

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

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# MWIA



# Update

No. 57 March 2014

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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 was a great opportunity for me to participate in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) Meeting at the United Nations in New York from March 8-18, 2014. It was the first time I had participated and I was very curious to see how it could run on such a large scale. I thank Drs. Satty Keswani and Dr. Mini Murthy for their ongoing efforts at the UN for MWIA.

MWIA held a parallel event, entitled *Role of Women Physicians in Advancing MDG 4 and 5 Globally*. The hall was full for our presentation. Many MWIA members spoke at the event. I was the first speaker and was pleased to introduce MWIA to the audience. All speakers spoke about what was being done regarding MDG 4 and 5 in their regions. Dr. Satty Keswani was an able moderator

One of the highlights of CSW was the opportunity to meet Mr. Ban Ki-Moon Ban, the Secretary General of UN. During the visit, I introduced MWIA's project on domestic violence and reported that we have summarized the surveys and are moving forward on the Training Manual. He was positive on the thought of doing the project in conjunction with the UN.

After our meeting, I went to Washington, D.C. to participate in the 99th annual meeting of the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA). It was a great meeting and about 400 members from all over the country came to Washington to participate. The scientific program was very fruitful and helpful. The mentoring program was excellent and about 140 medical students were participating. AMWA is planning next year's centennial celebration of AMWA in Chicago and I was cordially invited by the President Dr. Farzanna S. Haffizulla.

I reminded AMWA that MWIA will have its Centennial Celebration in New York in 2019 and encouraged AMWA to be a big participant in that celebration.



**Dr. Ban Ki-Moon with Professor Kyung Ah Park**

## **2. REQUESTS FROM THE SECRETARY- GENERAL**

**Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada**

I am pleased to report that MWIA was well represented at the **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)** at the United Nations in New York. A very successful parallel event was provided by MWIA during CSW, entitled, *“Role of Women Physicians in Advancing MDG 4 and 5 Globally.”* Many thanks go to Drs. Satty Gill Keswani and Mini Murthy for their tireless work at the UN on our behalf. Dr. Murthy sits on the executive committee of the CSW NGO committee and does yeoman’s work in this regard. Please see the detailed report under UN reps.

The World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization is quickly approaching, scheduled for the week of May 18<sup>th</sup>. Should anyone wish to be registered, please contact the Secretariat.

A working group has been formed under the leadership of Dr. Bettina Pfliederer to work on the **Training Manual for Domestic and Sexual Violence**. It is not too late to complete the survey, if you have put it in the pile of things to do. Please send your completed survey to the Secretariat. The survey can be found on the MWIA website at [www.mwia.net](http://www.mwia.net).

There will be several **regional meetings** over the triennium. The first is the Northern European Regional Meeting being held in Copenhagen, Denmark, September 4-6, 2014. Details for all meetings can be found in this Update.

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.

**Dr. Pam Liao and Dr. Charlotte Roehrborn** of yMWIA are to be congratulated on their first in a series of **webinars on topics that address the realm of violence against women**. Dr. Mini Murthy presented February 1<sup>st</sup> on the topic of *“Women’s Health is Society’s Wealth.”*

MWIA sent a response to **the Lancet** article, Intimate Partner Violence and HIV: Unwelcome Accomplices, which will appear in an upcoming edition of The Lancet. See MWIA’s response and the link to the article later in this Update.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.**

Contact information for MWIA:

Website is [www.mwia.net](http://www.mwia.net)

Email is [secretariat@mwia.net](mailto:secretariat@mwia.net)

Phone is [1-604-522-1960](tel:1-604-522-1960)

Twitter is MedWIA

### 3. 2013-2016 EXECUTIVE with email addresses:

President	Prof Kyung Ah Park, Korea	president@mwia.net
Past President	Prof Afua Hesse, Ghana	past_president@mwia.net
President Elect	Prof Bettina Pfliederer, Germany	president_elect@mwia.net
Secretary-General	Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada	secretariat@mwia.net
Treasurer	Dr. Gail Beck, Canada	treasurer@mwia.net
VP Northern Europe	Dr. Helen Goodyear, UK	VP_northerneurope@mwia.net
VP Central Europe	Prof Khatuna Kaladze, Georgia	VP_centraleurope@mwia.net
VP Southern Europe	Dr. Christiane Pouliart, Belgium	VP_southerneurope@mwia.net
VP North America	Dr. Carole Williams, Canada	VP_northamerica@mwia.net
VP Latin America	Prof Mercedes Viteri, Ecuador	VP_latinamerica@mwia.net
VP Near East/Africa	Prof Shafika Nasser, Egypt	VP_africa@mwia.net
VP Central Asia	Dr. Usha Saraiya, India	VP_centralasia@mwia.net
VP Western Pacific	Prof Hiroko Yamamoto	VP_westernpacific@mwia.net



The Medical Women's International Association Executive 2013-2016

Front row left to right: Shelley Ross, Bettina Pfliederer, 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

#### 4. NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGIONS

##### **Australia**

With the rapidly approaching centenary of World War I, the Federation of Medical Women of Australia are looking at an appropriate way to recognize the twenty or more Australian women doctors who worked as surgeons, pathologists, or medical officers during WWI. They served in many arenas including England, France, Belgium, Egypt, Serbia, Galicia and Greece. To do so, they had to circumvent military officialdom who firmly denied their attempts to enlist as doctors throughout the Empire.

##### **Brazil**

On Jan 28<sup>th</sup> 2014, President Dr. Marilene Melo notified all the directors about MWIA's upcoming first webinar on the theme of the triennium.

Please visit the website of the World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine ([www.waspalm.org](http://www.waspalm.org)), to view pictures of Dr. Melo at the WHO III Global Forum on Human Resources. The same site also includes information on the Summit on Women's Health: the APFCB Congress held in Bali, Indonesia in 2013. The theme was "Taking care of Prospective Mothers" with presentations about pre-eclampsia in developing countries and vaccination. At same site there is news about the Gordon Signy Fellow. One of the fellows is a Brazilian, Dr Felipe D 'Almeida, who plans to study neuropathology at John Hopkins.

On Jan 16<sup>th</sup> there was an extra meeting of the directors of ABMM and ABMM-SP about strategic planning for 2014.

On March 29<sup>th</sup> the new directors of ABMM and ABMM-SP (State of São Paulo section) will take office:

President ABMM: Marilene Melo MD (reelected)

President ABMM-SP: Ivone Meinão MD

President elect ABMM: Fátima Regina Alves MD

There will be a lecture on this day by Dr Jane Lemos, Director of Brazilian Medical Association: "Violence and Women in Present Days."

Dr Florisval Meinão MD, President of São Paulo State Medical Association (APM), offered to ABMM an insert about ABMM in the Journal of APM, April's Edition that is received by every medical doctor of the state, not only members of APM. There is a commission of 8 members to organize the insert so we hope that we may attract many new members.

At ABMM's site, there is the history of ABMM from 1960 to 1997. Dr Francy Patricio (vice-president of ABMM) will update the history until present days.

ABMM's first scientific meeting in 2014 will be held on April 14: "Women and Stroke".

##### **Canada**

a. This article appeared in the Canadian Medical Association Journal, explaining why women presenting to emergencies with a heart attack get attention later than men:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/health/why-heart-attack-care-may-be-less-timely-for-women-1.2576298>

b. The Health Minister of the Province of British Columbia has intervened in a dispute over increased fees charged to abortion clinics and instructed provincial health authorities to pay for extra costs so that services for women are not reduced

### **France**

A new AFFM Executive Committee was elected on 2014 January 25<sup>th</sup>:

Dr Cécile Renson : President

Dr Francine Violette : Vice President

Dr Marie-Claire Brusset : Treasurer

Dr Françoise Nico: Secretary general

Dr Lucie Rakoto: Secretary assistant

Dr Oualiba Softa: National Correspondent

Dr Thi Thoï Pham: International Correspondent and MWIA Coordinator (with help of Dr Marie-Dominique Ghnassia Honorary President)

The same day, during the general assembly, Dr Marie-Therèse Nourissier-Sobesky officially received her Golden Jubilee Membership certificate. She was very touched by the warm congratulations of the members present.

Dr Michèle Muhlmann-Weill, member of AFFM administrative council, writes about her invitation and participation in *The First International Congress “Woman and Traffic safety: Project of society,”* which was organized for the International woman’s day by the national Union of Women of Morocco (UNFM) and the National Committee for the Prevention of Road Accidents (CNPAC)-Kingdom of Morocco-.The chairwoman was Her Royal Highness the Princess Lalla Meryem. The conference took place in the International Conference Center Mohammed VI in Skhirate. The congress was organized with partnership of several international organizations concerned with the issue of road safety, namely the WHO, the “Prévention Routière Internationale” (PRI),the LASER Foundation, The International Transport Forum (FIT), the International Automobile Federation (FIA) and the Arab Organization for Road safety ( AROSO).

*The number of killed persons caused by road accidents increases each year all over the world: there are 1.24 million killed and 50million injured or disabled. Besides their social, physical and psychological damages, road accidents have a direct and an indirect financial cost. The financial impact is more important in countries with low or middle income.*

*The risk of being killed in a road accident varies according age and sex: the number of men killed in road accidents is almost three times those of women. The choice of the Congress theme was justified by the multidimensional role that woman plays in the society and by her contribution as a constructive, influential actor in environment able to change behavior for improving road safety conditions.*

### **Objectives of the Congress:**

*Integrate gender dimension into national policies improvement traffic safety.*

*Promote gender approach in scientific research in road safety*

*Strengthen the role of NGO in terms of conception, elaboration and implementation of road safety strategies*

*Involve more women in the field of road safety an essential component of sustainable development*

*Conduct a reflection about a mechanism unifying an international association network for the integration of a gender approach in road safety and share worldwide efforts*

*As delegate of Medical Women Associations I have insisted on the importance to associate women doctor to any work about these subjects.*

### **Japan**

On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, female medical students attended a seminar to learn the technique of presenting and writing papers in English. The final goal is to prepare for the presentation at the 11<sup>th</sup> Western Pacific Regional meeting in 2014 and the International Congress of MWIA in Vienna in 2016.

On February 8<sup>th</sup> there was a public lecture about medical care for people of advanced age. Dr. Arino Yaguchi attended the 64<sup>th</sup> WHO WPRO Regional Committee Meeting as a representative of MWIA from October 21-25, 2013, in Manila.

Dr. Akiko Sawaguchi, Dr. Toshiko Sawaguchi and Dr. Arino Yaguchi attend the 58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women from 10th -21st of March as a representative of the International Women's Year Liaison Group in Japan.

The round table conference for members of JMWA was held on 15th of March at Toyama prefecture.

### **Nigeria**

Dr. Folunsho Alamina, Dr. Ufuoma Edewor and Dr. Omiepirisa Buowari of the Rivers Branch of the Medical Women's Association of Nigeria held an enlightenment on breast cancer with emphasis on breast self-examination.

### **Peru**

The Peruvian Medical Women have a website:

<http://pamwa-peru.com/index.php/bienvenidos>

### **Switzerland**

Dr. Adelheid Schneider-Gilg wrote that the annual conference of the Swiss Medical Women in June 2013 was themed: *Legal stumbling blocks in everyday working life of female and male MD's*, comprising the following presentations: doctor-patient-communication, medical obligations to disclosure and confidentiality, power of judgment, patient decree, involuntary commitment, and compulsory measures. These contributions were followed by many inspiring as well as thought-provoking discussions. Furthermore, we successfully supported popular initiatives. The first one ensured that abortions remained covered by statutory health insurance (a political movement tried to lift this practice after about 10 years). The second one supplied higher educated nursing staff with more competences (which until now were doctor's responsibilities).

In debate with our younger colleagues we continually discuss their requests like mentoring, advanced training organization with reduced workload, part-time employment, and their modern means of communication like Facebook etc.

### **United Kingdom**

In February 2014 four MWF members – Julia Cranitch - Psychiatry, Keyuri Shrotri –



Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Bernie Borgstein – Paediatrics and Beryl De Souza – Plastic Surgery were pleased to get invited to participate by the Women in Medicine Group (WIM) on a unique health project initiated by St George’s University (SGU) Medical School in Grenada. “One World, One Health, One Medicine” Project was the University’s health clinic provided both human and animal health care to those who attended. Throughout the day, 40 medical student volunteers treated over 140 patients. Tests were administered for blood pressure, blood glucose, eyes and hearing. Breast cancer screening and self-examination techniques, along with patient education and children’s health were also part of the day’s activities.

### **United States**

- a. Hundreds of members attended AMWA's 99th Anniversary Meeting which featured an outstanding speaker roster, including special guests Arianna Huffington (founder of Huffington Post) and Dr. Bernice Sandler (Godmother of Title IX). The 99th Anniversary Gala held at the National Museum of Women in the Arts was a spectacular evening filled with inspiration and goodwill.
- b. The Affordable Care Act has seen 5 million register for health care.
- c. Despite physicians' dislike of online rating sites, a survey finds patients are increasingly relying on them when shopping for a new doctor.

### **5. MWIA Response to the Lancet Article**

Response to the Lancet Article, Intimate Partner Violence and HIV: Unwelcome Accomplices by Hannah Cagney. This article appeared in Volume 383, Issue 9915, page 395 on February 1, 2014. MWIA has been notified that their response will appear in an upcoming issue of the Lancet.

In response to the Lancet Article, Intimate Partner Violence and HIV: Unwelcome Accomplices by Hannah Cagney, the Medical Women’s International Association (MWIA) applauds the author for bringing the problem of intimate partner violence to the notice of the medical profession.

MWIA is an international non-governmental organization (NGO), made up of women physicians in more than seventy countries.

Women physicians are often the first point of contact for women suffering gender based violence. We need to be part of a multidisciplinary team that consists of law enforcement, the courts, transition houses, social welfare and re-education that allows these women safety and a chance to move their lives forward. Victimization shapes women’s lives and if society is going to help these women a trauma informed and grassroots approach must be taken.

Violence against women takes many forms. Commonly recognized are domestic and intimate partner violence, human trafficking, violence in conflict, emotional abuse and sexual assault including rape but less well known are dating violence, stalking, violence against immigrant and refugee women, honour based violence, violence against women at work and violence against women with disabilities.

Cultural traditions allow abuse against women in the name of the way things are always done. Female genital mutilation, the treatment of widows in many cultures and having sex with a virgin to cure HIV are prime examples. A modern day form of violence is the new trend toward cosmetic genital surgery which can vary from labial reduction to hymenal reconstruction to G point amplification to mention but a few procedures. HIV is a form of gender based violence. When compared to men, women do not have sufficient access to prevention, counselling, testing and treatment in many countries worldwide. They cannot negotiate safe sex in many instances and so fall prey to HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STI's).

MWIA has made strong statements to condemn all forms of violence in its resolutions, its website, themes on its regional and international scientific meetings and efforts of its national member associations and individual members for many years and will continue doing that. In fact, MWIA's focus on the current 2013-2016 triennium is Prevention and Elimination of Domestic and Sexual Violence. In 2002, MWIA provided a training manual on Gender Mainstreaming in Health for physicians and other health care professionals, the concepts covered, namely sex, gender, sexuality, gender roles and gender equity are all relevant when we speak of Violence Against Women.

At the 57th Commission on the Status of Women, MWIA through an invitation to its national association the Federation of Medical Women of Canada was part of the official Canadian government delegation. In this official government capacity MWIA was able to influence the wording of the CSW statement to include the recognition of the important role of the healthcare system as part of an essential component of a holistic response to Violence Against Women—a position that MWIA always had strongly advocated for. It is important to ensure that health professionals are trained and supported to recognize and respond sensitively to gender-based violence and its severe physical and psychological effects over a lifetime. To support this actively, MWIA is in the process of writing a training manual for physician and health care providers to give them the necessary skills.

## **6. REPORT FROM UN REPRESENTATIVES**

### **Dr. Satty Gill Keswani and Dr. Padmini Murthy**

The 58<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women was held in New York from March 10<sup>th</sup> to March 21<sup>st</sup> 2014. MWIA members from different regions attended and were active participants at the CSW main and parallel events. MWIA was well represented at the NGO consultation day and forum held on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

On March 10<sup>th</sup> at the inaugural event organized by Canada, Denmark and the UN Secretariat, Mini Murthy represented MWIA and was one of the NGO members introduced to HE Princess Mary of Denmark.

The MWIA Parallel event, "Role of Women Physicians in Advancing MDGs 4 and 5 Globally" was held on March 11th and was organized by Drs. Satty Keswani and Mini Murthy, MWIA NGO reps to the UN. The event was well attended by members of the international NGO committee, students and others. The event was co-sponsored by the American Medical Women's Association, Freedom From Fistula foundation, National Council of Women USA, and Hadassah-- The Women's Zionist Organization of America Inc. Presenters at the event were MWIA UN rep Dr. Satty Keswani (Mistress of

Ceremonies), MWIA President, Dr. Kyung Ah Park, Treasurer, Dr. Gail Beck, Regional Vice Presidents, Dr. Usha Saraiya, (Central Asia), Dr. Mercedes Viteri (Latin America), Dr. Christiane Pouliart (Southern Europe), Dr. Mini Murthy, Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi, Dr. Eliza Chin (Executive Director, American Medical Women's Association), and Dr. Gabrielle Casper. Drs. Pamela Liao and Rosemary Ogu represented the yMWIA.

MWIA was also a sponsor of a parallel event organized by the Hadassah entitled, "A Path to Healthy Living and Nutrition" held on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Mini Murthy was one of the speakers and MWIA was represented by Dr. Gail Beck. On March 10<sup>th</sup> Dr. Satty Keswani and Dr. Mini Murthy represented MWIA at a co-sponsored event led by The National Council of Women. On March 14<sup>th</sup> Dr. Mini Murthy represented MWIA as a speaker at the High Level UN event co-sponsored by WHO, PAHO, CARICOM countries on Women and NCDs.

The agreed conclusions can be found at:

[http://www.unwomen.org/~media/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/CSW/58/CSW58-AC\\_Draft\\_presented\\_by\\_the\\_CSW\\_Bureau\\_4\\_February\\_2014%20pdf.pdf](http://www.unwomen.org/~media/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/CSW/58/CSW58-AC_Draft_presented_by_the_CSW_Bureau_4_February_2014%20pdf.pdf)

## **7. REPORT OF THE 64<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC**

### **Dr. Arino Yaguchi**

The 64<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for Western Pacific was held in the Philippine capital of Manila from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2013, two weeks after the onslaught of Typhoon Haiyan. Attendees numbered around 200 and included government delegations from 27 of the Western Pacific Region Member States and representatives from 21 international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and other United Nation bodies. The Ministers of Health and Welfare of the Independent State of Samoa and Mongolia were elected Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, respectively, while one Minister each from New Zealand and New Caledonia were elected as the Rapporteurs for English and French-speaking countries, respectively. In her opening address, the WHO Director-General, Dr. Margaret Chan, discussed the WHO's current missions, challenges and countermeasure developments, including global polio eradication, preventing and treating the HIV epidemic, measures against tuberculosis and malaria infection, and anti-smoking campaigns. She also raised the issue of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), a recent problem facing the Western Pacific region that has arisen over the last 15 years as lifestyle transformations have reached even the Pacific Islands. The increased prevalence of diabetes, fewer meals eaten in the home, increased consumption of junk food, increased smoking and alcohol consumption among women for stress relief, and even otherwise positive changes such as more women in the workforce are all factors contributing to the increase in NCDs. In other parts of the Session, inherent challenges for the Western Pacific region were also highlighted, such as health management for the elderly and the systemization of action guidelines for natural disasters. This Session marked the end of the current term for the WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific and elections were held for a new Regional Director, resulting in the reelection of the current appointee, Dr. Shin Young-soo. Over the course of the five days, each country

presented their policies, action guidelines and related outcomes with regard to the challenges they face. Among these, much time was devoted to tobacco control and NCDs, emphasizing the importance of these issues. At the end of the first day, the Regional Director for the Western Pacific hosted a dinner during which there were displays of song and dance by the government delegates from each country. The duet and dance by Dr. Chan and Dr. Shin revealed the pair's remarkable singing talent and was an once-in-a-lifetime moment that will certainly be remembered. On the third day, a private reception hosted by the Philippine government at the Ayala Museum in the city of Makati, a hub for the wealthy of the Philippines, provided the opportunity to view the museum exhibitions amid a reception. The museum displays the history of the Philippines from the eras of control by Spain, the United States and Japan. Throughout the meetings and social events, when talking to the representatives from other nations and NGOs, there was a sense of mission and expectation regarding Japan's leadership in areas including sanitation, health and disaster countermeasures in the Western Pacific region.

## **8. WHO REPRESENTATIVE**

### **Dr. Clarissa Fabre**

As your WHO representative, I attended my first Executive meeting of **CIOMS (Council for International Organisations of Medical Sciences)** at WHO headquarters in Geneva last November. CIOMS is officially an NGO associated with the WHO. Dr Waltraud Diekhaus was formerly Vice President of CIOMS.

The Committee used to be almost exclusively male. However, this year they have been joined by Professor Petra Thuermann, a professor of Clinical Pharmacology in Germany, whose interests include sex/gender-related differences in drug therapy and Geriatric Pharmacotherapy. Dr Sabine Straus from the International Society of Pharmacoepidemiology and I complete the female contingent.

The current major interests of CIOMS are **pharmacovigilance and bioethics**. 'Basic Principles for Biomedical Research involving animals', and 'Current Challenges in Pharmacovigilance' have been published on the CIOMS website. A **Working Group on vaccine safety** has been established, in collaboration with the WHO and GVSI (Global Vaccine Safety Initiative). Suitable projects are being identified for 2014. One possible area of interest is Phase 4 (post-licensing) drug development research. At present, the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) does not accept Phase 4 trials because they are not evidence-based. Post-marketing studies are important, but it is essential to have an oversight of their quality.

Prior to the Executive meeting there was an interesting **Workshop on Benefit-Sharing**. The 2 key principles of benefit sharing are **access to quality healthcare and empowerment to be an active producer of scientific knowledge**. We want the highest attainable standard of health as a fundamental right of every human being, as much as circumstances allow. In many countries there is passive sharing of scientific developments, a 'brain drain' rather than 'brain circulation'.

To quote Thucydites

“Justice will prevail when those who are not subjected to injustice are as indignant as those who are. Justice will only prevail when those affected by injustice are able (or emancipate themselves) to fight for their rights.”

## **9. CALENDAR OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS MWIA AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS - CONGRESSES AND MEETINGS**

### **2014**

1. **May 9, 2014**, Birmingham, UK  
Spring Meeting of the Medical Womens Federation  
[www.mwf.org.uk](http://www.mwf.org.uk)
2. **September 4-6, 2014**, Copenhagen, Denmark  
Northern European Regional meeting  
Rungstedgaard Conference Centre and Hotel  
<http://mwianortheu.dk>
3. **September 19-21, 2014**, Vancouver, Canada  
Annual meeting of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada  
[www.fmwc.ca](http://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](http://www.fmwc.ca)
4. **Tentative for December, 2015**  
Central Asia Regional Meeting  
Nagpur, India

### **2016**

1. **July 28-31, 2016**, Vienna, Austria  
30<sup>th</sup> 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 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Medical Women's Federation**  
[www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk](http://www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk)

**10. NAMES IN THE NEWS**

**Dr. Neelum T. Aggarwal** was appointed to serve as the Chief Diversity Officer for the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA), commencing March 29, 2014.

**Dr. Gail Beck**, Treasurer of MWIA, has been instrumental in developing an app to help students deal with stress and anxiety, called Healthy Minds. The app was developed with the Youth Outpatient Psychiatry Team and, as the Director; Dr. Beck was responsible for clinical content. Collaboration also occurred with the Research Director of the hospital and IT people. To download the app, go to your search engine and type in **Healthy Minds Royal Ottawa** and up will come the link to the App store. The app is free.

**Professor Afua Hesse** has been appointed Chairperson of the Faculty of Surgery of the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons, the first time a woman has held this post.

**Jill Sheffield**, co-founder of Family Care International in 1986 and more recently of Women Deliver, is to be honoured May 6<sup>th</sup> by Women's e-news at their 13<sup>th</sup> annual gala in New York, honouring 21 leaders for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

**11. BOOKS AND ARTICLES AND WEBSITES**

**Healthy Minds Royal Ottawa** –clinical input by Dr. Gail Beck. Type in Healthy Minds Royal Ottawa into your search engine and the link to the free app will appear.

**Sustainable Alternatives for Poverty Reduction and Eco-Justice, Vol.1 (SAPREJ-12), OAC publication [www.oac.gr/en](http://www.oac.gr/en)** Dr. Larisa Skuratovskaya from Russia contributed the article "Rights to Health as Alternative for the Poverty Reduction and Justice."

**12. OBITUARIES**

**Dr. Linda Brodsky** of the American Medical Women's Association

**Dr. Diana Edwards** member of the previous New Zealand Medical Women's Association

**Dr. Barbara Heslop** member of the previous New Zealand Medical Women's Association

**Dr. Marlene Rose Lidkea** of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada.

**Dr. Nell Muirden** of the Federation of Medical Women of Australia

**Dr. Patricia Scrivenor**, past Vice President for the Western Pacific Region, of the Federation of Medical Women of Australia

## 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	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/worldhealthorganization">http://www.facebook.com/worldhealthorganization</a>
Google+ Page	<a href="http://gplus.to/WorldHealthOrganization">http://gplus.to/WorldHealthOrganization</a>
YouTube	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/who">http://www.youtube.com/who</a>
Instagr.am	@worldhealthorganization

### b. **PIP Framework Advisory Group Consultation, 10 April 2014**

The PIP Framework Advisory Group Chair and Vice Chair, Dr William Ampofo and Professor Rajae El Aouad, cordially invite influenza vaccine, diagnostic and pharmaceutical manufacturers, associations, civil society organizations and other stakeholders (including academia and research institutions) to a consultation on Thursday, **10 April 2014, from 9:00 to 12:30 (Geneva time) , at WHO HQ Geneva, in Salle A.**

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

### d. **Framework Convention on Tobacco Control**

The FCTC developed a number of positions and official submissions on the Non Communicable Disease Global Action Plan and the global coordination mechanism (GCM), a mechanism that will coordinate global actions on NCD's. It is important to recognize the FCTC Community of Practice as the primary global form for discussions on tobacco control implementation and accountability.

e. The draft **Every Newborn Action Plan** can be found on the WHO website at: [http://www.who.int/maternal\\_child\\_adolescent/topics/newborn/en/](http://www.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/topics/newborn/en/)

f. The March issue of WHO Public Health, Social and Environmental Determinants of Health (**PHE**) **e-News** brings you a host of useful links to information, events and publications on public health and the environment. Visit <http://www.who.int/phe>

### 2. **United Nations**

a. The Commission on the Status of Women took place at UN Headquarters in New York March 10-21, 2014. The theme was "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls." MWIA held a parallel event, entitled, *Role of Women Physicians in Advancing MDG 4 and 5 Globally*.

3. **Millennia2025 Solidarity**. Millennia2015 women actors of development for global challenges was created in 2007 and led to the action plan for women's empowerment at

the UNESCO meeting in Paris in 2012. Concrete actions are now to be achieved through the Millennium2025 Women and Innovation Fund. For further information, contact (<http://www.millennia2015.org/Solidarity-Women>) or Marie-Anne Delahaut delahaut.marie-anne@institut-destree.eu \* delahaut.marie-anne@millennia2025-foundation.org

#### 4. **European Women's Lobby**

a. In its recent e-news, the EWL highlighted that European Union funding for Reproductive Health is under threat due to an initiative called “**One of Us**,” which aims to halt all EU funding that involves destruction of the embryo. This puts maternal reproductive health initiatives at risk. For further information, visit Devex International Development Career Forum <https://www.devex.com/news/womens-futures-under-threat-83163>

b. The EWL continues its **50/50 Campaign** on No Modern Democracy without Gender Balance. If you wish to sign the declaration go to

<http://www.womenlobby.org/get-involved/ewl-campaigns-actions/50-50-campaign-for-democracy/50-50-campaign-2012-2014/article/sign-the-joint-declaration-no>

5. **The Gates Foundation newsletter speaks about the 3 myths that block progress for the poor:** <http://annualletter.gatesfoundation.org>

#### 6. **American Heart Association**

New guidelines were released February 6, 2014, and provide recommendations for managing factors that make women uniquely vulnerable to stroke, including common pregnancy complications, use of birth control pills and hormone replacement therapy, and higher prevalence of migraines and atrial fibrillation.

7. For **EngenderHealth's** Impact report, visit [www.engenderhealth.org/about/annual-reports/](http://www.engenderhealth.org/about/annual-reports/)

8. PLoS Medicine Journal reports that a ‘**Death Test**’ which predicts the chance of a healthy person dying from any medical condition in the next five years has been developed by scientists. They found that the levels of four ‘biomarkers’ in the body, when taken together, indicated a general level of ‘frailty.’ People whose biomarkers were out of kilter were five times more likely to die with five years of the blood test. “What is especially interesting is that these biomarkers reflect the risk for dying from very different types of diseases such as heart disease or cancer. They seem to be signs of a general frailty in the body,” said Dr. Johannes Kettunen of the Institute for Molecular Medicine in Finland.

### III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



**The next Update will be published in June, 2014.**

**Please send us your reports, comments or any other interesting information by May 31, 2014, at the latest. We are always interested to put your name and your accomplishments in the Update.**