

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MWIA



Update

No. 61 March 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

Spring has arrived here in Korea! Last week I visited Japan and saw cherry blossoms already in full bloom; however, one of my cousins in New York sent me a picture showing snow still covering the city. Yes, the world is really wide, but we are family and sisters in MWIA.

In April we have two important meetings for MWIA. The first is the Regional Congress of the Western Pacific Region of MWIA being held in Taipei and the second is the Centennial Meeting of the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) being held in Chicago.

I wish I could participate in both meetings but it would require science finding a way for me to be present on two different continents at the same time, as both meetings overlap the dates of April 24th -26th. I am going to participate in the AMWA centennial meeting, leaving the Congress of the Western Pacific Region to the regional Vice President, Dr. Hiroko Yamamoto, and Dr. Atsuko Heshiki, a recent past president of MWIA.

I hope this Update finds all our members enjoying good health and happiness.

2. REQUESTS FROM THE SECRETARY- GENERAL

Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada

MWIA was well represented at the **Commission on the Status of Women** at the United Nations in New York. Thank you to Dr. Satty Gill Keswani and Dr. Mini Murthy for organizing another successful parallel event, entitled "*The Role of MWIA in Promoting Health and Reproductive Rights since Beijing and Beyond.*" Please see details of the CSW later in the Update.

The partnership between Zonta and MWIA for providing **birthing kits** continues. I was able to take 300 kits to CSW and Dr. Murthy was able to give the kits to the Governor General of Grenada for use in their delivery rooms for their indigent populations.

Thank you to past MWIA president, Dr. Gabrielle Casper, who through her contacts with Rotary in Australia, was able to bring nine **mobile ultrasound machines** to CSW. They were given to Nigeria, Ghana, Tanzania, Rwanda, Grenada and Afghanistan.

The **weekend of April 24th** brings the opportunity to attend two important meetings, which happen to fall on the same weekend. The first is the Western Pacific Regional Meeting of MWIA in Taiwan (<http://www.tmwa.com.tw/2015mwia-wprm>) and the second is the 100th Anniversary Meeting of the American Medical Women's Association (www.amwa-doc.org).

MWIA is pleased to be a sponsor of the **8th Geneva Conference on Person Centered Medicine** being held at WHO Headquarters in Geneva April 26-29. For more information visit www.personcenteredmedicine.org.

The **World Health Assembly** for the World Health Organization will take place May 17-22, 2015. If you wish to attend, please contact the Secretariat for registration.

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. Before the MWIA Centennial will come the centennials of the American Medical Women's Association, the Medical Women's Federation of the United Kingdom and the Medical Women's Association of Sweden.

2015 will provide the opportunity to attend a variety of **MWIA regional meetings**. Please look at the calendar later in the Update for details.

Please be reminded that your nominations for officers and regional vice-presidents is due into the Secretariat at secretariat@mwia.net by May 1st.

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

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 Pfleiderer, 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_latnamerica@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

4. NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGIONS

Brazil

The main event during this first trimester of 2015 was the **Latin American Regional Meeting, XXXII Pan American Congress of Medical Women, XXII Brazilian Congress of Medical Women and Meeting of Medical Women of the National Federation of Medical Doctors** that was held in São Paulo March 4-7, at the São Paulo State Medical Association building. Dra. Ivone Minhoto Meinão, President of The Pan American Congress and President of São Paulo Section of Brazilian Association of Medical Women summarized the congress and this is the English translation.

The theme of the Congress was "The Millenium Goals and the Medical Women."

The Opening Ceremony was attended by the Health Secretary of the State of São Paulo, Dr David Uip, who spoke about "Public Policies of Health for Women" and emphasized that the Brazilian medical women represent more than half of medical doctors, so they have an enormous responsibility to change ill-directed health policies in Brazil.

The Scientific Program focused on women's necessities:

1. Gender related differences in: Hormones and gender-specific effects
 - Cardiology
 - Immunology
 - Sexuality
 - Endocrinology
 - Neurology
2. Postponement of pregnancy due to professional considerations
3. Fetal Alcoholic Syndrome
4. Avoidable Cancer in Women
5. Oncogenomics and novel treatments in feminine oncology

6. Immunization in women (HPV/ Herpes Zoster)
7. Diet/ Exercise/ Obesity
8. Mental health: suicide rate of woman medical doctors
9. Infectious Diseases in XXI century
10. Political and social themes:
11. Violence against women: medical and legal point of view
12. Membership in Trade Unions of medical doctors
13. Empowerment of Women
14. Professional opportunities (labor market) for woman doctors

There were Poster Sessions with prizes for the first and second best works.

Participants at the congress came from various area of Latin America: Mexico, Peru, Panama, Ecuador and Argentina as well as Brazil.

Dr Meinão, in her text, made interesting and important comments about every subject discussed during the congress. Her comments about the labor market for medical doctors were very important, showing that Brazilian doctors do not agree with the federal government who wants to blame the doctors for the failure of the SUS (United Health System), throwing the population against doctors by creating the program “Mais Médicos” (More Doctors) and trying to hide that the SUS is totally disorganized.

Changing the subject from the congress, Dr Marilene Melo, Dr Elizabeth Alexandre and Dra. Anna Maria Martits are now members of OSSD (Organization for the Study of Sex Differences) and are going to Stanford in April for the 2015 Meeting of OSDD. It will be useful to gain more knowledge about Gender Medicine. ABMM and ABMM´SP are very active introducing the concept of Gender Medicine in Brazil. The Pan American Congress focused on the subject and we will try to have the scientific program of ABMM during the year also focused on the subject, which is very new for Brazilian medical doctors.

Canada

The Federation of Medical Women of Canada is looking forward to hosting the North American Regional Meeting in conjunction with its annual meeting and education session from September 25-27, 2015. The theme is Women Physicians: Power in Partnership. It will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Toronto. The executive of MWIA will hold its executive meeting in Toronto just prior to the meeting.

France

Work-family balance: Along with the main Italian hospital doctor union (ANAAO), we have realized a supplement to the journal “Medical Leadership” on the theme: Women in medicine: a new challenge for the healthcare of the future. The intention was to overcome the usual, now barren and repetitive description of the phenomenon through proposals for practical solutions, new organizational models, with foresight to get each solution in terms of family and reconciliation, rather than through the paradigm man / woman. In some provincial sections (Rome and Parma) there have been ad hoc surveys

of medical staff to assess the degree of conflict between work and family. The results of these surveys were presented during the AIDM National Congress.

Activities to combat violence against women: training programs for medical staff were made, in almost all provincial sections, in order to overcome prejudices about domestic violence, to facilitate the recognition of the signs and symptoms of violence and improve shelters for victims. In the National Congress a whole section has been dedicated to violence against women entitled: “In defense of women” where interventions of expert speakers on the subject of gender violence were presented.

Gender Medicine: awareness activities on gender medicine continue with both provincial and national interventions on issues of gender pharmacology, clinical appropriateness and equity of care. Events on gender medicine have been presented not only to medical personnel, but also extended to citizens. In particular we have tackled social issues such as new poverty that, in this economic crisis, seems to affect more women than men with important implications on the women health.

Ghana

The medical women in Ghana made donations to the Liberian Ebola orphans over Christmas. One was through an NGO in Liberia through Nestle. The second was through the Liberian Embassy in Ghana. The presenters of the items to the Head of the Mission at the Embassy were Dr Mabel Aboah, Dr Charlotte Gardiner, Josephine Dery, Sammy and Amos.

Donated items included two cartons of mackerel, five 25 kg of rice, 10 kg of rice, and about 16 boxes of clothes, shoes, soap, toys, and books.

India

The Association of Medical Women in India celebrated The International Women’s Day on 7th March 2015 in Mumbai with an interesting Program.

The President of AMWI, Dr. Arati Basu Sengupta, came from Kolkata to deliver the first Dr. Usha Saraiya Presidential Oration. The subject was “Domestic Violence” which is the theme of this triennium.

Also present on the occasion was Dr. Bhupinder Sandhu, Past President UK Medical Women's Federation (MWF) UK who delivered the Shirin Mehtaji Guest Lecture. The Theme of the programme was “Today is our Day to make a difference to the life of women worldwide.”

Nigeria

The Medical Women Association of Nigeria (MWAN) has a theme for their 2013-2015 biennium entitled The Girl Child: Raising Opportunities for Empowerment and Creating Health.” MWAN has continued to carry out all routine activities for the Girl Child, breast and cervical cancers screening and other programs targeted at achieving its theme and MWIA’s theme for 2013-2015 biennium.

MWAN participated in a one day workshop to mark the 2014 World Pneumonia Day with a sub theme “sustaining pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) Introduction in Nigeria” organized by John Hopkins International Vaccine Access Center in partnership with Nigeria National Primary Health Care Development Agency on November 12, 2014. MWAN had its 4th quarter National Executive Council (NEC) meeting at Abuja, Federal Capital Territory with theme “Globalisation and Health issues, Challenges and Interventions” on 13-15th November, 2014. On 14th November, MWAN members carried out a “Walk” to mark the 2014 World Diabetic Day. The association also held its 5th quarter NEC meeting at Port Harcourt, Rivers State from 29-30th January 2015 with the theme “ Effective parenting of Children : What of the Girl Child?”

In order to prevent water borne diseases and bring succour to the internally displaced people (IDP) in the Northern part of Nigeria due to insurgency, MWAN constructed and commissioned a mini water project in one of the IDP’s Camps at Yola, Adamawa State.

United Kingdom

The Medical Women’s Federation has started the Dorothy Ward International Fellowship. The £1000 Fellowship is to provide financial support to an individual MWF member to gain further experience/training in their field by visiting an overseas institution or research group in furtherance of their own professional and personal development.

United States

The Foundation for the History of Women in Medicine is excited to announce the successful integration of the FHWIM Oral History Project into the Oral History Collections at Harvard's Countway Library.

The FHWIM Oral History Project highlights the recipients of the Foundation's Alma Dea Morani, M.D. Renaissance Woman Award which annually honours an outstanding woman physician or scientist in North America who has furthered the practice and understanding of medicine in our lifetime and made significant contributions outside of medicine, whose determination and spirit have carried her beyond traditional pathways in medicine and science, and who challenges the status quo with an awareness of the potential and contributions from women.

[You can find the exhibit by following this direct link.](#)

The American Medical Women’s Association is celebrating its 100th anniversary April 23-26. The meeting will begin with a tour of the Dr. Bertha Van Hoosen homestead and follow with a meeting in Chicago. For more information visit www.amwa-doc.org.

News from MWIA Southern Europe

Dr. Christiane Pouliart, Vice President for Southern Europe

France

On the 31st of January I attended the AFFM – Réunion Médicale (Medical Meeting of the French Association of Medical Woman).

The lecture by Dr. Campeotto on food-allergies was very interesting. She talked about the fact that research suggest young children who grow up in an environment where cannabis is smoked develop lactose-allergy and fruit and vegetable-allergies because of possible underdevelopment of their intestinal flora.

In France furthermore vindication was sought and found by Dr. Marthe Gautier for her part in the discovery of the genetic origin of trisomie21/Down-syndrome. It was she who in 1959 performed the necessary research which led to the discovery of the Trisomy. The research and discovery was claimed by Jérôme Lejeune and Raymond Turpin and for over fifty years Mrs. Gautier's participation was minimized. She now finds herself fully reinstated following a ruling in 2014 by the French « Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale » on the subject. She then received the French « Legion d'honneur » for her contribution to this research en subsequent discovery. This ruling proves that still today, contributions from female doctors in groundbreaking research and discoveries tend to be minimized. It's a great victory for the achievements of female doctors.

Israel

During a visit to Tel-Aviv (Israel) our VP Southern Europe, Dr. Pouliart spoke to Prof. Dr. Sophie Ish-Shalom, President of the woman doctors in the Israel Medical Association, during a conference-call in the presence of Dr. Zeev Feldman who agreed to reinstate the Israeli branch of the Medical Woman's Association which belongs to the Southern Europe branch of the MWIA.

Dr. Ish-Shalom will be working on this resurrection of the Israel Medical Woman's Association. (to be continued...)

Belgium

The Medical Women's Association of Belgium with the President of MWAB Prof. Dr Lieve Dams are organising the 5th Southern European Regional Meeting of MWIA and will be held in the Brussels Parliament, Lombardstreet 69, 1000 Brussels on Saturday November 14, 2015.

The subject of the congress is The Difference of the Brain between Women and Men in Crime.

Dr. Pouliart expressed her gratitude towards the AFFM (Association Français des Femmes Médecins) for supporting the MWAB during it's inception in 1990 on the congress in Liège (Belgium) and for their presence in 2013 at the annual Meeting of the MWAB respectively by Drs. Chopin and Janton and Drs. Violette, Nico and Ghnassia.

Italy As reported by the National Coordinator, Dr. Laura Lanza

Work-family balance: Along with the main Italian hospital doctor union (ANAAO), we have realized a supplement to the journal “Medical Leadership” on the theme: Women in medicine: a new challenge for the healthcare of the future. The intention was to overcome the usual, now barren and repetitive description of the phenomenon through proposals for practical solutions, new organizational models, with foresight to get each solution in terms of family and reconciliation, rather than through the paradigm man / woman.

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5. REPORT FROM CSW 2015

MWIA was well represented at the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations in New York where the theme was Beijing +20. You may recall that in 1995 the Fourth World Conference on Women was held in Beijing which produced the Beijing Platform for Action. This platform addressed twelve critical areas of concern including women and health, violence against women, human rights of women, and the girl child. These are issues that continue to be as relevant today as they were twenty years ago. Since the Beijing meeting there has been the development of many policies and laws throughout the world. This CSW meeting encouraged governments to speed up the implementation of these laws which has not occurred to date.

Back at the time of the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, there was a Peace Train that travelled from Helsinki to Beijing with 230 women and 10 men. It was sponsored by the Womens International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). At various stops along the way, the group met with women’s groups and political leaders and put theory into practice.

The opening ceremony was particularly moving. Dr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the UN stated that when extremist groups attack girls and women the international

community need to translate its outrage into aid, services, support and justice. He pledged that his UNiTE to end violence against women campaign will continue to work to end all forms of violence against women and girls.

The executive director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka stated allies for gender mainstreaming come in all shapes and sizes and we can use them all. She urged governments to Step It Up and implement the Beijing Platform for Action created in 1995. The Platform for Action is part of a cohort of international instruments and declarations, including Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. The “Political Declaration” adopted at CSW reaffirms the Beijing Platform for Action and indicates that great strides must be made in gender equality by 2020 and must be 50:50 by 2030. Since the Beijing Conference, legislation has been passed in many countries to support all the critical areas of the Beijing Platform for Action but what has not been done is to change the attitudes that perpetuate the culture of male superiority and the stereotypes that diminish women. She invites invite men and boys in all the countries to be partners and to be active in the HeForShe campaign.

- See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/3/ed-opening-statement-csw#sthash.1GriQONd.dpuf>

The member states signed the **Political Declaration** on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the 4th World Conference on Women, which can be found at: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2015/L.1

The NGO CSW branch held a Consultation Day on March 8th at which **Ruchira Gupta**, founder of Apne Aap, which is an NGO to fight sex trafficking in India, addressed the NGOs. In addition, she joined MWIA’s panel the next day. She was the winner of NGOCSW Woman of Distinction Award. The Public Broadcasting Station aired a two-part series on her work which can be found at:

Part One:

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/police-inaction-human-trafficking-india/>

Part Two:

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/rescue-girls-sex-trafficking-indian-activists-confront-tradition-family-ties/>

Her speech on Consultation Day can be found at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qpnUgqgpXLY>

Dr. Gabrielle Casper, a past president of MWIA from Australia, did a fantastic job by connecting with Rotary in Australia to bring nine mobile ultrasound machines which were handed to members to be hand delivered to various countries in need. Dr. Casper brought nine medical students with her and each presented their posters to those in attendance from MWIA. Thank you to all the students for a job well done!

6. REPORT FROM MWIA'S UN REPRESENTATIVES

Dr. Satty Gill Keswani and Dr. Mini Murthy

The start of 2015 has been busy at the United Nations with several activities and meetings and the two MWIA reps to the UN, Drs. Keswani and Murthy attended some of the events to represent MWIA. As member of the NGOCSW planning committee for the 59th CSW, Dr. Mini Murthy attended the planning meetings every two weeks.

The 59th CSW was held from March 9th to March 20th, 2015 at the United Nations. The theme was Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including current challenges that affect its implementation and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

MWIA members from USA, Canada, Australia, Britain, Nigeria, the Netherlands and India were active participants at the CSW events. On March 8th members of MWIA attended the NGOCSW Consultation Day at the Apollo Theatre and participated in the Gender Equality March in the afternoon, which was organized by UN Women .

On Monday March 9th MWIA organized a panel discussion titled *The Role of MWIA in Promoting Health and Reproductive Rights since Beijing and Beyond*. MWIA's co-sponsor was the American Medical Women's Association. The speakers included H.E. Professor Malgorzata Fuszara, Minister from Poland, Ruchira Gupta, activist and NGOCSW Woman of Distinction Awardee, Drs. Shelley Ross, Dr. Farzana Hafzulla, Dr. Gail Beck, Dr. Satty Keswani, and Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi. The panel was moderated by Dr Mini Murthy. Participating from the audience were many of our Nigerian colleagues including MWAN President, Dr. Valerie Obot, Dr. Clarissa Fabre who represents MWIA at WHO, Dr. Eliza Chin who is executive director of AMWA, and members from the Netherlands and South Africa. Dr. Gabrielle Casper was in attendance with nine of her medical students.

During the CSW, MWIA co-sponsored 3 other panels with other NGOs – Psychological Coalition at the United Nations, National Council of Women USA, and the Taiwan Action Alliance For Mental Health --and one high level event with the mission of Grenada which was the launch of My Sister's Health Watch at the United Nations on March 12th. The Medical Women's Association of Nigeria had a parallel event on *Expanding the Role of Women in the achievement and Maintenance of Health throughout Nigeria*.

Dr Mini Murthy represented MWIA at a luncheon on March 12th, hosted by Catherine M. Russell, the United States Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues at the US Mission.

Dr Gabrielle Casper arranged the donation of nine portable ultrasound machines from the Rotary club in Australia. These machines will be used to serve indigent populations in Grenada, Nigeria, Ghana, Tanzania, Rwanda and Afghanistan.

Drs. Keswani and Murthy continue to represent MWIA at the various UN events.

7. REPORT FROM MWIA'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY

Dr. Edith Schratzberger

In 1990 the European Women's Lobby was created in response to a growing awareness of the need to defend women's interests at European level. So this year we celebrate 25 years of feminist action and activism all over Europe! On May 29, 2015 you are invited to join EWL's members in Brussels for debate, music and celebrations!

The EWL is calling for the Maternity Directive to be back on the European political agenda. Women continue to earn 16% on average less than men and it is often at the moment of childbirth that the gender pay gap kicks in. Despite laws that protect pregnant workers, more women today are experiencing discrimination in the workplace due to pregnancy and birth. The rights and protection of women during pregnancy and upon return to work needs to be strengthened.

8. REPORT FROM MWIA'S REPRESENTATIVE TO WHO

Dr. Clarissa Fabre

I have been MWIA representative to WHO for two years now, and over that period two areas have emerged that are of special interest to me. The first is the **Safe Childbirth Checklist**, which has been developed by the Harvard School of Public Health in collaboration with the WHO, and is supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The aim of the checklist is to reduce maternal and perinatal mortality (for more detail see www.who.int). I am delighted that Dr Rosemary Ogu, an MWIA member and a consultant in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Port Harcourt, has taken the lead in piloting the checklist in several primary care centres in Nigeria. It is excellent that MWIA has become involved.

The second area is **Violence against Women and Girls**. In the next year, MWIA will write a Clinical Handbook on Domestic and Sexual Violence. My particular focus is on prevention, and the involvement of men and boys.

In early March, along with a cohort of MWIA members from around the world, I was very pleased to attend the **UN Commission on the Status of Women conference** in New York. We all marched through the streets of New York from the UN to Times Square to commemorate International Women's Day. **Highlights** of the conference for me were **Hilary Clinton** ('Despite obstacles that remain there has never been a better time in history to be born female...in 1995 if you were born in Nepal or Afghanistan there was a high chance that your mother would die in childbirth BUT, despite a lot of progress, we are not there yet – more than 30 million girls never go to secondary school, there is gender biased sex selection especially in China and India, and more than half the nations in the world have no laws to prevent VAW. Laws have to be enforced, not just on paper... we need judges committed to enforcement'); **Ban Ki Moon**, the UN Secretary General ('we need full participation of both genders'); and **Mary Robinson**, the UN Special Envoy for Climate Change ('We are not in a comfortable place on climate change'). **Countering Cyber-violence against Women** is a very important subject and was discussed at one of the side-events – women aged 18-30 are most affected by this

new type of VAW, most often perpetrated by someone known to them. New laws are required which balance rights to privacy with freedom of expression.

MWIA ran an excellent parallel session at the UN. **Ruchira Gupta**, a former journalist and founder of an anti-sex trafficking organisation in India, was an inspiration. 'We need to address the needs and concerns of 'the last girl' – she is 13 years old, poor, works in a brothel, is raped by 8-10 customers every night, does not have a phone to ring a helpline, has no education....' Her film 'The Selling of Innocents' won an Emmy award. The **Polish government minister** spoke of the restrictions around abortion, and the divisive issue of sex education in her country. MWIA Treasurer, Dr Gail Beck described a study on sexual assault and harassment among university students in Canada. Introduced as 'super Mom and super doc', Dr Farzana Haffizulla, president of the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA), encouraged us all to attend their Centenary in Chicago in April this year. 'Discrimination and gender inequality start at home' was a very insightful comment made by one of our UN representatives, Dr Satty Gill Keswani. The Indian government recently tried to block the worldwide screening of a new film 'India's Daughter', because it showed India in a bad light. The film shows the rape and murder last year of a medical student in Delhi, and there were interviews with some of the perpetrators: 'a girl is more responsible for rape than a boy...she should just be silent and allow the rape. Then they would have dropped her off after 'doing her' and only hit the boy she was with.'

As Hilary Clinton said, the situation for women worldwide has improved over the last 20 years, but there is much to be done, and we must be constantly vigilant.

On a different topic, I attended the conference at the British Medical Association on the role of physicians and national medical associations in addressing the social determinants of health, chaired by Sir Michael Marmot. During his upcoming term at President of the World Medical Association, Sir Michael Marmot plans to highlight violence against women as one of his priorities.

9. **CIOMS**

The December CIOMS Newsletter is now available on their website at the following link: <http://www.cioms.ch/index.php/news/newsletter-dec-2014>

10. **WHO Regional Committee Meeting for the Eastern Mediterranean in Tunis**

Dr. Marie-Dominique Ghnassia

The strategic priorities of the region endorsed by the Committee in 2012 have been reviewed during technical meetings and listed as:

Social determinants of health: moving to concrete action in the Region

Preparedness for disease outbreaks with special emphasis on Ebola and MERS-CoV

Polio Eradication in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

Towards a public health response to climate change and air pollution in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

Prevention and control of viral hepatitis B and C: new opportunities for scaling up national efforts

Saving the lives of mothers and children

Global health security
Emergency preparedness and response
Noncommunicable diseases
Health system strengthening for universal health coverage (UHC) 2012-2016
The Future of Health in the Region

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

2015

1. **April 16-18, 2015**, Oslo, Norway.
World Medical Association Council Session
www.wma.net
2. **April 24-25, 2015**, Taipei, Taiwan
Western Pacific Regional Meeting
Evergreen International Convention Centre
<http://www.tmwa.com.tw/2015mwia-wprm>
3. **April 24-27, 2015**, Chicago, Illinois, USA
100th Anniversary Meeting of the American Medical Women's Association
Celebrating a Century Past and Embracing an Empowered and Innovative Future
Palmer House Hilton, Chicago
<http://www.amwa-doc.org/centennial-meeting-registration/>
4. **April 26-29, 2015**, Geneva, Switzerland
8th Geneva Conference on Person Centered Primary Health Care
Co-sponsored by MWIA
www.personcenteredmedicine.org
5. **May 1-3, 2015**, Harrison Hot Springs Resort, BC Canada
Retreat by the Vancouver Branch of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada
Contact Dr. Teresa Clarke drteresaclarke@gmail.com
6. **May 14-15, 2015**, Crowne Plaza, Geneva, Switzerland.
The Fourth World Health professions Regulation conference
www.wma.net
7. **May 15, 2015**, Macdonald Manchester Spa Hotel, Manchester, UK
Medical Women's Federation of the UK Spring Conference 2015
Stepping Up and Speaking Out: Empowering Women Doctors and their Patients
www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk

8. **May 17-21, 2015**, Geneva, Switzerland
World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization
Contact the MWIA Secretariat if you wish to attend
9. **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
Information will be on www.mwia.net when available
10. **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 Hotel
www.fmwc.ca
11. **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
12. **December 6-7, 2015**
Central Asia Regional Meeting
Calcutta, India
Information will be on www.mwia.net when available

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

12. **NAMES IN THE NEWS**

Dr. Aisha Adamu of the Medical Women's Association of Nigeria, was sworn in as the new Taraba State Branch pioneer President on January 26th.

Dr. Hiliary Cass of the Medical Womens Federation of the UK was awarded the Order of the British Empire.

Dr. Jan Christilaw of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada was named as YWCA Metro Vancouver 2015 recipient of the Woman of Distinction Award under the category of Health and Wellness.

Robin Gorna is the new Executive Director for the Partnership for Maternal Newborn and Child Health.

Ruchira Gupta, founder of Apne Aap Women Worldwide, an anti-sex trafficking organization in India, was awarded the 2015 NGO CSW Forum Woman of Distinction Award. She was a member of MWIA's panel during CSW.

Dr Valerie Obot, MWAN National President for 2013-2015 biennium, was appointed Permanent Secretary in Akwa Ibom State Civil Service Commission.

Dra. Gysella Padilla has been named President-Elect of the Pan American Medical Women's Association.

Professor Ros Smyth of the Medical Womens Federation of the UK was awarded the CBE

13. **BOOKS AND LINKS**

The Missionary Doctor in the Service of Humanity by Dr. Omiepirisa Yvonne Buowari. To order this free book, contact dabotabuowari@yahoo.com.

Global Status Report on Violence Prevention 2014 by World Health Organization. www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/status_report/2014

Health in All Policies training manual by the World Health Organization

Comprehensive Cervical Cancer Control: A guide to essential practice (affectionately known as “the Pink Book”) by the World Health Organization.

<http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/cancers/cervical-cancer-guide/en/>

World Development Report 2015 –Mind, Society and Behaviour by the World Bank

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/wdr2015>

Direct Link to Full 236-Page 2015 Report:

<http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/Publications/WDR/WDR%202015/WDR-2015-Full-Report.pdf>

Reproductive Rights are Human Rights by UNFPA, Danish Institute for Human Rights and UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/NHRIHandbook.pdf>

II. OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

1. World Health Organization (WHO)

a. The Executive Board met January 26 to February 3, 2015 and discussed:

Air pollution is one of the main avoidable causes of disease and death globally, and the recent WHO Executive Board (EB) meeting considered a report on *Addressing the health impact of air pollution*. The report describes the links between air pollution and health and outlines strategies for prevention and control, including coordinated action between health and other sectors. The EB was invited to note the report and unanimously agreed to it. In addition, the Executive Board discussed a draft resolution on the health impact of air pollution which received strong support from numerous countries. Further consultations will take place in order to develop a resolution that can be adopted at the World Health Assembly in May 2015.

The WHO conference on **health and climate** (August 2014) was part of the Organization’s response to World Health Assembly resolution WHA 61.19. The recent WHO EB meeting reviewed the *outcomes of the conference and revised the WHO work plan on climate change and health*. The main changes proposed to the work plan are: (i) Establishment of a partnership ‘platform’ to respond to the increasing number of activities and actors engaged in this field; (ii) Greater emphasis on actions that can improve health while also mitigating the extent of climate change; and, (iii) Promoting the need, and providing tools, for more systematic collection of country-specific information and monitoring of progress. EB members unanimously agreed to these proposals and expressed strong commitment.

Among many *other topics discussed by the EB*, a special session reviewed the current status of the WHO **Ebola** response, and made recommendations on further steps, as well as on the strengthening of WHO capacity to respond to future large-scale, sustained outbreaks and emergencies.

b. WHO is working on a **Safe Childbirth Checklist**. MWIA is making proposals to WHO to include the checklist in our Safe Delivery Project.

c. Important Links regarding the **WHO Global Coordination Mechanism on NCD** (WHO NCD/GCM) and the UN Task Force on NCDs: <http://www.who.int/nmh/ncd-coordination-mechanism/>• NCD Homepage: <http://www.who.int/nmh/>• NCD Tools: <http://www.who.int/nmh/ncd-tools/>• UNIATF: <http://www.who.int/nmh/ncd-task-force/>• The WHO GCM/NCD can be contacted at gcmncd@who.int. The UNIATF can be contacted at unnctaskforce@who.int.

d. **The Partnership for Maternal Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH)** is holding an extensive outreach and consultation process around key national, regional and global events in their plan for [Renewing the Global Strategy: A common vision for 2030](#)

e. **Curriculum for health care providers on violence against women**

The WHO and PAHO are developing a training curriculum for health professionals about care for women subjected to intimate partner violence and sexual violence. As a first step, a survey was prepared with the aim of identifying needs of health professionals in providing adequate care for women subjected to violence. The survey takes only 10 minutes to complete. For additional information, please contact Thais Rezende onderezendeosinit@who.int or Claudia Garcia Moreno on garciamorenoc@who.int

2. United Nations

a. <http://time.com/3738345/violence-against-women-united-nations/>

Violence Against Women around the World “Persists at Alarming High Levels in Many Forms,” According to a New UN [Report](#).

Direct Link to Full 60-Page 2015 Report:

http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2015/sg%20report_synthesis-en_web.pdf

b. CSW was held at the UN in New York from March 9 to 20, 2015. The report can be found earlier in the Update.

3. **Women Deliver** announces that Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mary of Denmark has been named Patron of Women Deliver 2016 Conference. The Women Deliver 2016 Conference will be one of the first big global conferences following the launch of a new global development framework – the Sustainable Development Goals. Over 5,000 participants from all over the world will look at how to implement these new development goals as they relate to the health, rights, and wellbeing of girls and women. There will be a specific focus on maternal, sexual, and reproductive health and rights – and the inter-connections with gender equality, education, environment, and economic empowerment. The conference, which is the fourth Women Deliver conference, will be held at the Bella Center in Copenhagen, Denmark from 16-19 May 2016.

4. **The Post 2015 Womens Coalition** has developed a vision statement which can be viewed at [Post2015WomensCoalitionVisionStatement_FINAL](#)

5. **India's Daughter** is the movie about the rape of the 23 year old medical student in India in 2012. Women Make Movies

<http://www.wmm.com/filmcatalog/pages/c898.shtml>

Film Segment: <http://www.wmm.com/advscripts/wmmvideo.aspx?pid=290>

6. **Women in Science** provided this link:

<http://sciencefriday.com/segment/03/20/2015/writing-women-back-into-science-history.html>

7. **Global Fund for Women** delivered their IGNITE petition to UN Women, calling for equal access to and control of technology for women and girls as the new Strategic Development Goals are set.

[https://www.globalfundforwomen.org/news/208-2015/2218-signatures-to-close-the-tech-gap-delivered-to-the-](https://www.globalfundforwomen.org/news/208-2015/2218-signatures-to-close-the-tech-gap-delivered-to-the-un?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=318%20Petition%20delivery%20thank%20yo)

[un?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=318%20Petition%20delivery%20thank%20yo](https://www.globalfundforwomen.org/news/208-2015/2218-signatures-to-close-the-tech-gap-delivered-to-the-un?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=318%20Petition%20delivery%20thank%20yo)
MWIA was a signatory to the petition.

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 June, 2015. Please send us your reports, comments or any other interesting information by May 31, 2015, at the latest. We are always interested to put your name and your accomplishments in the Update.