynote address at the opening session, and other WHO senior staff will take part in breakfast briefings and panel discussions throughout the four days.

Through breakfast briefings and panel discussions, WHO will highlight several public health issues, including:

- widening inequities in health outcome within and between countries;
- need for coordinated action in policy response to the economic downturn and other crises;
- slow and uneven achievements in the health-related Millennium Development Goals; and
- growing burden of non-communicable disease and injuries.

3. WONCA WOMEN

The Women in Family Medicine are currently meeting in the UK from 28 June - 3 July 2009 to plan WONCA WOMEN's preparations for Cancun and onwards into the next decade!

WONCA has organized a campaign called "15 by 2015" which calls on all major global health donors to allocate 15% of all their grants towards strengthening the primary health care system of the country in which they work. Currently, funding is vertically programmed towards specific diseases. In contrast, more funding needs to be horizontally programmed towards broad-based improvements in population health, including preventative measures, primary care services, and health workforce development. This 15 by 2015 campaign is aimed at security such funding.

To sign the petition, go to <http://www.15by2015.org/index.php/petition/>.

Dr. Amanda Howe of WONCA Women informs us that there is a good framework for leadership competencies in the UK at http://www.institute.nhs.uk/assessment_tool/general/medical_leadership_competency_framework_homepage.html

4. SOPHIA WOMEN'S WORLD CONFERENCE: Women and Wisdom

The purpose of the conference is to illuminate and implement vital UN Living Documents especially MDG#3 Gender Equality and Empowerment.

Of the 12 critical areas of concern in the Beijing Platform of Action, those of most interest to MWIA are;

Women and Health
Violence Against Women
Women in Power and Decision-making
Human Rights of Women
Women and the Environment
The Girl Child

For more information, please visit the website: www.sophia2010.org

5. INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF MEDICAL STUDENTS (IFMSA)

Please visit the website at www.ifmsa.org for their activities.

6. FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ALLIANCE ON TOBACCO CONTROL

As an organization whose mandate includes women's health, MWIA wrote in support of the tobacco initiatives. Dr. Corinne Bretscher from MWIA worked on the initial work in Geneva. MWIA recently filled out a questionnaire from the Framework Convention.

There are several meetings being held in various regions to discuss various aspects of the framework convention.

7. WHITE RIBBON ALLIANCE FOR SAFE MOTHERHOOD

www.whiteribbonalliance.org

During the World Health Assembly in Geneva, Sarah Brown, the wife of the British Prime Minister spoke about the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood. She is the patron for this organization. There are three activities underway. The first is Global Maternal Mortality Campaign, the second is Million Mums Campaign and the third is called Mothers Day Every Day: A Campaign for Healthy Moms and Newborns.

8. INTERPRESS SERVICE <http://www.ips.org/mdg3/>

The website is part of a major global media and communication project of IPS running through 2009 - 2011 called "Communicating for Change: Getting Voice, Visibility and Impact for Gender Equality." IPS is committed to involving fellow MDG3 Fund recipients and other women's NGOs in many of its project activities primarily in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America. This website, which is part of the Dutch MDG3 communication commitment, documents the publications, meetings and outputs resulting from the whole initiative, and intends to provide a knowledge centre about the activities of other women's organizations working for gender equality.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Update will be published in September, 2009.

Please send us your reports, comments or any other interesting information by August 31, 2009, at the latest. We are always interested to put your name and your accomplishments in the Update.

Letters to the editor are always welcome.

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