

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MWIA



Update

No. 62 June 2015

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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**

Professor Kyung Ah Park, Korea

The last three months from April to June have not been an easy time.

In April, there was a disastrous earthquake in Nepal. There was a discussion among the executive to find the best way to support Nepal. I proposed fund raising from the members of MWIA via the regional Vice Presidents and member countries to support Nepal. Two of the Vice Presidents—Dr. Viteri from Latin America and Dr. Yamamoto from the Western Pacific responded positively. I thank members from Ecuador, Peru, Japan, Taiwan and Korea for their generous donation to support Nepal.

I am going to visit Nepal from the 7th to 10th of July and have scheduled an official visit with Nepal's President. Several women doctors from Nepal will join me in this presidential visit. I shall give you a further report in the next Update.

A strange Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) attacked Korea in late May. Even with the inappropriately late response of the government, Korean medical women including Drs. Myung Ock Ahn, Sook Hee Kim and Bong Ok Kim have been in the front line to stop MERS from further spread. The situation now seems to be under control.

I wish to congratulate Dr. Mini Murthy, MWIA's alternate representative to the UN, on her re-election to the executive of CSW NGO committee.

I wish you good health during this summer season, time to enjoy some rest and relaxation and the realization of great accomplishments in your work.

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

Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada

The April 24th weekend was busy on both sides of the Pacific. The **Western Pacific Regional Meeting** was held in Taiwan and from all reports was a great success. I was able to attend the 100th anniversary meeting of the **American Medical Women's Association** so can attest to what a great success it was. MWIA looks forward to its own centennial being held in the United States in 2019.

In May, I was pleased to attend the Spring Meeting of the **Medical Women's Federation** of the UK in Manchester, with the theme of Stepping Up and Speaking Out.

Along with Dr. Clarissa Fabre, MWIA's representative to WHO, and Dr. Shafika Nasser, Vice President for the Near East and Africa, I attended WHO's **World Health Assembly** in May. This gave MWIA the opportunity to firm up its workplan, including ongoing

work on the safe childbirth checklist, gender based violence, female genital mutilation, adolescent health, equitable access to surgery and the newborn checklist. It is rewarding to be working in partnership with WHO.

The last of the **ultrasound machines** donated by Rotary in Australia through Dr. Gabrielle Casper has made its way to Afghanistan.

I have been invited to participate on **VEGA**, the Canadian committee that will write the Public Health Response to Family Violence and have invited Dr. Gail Beck to join me in this endeavour.

It is not too soon to think of how you will celebrate the **MWIA Centennial in 2019**. Please plan to hold a centennial activity in your national association the year of 2019. Plans are underway for our Centennial Congress in 2019.

There are four remaining regional meetings in 2015. The **Near East and Africa** will meet in Ghana in July, **Southern Europe** in Belgium in November and **Central Asia** in India in December. The executive will hold their annual meeting in conjunction with the **North American Regional Meeting** in Toronto, Canada, in September. Details can be found in the event calendar.

Let me remind you that the **fiscal year** for MWIA is July 1st to June 30th. Dues notices will be coming out shortly. Voting at the Vienna Congress in July, 2016, is dependent on the number of members from your national organization.

The website 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
Email is secretariat@mwia.net
Phone is [1-604-522-1960](tel:1-604-522-1960)

3. MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

Dr. Gail Beck, Canada

You pay your dues, where do your dues go?

Within the next week or two, the Secretariat will be sending out a dues notice for the 2015-2016 period so it seemed like a good time to let you know the initiatives supported by your dues:

- A presence at the World Health Organization, including representation at the World Health Assembly.
- A presence at the United Nations, including representation at the Commission on the Status of Women.

- Representation by the President once every triennium at the World Medical Association.
- Representation by the Regional Vice Presidents at their Regional Meeting.
- Representation by the Executive Committee at 2 regional meetings during the triennium. In 2014, the Executive Committee attended the Northern European Regional Meeting near Copenhagen and this September they will attend the North American Regional Meeting in Toronto.
- Support for the virtual Secretariat (less than 2000 US dollars annually, which is all we can afford).
- Support for the Manual on Domestic Violence which is the President's theme for the triennium.
- Support for the Birthing Kits Project.

All of our Executive Committee Members volunteer their time, as do our WHO representative, Dr. Clarissa Fabre and our UN representatives, Dr. Satty Gill Keswani and Dr. Padmini Murthy. These last representatives receive reimbursement for a minimal amount of their expenses. In fact, most of our representatives to UN and WHO meetings finance their own travel and donate their time. MWIA is fortunate to be served by such dedicated volunteers.

Thank you to all those members and member associations who pay their dues annually. We depend on these monies to finance our projects and representation.

4. 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 Pflaiderer, 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 Pflaiderer, 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

5. NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGIONS

Australia

The *Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Female Genital Cosmetic Surgery (FGCS) Toolkit for General Practitioners and Health Professionals* is being launched July 2015. The Medical Women's International Association issued a position statement at the 29th international congress in Seoul 2013. This has been incorporated into the toolkit, with permission, alongside the position statements of other peak bodies such as the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG), British Society for Paediatric and Adolescent Gynaecology (BritsPAG), Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG). It has been authored by Dr Magdalena Simonis GP, AFMW council member and MWIA member. This guide aims to help inform GPs and health professionals about FGCS, including management of women who request referral for FGCS or simply express concern regarding their genitalia with the aim of assisting women to make better informed choices.

Female Genital Cosmetic Surgery is any non-medically-indicated procedure that aims to change aesthetic or functional aspects of female genitalia. It is one of the fastest growing plastic surgeries being performed and the highest rates of request are for adolescents and women aged 15-35 years. Currently, no formal training is required and there are currently no evidence-based guidelines that support the cosmetic procedures. For all specialties, guidelines need to be established from reputable long-term studies in order to support surgical procedures, but these have not yet been developed.

There has been no concomitant rise in the incidence of congenital abnormalities but rather, it appears to be a response to changing cultural norms by women who want to either feel 'normal' or look 'desirable'. As a result, GPs are increasingly managing patients who present seeking surgery due to concerns about the appearance of their genitalia.

Brazil

Marilene Melo and Elizabeth G. Alexandre, (President and director of ABMM), represented the Gender Medicine Department of ABMM at the OSSD 2015 Meeting in Stanford April 21-23. They had the privilege to meet many illustrious speakers in the area of gender medicine such as David Page and Vera Regitz- Zagrosek. Interesting topics were "How to design sex differences studies" and "Sex and gender differences in cardiovascular diseases." In June, Drs. Melo, Alexandre and Martits are organizing a Round Table about the OSSD symposium so other colleagues can participate in discussions about this important subject.

Marta Maite Sevillano's (director of ABMM and ABMM-SP) has been nominated as a candidate for Vice President Latin America for the term 2016-2019. Brazil's last Vice President was Dr. Francy Patricio, who was elected in 2004 during the XXVI MWIA Congress in Tokyo.

On May 9th there was a Forum organized by ABMM and ABMM-SP: "Emotional Health of Medical Students." During this forum the subject of alcohol consumption and drug use by Brazilian medical students was discussed.

ABMM Scientific Program during first semester consisted of:

April: Connection of Feminine in Pos Modernity

May: Thyroid Disorders in Women

June: Round Table about the OSSD 2015 meeting in Stanford.

Canada

As the voice of women in medicine, the FMWC is speaking out about the importance of health equity. National Aboriginal Day on June 21st was an appropriate time to seek equal access to good health. What steps will each of us take to help this happen?

The FMWC will be speaking out regularly on topics of concern to our members. A schedule of these themes will be uploaded shortly on our new [Advocacy Website page](#).

Georgia

The Georgian Medical Women have been active. On June 27, they held an international conference on Actual Topics on Women's Health in the Muza Centre. The board members received a presentation on the book, "Psychology of Health," by Marina Shakarashvili and Ekaterine Sukhishvili. The journal, entitled "Actual Topics on Women's Health" has been produced in March, 2015 and June, 2015. Topics cover such subjects as gender differences in response to alcohol and nicotine, sex based differences

on the treatment of cardiovascular diseases and a review of a book by Ann First Murrey, “From Outrage to Courage.”

Kenya

KMWA members have shown interest and are preparing to attend the 2015 Regional Conference.

The Kenya Medical Women’s Association recently hosted a one day Media Focused Training on HIV Prevention and Microbicides on 6th May, 2015 which, was a success.

KMWA is in the forefront advocating for Sexual & Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) in particular, Reproductive Healthcare Bill by providing technical expertise and evidence based information to engage critical stat holders as a voice of reason in support of the bill.

We still look forward to hosting our 6th Annual Scientific Symposium on 24th October, 2015 Theme: “Disaster Management & Emergency Medicine” and other activities in line with our mission.

Nigeria

The success with the portable ultrasound machines continues. Originally organized by MWIA Past President, Dr. Gabrielle Casper, at the time of the Commission on the Status of Women in March, Nigeria has forged a relationship that will see more machines coming their way.

The Nigerian government has outlawed female genital mutilation.

The Philippines

Activities over the last years have included the following:

I. Scientific Meetings

- A. Leadership Forum and President’s Dialogue _March 23-24, 2014
- B. Regional and Travelling Seminars
 - a. Cebu and Bohol Chapters - “*Updates of Menopause Management from 4th World Congress on Menopause*”
 - b. Baguio-Benguet Chapter
 - c. Davao Chapter – Menopause/ Malnutrition and Malabsorption
- C. Scientific meetings and 7 round table discussions

II. Community Outreach and Medical Missions

- A. 21 Medical Missions to areas devastated by Typhoon Haiyan in Leyte and other disadvantaged locales in various parts of the country.

III. Environmental activities – tree planting

IV. Special Projects

- A. Scholarship fund was set up by the PMWA and the Phil. Medical Women’s Foundation for at least 2 deserving students in San Pedro, Laguna.
- B. Housing Project in Laguna where PMWA and PMWF corroborated to set up 1 house in a housing project.
- C. National Convention - November 15-16, 2014 - PMWA at 65: Living Through

its Vision”

Switzerland

The subject of our annual conference in March, 2014 was “Female Physicians and Money,” comprising the following presentations: Tariffing appropriately and earning according to performance; Proper investment and optimal supply – with the slogan: “live below your possibilities.” With the difficulties of women's socialization, it became clear that female doctors demand less for the same amount of work, earn less, market themselves worse than men, underestimate the merit of their work and know/care less about their retirement planning. The discussion revealed how important yet how neglected those topics are.

Furthermore, we successfully supported a pilot project of MWS – in cooperation with the organization “EUrelations” – for the purpose of a workshop to getting young female physicians ready for an academic career.

At DocDay 2014 (a kind of fair on future prospects for medical students which is held every two years in Switzerland) we set up an MWS-stand, and we could present the organization in many instructive conversations. Likewise we could present the organization once again at the medical students' so-called “Erstsemestrigentag” (first day of studies).

We held talks concerning improved presence and appreciation of our organization in various professional institutions and political bodies.

The Netherlands

The Dutch Association of Women Doctors (VNVA) has started the Els Borst oeuvre prize. Els Borst (1932-2014) was an outstanding medical doctor, member of honour of the VNVA, but also Minister of Health in the Netherlands. She was still very active, especially in the Federation for Cancer Patients, but she was murdered in 2014 in her home by a psychiatric patient.

Amnesty International initiated “Movies that Matter,” a festival with films about human rights and a sustainable world. It was in The Hague from 19 -25 March 2015. One of the films was VESSEL, made by Diana Whitten, in which the activities of Women on Waves were followed during 15 years. Women on Waves was asked by women organisations to come to countries in which legal abortion and contraception are not available.

24th March 2015 was the first oeuvre prize given to Rebecca Gomperts and Gunilla Kleiverda who initiated “Women on Waves” and “Women on Web” and are still involved in the fight for women’s reproductive rights all over the world. The prize was handed over by the daughter of Els Borst, also a medical doctor.

United Kingdom

The Medical Women’s Federation Spring Meeting was entitled, **Stepping Up and Speaking Out: Empowering Women Doctors and their Patients’**, and took place on Friday May 15th in Manchester.

“Stepping Up” featured women in positions of leadership: Prof Jacky Hayden CBE (Dean of Post Graduate Medical Studies Health Education North West), Prof Ann Garden MBE (Dean of Lancaster Medical School), Prof Cathy Urquhart (Manchester Metropolitan University) and Dr Sally Davies, MWF President. They answered questions raised by delegates about why they feel there are so few women in leadership positions and what they think we should do about it, based on their own experiences. Women tend to suffer from ‘imposter syndrome’ which is thinking that they can’t do something well enough so they don’t push themselves forward. For the same reasons women doctors do not apply for awards. They discussed mentors and the value of having several which you choose for yourself because they have the same ethos and drive as you rather than the same sort of work- why not choose a male mentor!

“Speaking Out” talked about raising concerns through the use of social media. Speaking but in a different way was the subject of a talk by Dr Kim Holt on ‘How to support whistleblowers and create an open culture. “Speaking Out” on taboo subjects was the The Dame Hilda Rose Memorial lecture delivered by Dr Joanne Topping on female genital mutilation.

Empowering included workshops on Advancing Women in Leadership: Overcoming the barriers, Domestic Violence, Introduction to Resilience, Mentoring for Excellence and Good Medical Practice in the Digital Age – GMC guidance.

The winning poster was ‘Dr Fairfield: Forgotten for being female?’ by Emily Garrett, a student at UCL. The Katherine Branson Medical Student Essay Prizewinners, Sara Ebbinghaus and Nicola Kelly read out their winning essays.

The After Dinner Speech was "Bare Reality," created by Laura Dodsworth.

Women from all walks of life agreed to participate in the project from aged 19-101, sized AAA to K, from Buddhist Nun to burlesque dancer. These women bravely shared their photos alongside honest, courageous, powerful and humorous stories about their breasts and their lives. These stories and the accompanying photos make up the book.

United States of America

Centennial Meeting

The meeting started with a site visit to the Michigan homestead of Dr. Bertha Van Hoosen, who was the founder of AMWA.

The Palmer House Hilton was the site for the main meeting and 500 joined in the centennial celebration. Inspiring keynote addresses were given by Dr. Nancy Synderman, Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy, and Dr. Mae Jemison. There were numerous excellent speakers--author Nicholas Kristof, Cecile Richards of Planned Parenthood, Dr. Molly Cooke of the American College of Physicians, Dr. Patricia Numann of the American College of Surgeons, Laura Bellows of the American Bar Association, Dr. Janine Clayton of the NIH Office of Women’s Health Research, Dr. Susan Love known

for her breast cancer advocacy, Katie Hoff who was a three time Olympic medalist. The themes of women's empowerment, leadership, innovation and health were present throughout the weekend along with a call to action to aid victims of human trafficking.

Old friends reunited and new friendships were made. The sense of fellowship among those present was palpable as was the energy and vitality to launch AMWA's next 200 years.

Please view AMWA's Centennial Book [here](#)

The **American Women's Hospital Service** (AWHS) supports a clinic in Nepal and during the recent earthquake; there was an AMWA student on the ground in Nepal. Neither the student nor the AWHS clinic were untouched and able to provide services for recovery. Should you wish to support AWHS and our Nepal program, donations can be made at the following: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/American-Womens-Hospitals-Service/587203874625609?ref=bookmarks>

6. REPORT FROM MWIA'S UN REPRESENTATIVES

Dr. Satty Gill Keswani and Dr. Mini Murthy

MWIA and AMWA were well represented by members during CSW in March 2015 at the United Nations. Drs. Murthy and Keswani have been following the various UN activities with regard to Post 2015, Beijing Plus 20 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Dr. Murthy has been working on behalf of MWIA and AMWA with Zonta International and Afya foundation and has been able to send 900 Birthing Kits to Nepal in May 2015. She has also been working with her medical students at NYMC and Afya foundation and in June 2015 and this resulted in sending 38 bags of warm clothing and other supplies to Nepal as well.

In April 2015 Mini Murthy attended at the 100th Centennial Celebration of AMWA at Chicago and presented a report of Dr. Keswani and her UN activities.

In May 2015 Mini Murthy was invited to speak representing MWIA and AMWA at the 9th Annual Women's Symposium at SIAS International University in China, on maternal and child health and post 2015. She was named "Millennium Maker Awardee" at this symposium. Mini Murthy has been attending various UN briefings on post 2015 agenda representing MWIA and AMWA.

In June 2015, Mini Murthy represented MWIA and AMWA and moderated a high level panel discussion on Cervical Cancer which was co-sponsored by Permanent Mission of Grenada under the "My Sisters Health Watch Initiative." She was invited to present at a panel commemorating the UN 1st International Day of Yoga which was co-sponsored by the UNFPA and UN staff Recreation Council Enlightenment society. She represented

MWIA and AMWA at the 70th anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter on June 26th at the UN.

Dr. Murthy has been re-elected to the executive committee of the NGO CSW NY for a 2 year term and will continue to represent MWIA.

7. REPORT FROM MWIA'S REPRESENTATIVE TO WHO

Dr. Clarissa Fabre

I am very pleased to report that MWIA now has submitted a comprehensive collaborative Workplan with WHO for 2014-2016. We have established fruitful relationships with staff in relevant departments at the WHO. Progress on the Workplan will be reviewed by the WHO Executive Board once every three years.

MWIA's priorities remain the Safe Childbirth Checklist (SCC) and our handbook on Domestic and Sexual Violence. Dr Rosemary Ogu from MWIA has led a pilot of the Checklist in various centres in Nigeria. WHO will officially launch the SCC in October in Mexico. MWIA's Dr. Mercedes Viteri will attend as our representative.

With regard to sexual violence, WHO has recently published a Clinical Handbook. Dr Claudia Garcia-Moreno, WHO lead on the subject, is very keen to receive feedback from MWIA on the handbook, especially its relevance and usefulness in different parts of the world. If you are interested, see <http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/violence/vaw-clinical-handbook/en/> Our handbook will be written from a different perspective, taking account of experiences of our members in many different countries.

A highlight of the World Health Assembly is always Dr Margaret Chan, the Director-General of WHO. She emphasised the importance of responding more effectively in the future to emergencies such as Ebola. A single new programme will be created, designed for speed and flexibility, with key partners such as the UN, experienced emergency coordinators, and rapid response teams. A large contingency fund will be established. The SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) will be finalised in September. At present there are 17 goals and 169 targets. The health goal is number 3, which will cover among other areas NCDs (non-communicable diseases) and universal health coverage.

Angela Merkel was this year's guest speaker and spoke of the Ebola 'catastrophe' and the world's slow response, the problem of anti microbial resistance and the need for everyone to work together. As she said the WHO is the only organisation that has true legitimacy at an international level.

8. REPORT FROM EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY

The European Institute for Gender Equality launched its second Gender Equality Index in Brussels. A summary of the results can be found at:

<http://womenlobby.org/spip.php?article7251&lang=en>

The full report can be found at: <http://eige.europa.eu/content/document/gender-equality-index-2015-measuring-gender-equality-in-the-european-union-2005-2012>

The country profiles can be found at:

<http://eige.europa.eu/content/document/gender-equality-index-2015-measuring-gender-equality-in-the-european-union-2005-2012-Country-profiles>

The EWL has revealed its **new strategy**.

For External strategic aims that will transform society, they recommend:

1. Put an end to all forms of violence against women
2. Challenge and change the culture of sexism
3. Promote the feminist transformation of a sustainable economy
4. Position women at the heart of decision making

For Internal Strategies to build their movement, they recommend

1. Raise more, better and sustainable funding for women
2. Work together effectively at different levels and in different contexts
3. Promote and debate diversity, advancing consensus and strengthen our collective voice

9. CIOMS

Dr. PetraThürmann and Dr. Clarissa Fabre

CIOMS participated in a Pharmacovigilance Training Course in January in Mysore, India. The working groups are discussing vaccine safety, drug safety, and ethical guidelines for biomedical research involving human subjects.

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

2015

1. **July 8-10, 2015**, Accra, Ghana
Near East and Africa Regional Meeting
The theme is the Obesity Pandemic and Helping the woman and her family
Subtheme is Domestic and Sexual Violence
www.mwagh.org
2. **August 24-26, 2015**, New York, NY
2015 NGO Conference at the United Nations
<http://2015ngoconference.org/>

3. **September 25-27, 2015**, Toronto, Canada
 North American Regional Meeting of MWIA in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada and the executive meeting of MWIA
 Toronto Sheraton Centre Hotel
www.fmwc.ca
4. **November 7, 2015**, London, UK
 Fall meeting of the Medical Women's Federation
 Building Resilient Leaders
 The Light Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW 1 2BJ
www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk
5. **November 14, 2015**, In the Brussels Parliament, Lombardstreet 69, 1000 Brussels
 5th Southern European Regional Meeting
 The Difference of the Brain between Women and Men in Crime.
 Contact Dr. Christiane Pouliart VP_southerneurope@mwia.net
6. **December 6-7, 2015**
 Central Asia Regional Meeting
 Calcutta, India
www.centralasia2015.com

2016

1. **May 16-19, 2016**, Bella Centre in Copenhagen, Denmark
 Women Deliver Conference
www.wd2016.org
2. **July 28-31, 2016**, Vienna, Austria
 30th International Congress of MWIA
 The theme is Generation Y: Challenges of the Future for Female Medical Doctors
www.mwiavienna2016.org

2017

1. **March 8, 2017 (tentative date)**, Panama
 Latin American Regional Meeting of MWIA.
 Information will be on www.mwia.net when available
2. **May 10-13, 2017**, London, UK
 Northern European Regional Meeting
Theme: 100 years of Medical Women: Past, Present and Future.
 In Celebration of 100th Anniversary of Medical Women's Federation

www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk

3. **Date to be decided**

Western Pacific Regional Meeting

Hong Kong

Information will be on www.mwia.net when available

11. **NAMES IN THE NEWS**

Dr. Jane Anderson of the Medical Women's Federation of the UK received a CBE from the June Honours List.

Dr. Shaila Misri of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada was awarded the Canadian Medical Association Honorary Membership Award.

Dr. Mini Murthy of the American Medical Women's Association was elected to the executive of the CSW NGO. She was also the recipient of the Millennium Milestone Maker Award from Global Interactions and received the award on the Sias International University Campus in Henan Province, China.

Dr. Dorothy Shaw of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada was awarded the Doctors of BC Silver Medal of Service.

Dr. Linda Warren of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada was awarded the Dr Don Rix Award for Physician Leadership by the Doctors of BC

Dr. Carole Williams, Vice President for North America for MWIA, was awarded the Dr David M Bachop Gold Medal by the Doctors of BC for distinguished medical service.

12. **OBITUARIES**

Dr. Rinko Yamazaki, honorary member of MWIA, passed away on May 29th after a long illness at the age of 96. The funeral will take place on July 6th. The funeral will be conducted by the city, to which she has donated all her property.

13. **BOOKS**

Dr. Omieiprisa Yvonne Buowari of the Medical Women's Association of Nigeria has authored a book entitled, "The Missionary Doctor in the Service of Humanity," which can be ordered through dabotabuowari@yahoo.com.

II. OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

1. World Health Organization (WHO)

a. The **World Health Assembly** was held in Geneva at the Palais de Nations from May 18-22, 2015. The guest speaker was German Chancellor H.E. Angela Merkel who urged WHO to learn from the Ebola outbreak to be “better equipped to weather the next health crisis.” Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan highlighted the challenges had in response to Nepal’s earthquake and the Ebola crisis, which saw 1000 WHO staff on the ground. Topics during the week varied from non-communicable diseases to monitoring MDG’s and the post-2015 agenda, gender based violence, infant nutrition, female genital mutilation, as well as reviewing interaction with intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies.

b. The WHO Newsletter Briefing on **Global Coordination Mechanisms on NCDs** and the Interagency Task Force on NCDs can be found at:

https://207.58.164.209:2096/cpsess62857864/3rdparty/roundcube/?_task=mail&_action=get&_mbox=INBOX&_uid=37071&_part=2&_frame=1&_extwin=1

c. WHO launched the **WHO global strategy** that promotes a paradigm shift in the way health services are funded, managed and delivered, and responds to the need to put people at the centre of service delivery and to foster integration across the care continuum. The final version of the Strategy will be submitted for discussion at the 138th meeting of the Executive Board to the 69th World Health Assembly in 2016. The Strategy is now ready for public consultation by July 15th via the following link

<http://www.who.int/servicedeliverysafety/areas/people-centred-care/en/>

2. United Nations

a. At the Commission on the Status of Women in March, 2015, in addition to the usual global platform for exchange and networking for women’s organizations who further women’s rights around the world, there was a discussion about the future organization and methods of work of the CSW. The result was less influence by Civil Society Organizations, which resulted in an international coalition of women’s organizations producing the following statement, with the tag line: **Nothing About Us Without Us!** The link to the 325 organizations that signed onto the Statement (MWIA is 199) can be found at:

http://www.dawnnet.org/feminist-resources/sites/default/files/articles/nothing_about_us_without_us_0.pdf

<http://www.wave-network.org/content/nothing-about-us-without-us-statement-csw-methods-work-resolutions>

- b. **UN Women** has civil society advisory groups, whose expertise is drawn upon for policy formation. For the current list, please visit:
<http://www.unwomen.org/en/partnerships/civil-society/civil-society-advisory-groups>
- c. The report on the **World Conference on Indigenous Peoples** can be found at:
https://207.58.164.209:2096/cpsess62857864/3rdparty/roundcube/?_task=mail&_action=get&_mbox=INBOX&_uid=37286&_part=5&_frame=1&_extwin=1
3. **The African Union** declares 2015 the “Year of Women’s Empowerment”, but what does it take to empower women and why?
<http://newafricanmagazine.com/empowering-african-women-gender-agenda/>
 4. **Women outnumber men** by 33 million in China after decades of gender selection.
<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/gender-01222015125826.html>
<https://t.e2ma.net/message/mefitm/uwe4m>
 5. In the **Global Sustainable Development Report**, 2015 Edition, the only reference to gender equality and empowerment of women is on page 140.
Direct Link to Full 203-Page 2015 Publication:
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1758GSDR%202015%20Advance%20Unedited%20Version.pdf>
 6. **Stand up for at least two hours a day in office, workers warned** (*The Telegraph*) – The **British Journal of Sports Medicine** reports on the work of a panel of international experts gathered by Public Health England and Active Working CIC. UK workers sit for 60% of their waking hours and for 70% of people at high risk of chronic illness. The advice is to stand for at least two hours per day.
 7. The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs is offering **funding for leadership for women**:
<http://www.government.nl/issues/grant-programmes/documents-and-publications/decrees/2015/06/12/funding-leadership-and-opportunities-for-women-flow-2016-2020.html>
 8. The **HPV Vaccine Global Community of Practice** invites you to join. Go to <http://hpv-vaccines.net> to register.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join MWIA at the regional meetings during this triennium and please mark your calendars now for the 30th MWIA International Congress in Vienna, Austria, from July 28-31, 2016. Registration is now open at www.mwiavienna2016.org. **The call for abstracts is open.**

The next Update will be published in September, 2015. Please send us your reports, comments or any other interesting information by August 31, 2015, at the latest. We are always interested to put your name and your accomplishments in the Update.