

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MWIA



Update

No. 68 December 2016

E-mail: secretariat@mwia.net Website: <http://www.mwia.net>

Twitter @MedWIA

MWIA Secretariat

7555 Morley Drive

Burnaby, B.C., V5E 3Y2, CANADA

Phone +1 604 522-1960

CONTENTS

I MWIA

	page
1. President's Message	3
2. Requests from the Secretary-General	4
3. 2013-2016 MWIA Executive	5
4. News from the Regions	6
5. Report from MWIA representatives to the UN	10
6. Report from CIOMS representative	10
7. Report on Central European Regional Meeting	11
8. Calendar of Forthcoming Events	11
9. Names in the News	12
10. Obituaries	13
11. Books and articles	13

II ORGANIZATIONS

1. World Health Organization (WHO)	14
2. United Nations	14
3. CanWaCH	15
4. Global Mom's Challenge	15
5. Women in Global Health	15
6. Wonca Women	15

III ANNOUNCEMENTS	15
--------------------------	----

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

THEME OF THE 2016-2019 TRIENNIUM

“MEDICAL WOMEN: AMBASSADORS OF CHANGE”

I. MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

1. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Professor Dr. Dr. Bettina Pfleiderer, Germany

I just returned from Moscow where I attended the MWIA Central European Regional Meeting from the 23-26th of November. The MWIA executive was well represented by MWIA Secretary General, Dr. Shelley Ross, Vice President for Central Europe, Prof. Khatuna Kaladze, as well as MWIA President-elect, Dr. Clarissa Fabre. As theme for the congress "*The health of women and children in the Russian federation: the social and health aspects*" was chosen. It was the first time MWIA had a meeting in Russia and the Union of Medical Women of Russia is one of MWIA's newest members, too. The congress was very well organized by their president Prof. Olga Gonchorova with excellent speakers and discussions.



MWIA had also the opportunity to present its various activities and projects at a round table at the Russian parliament (Duma) and possible collaborations were discussed. The picture shows the international guests together with Prof. Olga Gonchorova (fourth from left) in the Duma.

It is my pleasure to inform you about our current MWIA activities since the congress in Vienna. To mention a few, last month, the chair of the *centennial publication subcommittee*, Dr. Helen Goodyear, had sent a template to all national associations asking for information about their association. This information will be included in our planned book, "100 years on 100 pages." Please send the template back as soon as possible and make our book an inspiring document as a showcase of our member associations. Thank you!

Also the MWIA working group on violence resumed their work on the online training module on violence (<https://mwiaviolencemanual.wordpress.com/>) in October. Currently we are working on teaching materials such as slides illustrating cases and categories; drafting factsheets on various topics e.g. on elder abuse and we are also designing a workshop using these materials. However, we are still in need for more cases- please send an e-mail to me if you are interested in submitting a new case: president@mwia.net

Moreover, all committees' chairs submitted work plans with timeframes to the MWIA executive for discussion and their input:

The various committees plan to work on

- an overhaul of our MWIA webpage and flyer
- the development of guidelines for running general assemblies and the resolution process more smoothly
- various centennial activities
- activities to increase MWIA membership
- projects related to gender medicine
- a questionnaire on sexual harassment of medical students and physicians to be sent out to our MWIA members soon
- the MWIA presidents "Friends of MWIA" program to be introduced to the membership soon

Since Christmas is coming soon, I wish you and your families – on behalf of the Medical Women's International Association - a peaceful and joyful Christmas season and a prosperous New Year 2017.

2. REQUESTS FROM THE SECRETARY- GENERAL

Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada

Along with President Bettina Pfleiderer, President-elect Clarissa Fabre and Vice President for the Central European Region, I have just returned from a very successful Central European Regional Meeting of MWIA. The Russian Medical Women are to be congratulated for hosting such an interesting conference for the first time in Russia. Please see details later in the newsletter.

It is exciting to think that another of our national association members will be celebrating their 100th anniversary. The Medical Women's Federation of the UK will host their centennial from May 10-13, 2017 in London. Registration details can be found at <https://www.regonline.co.uk/builder/site/default.aspx?EventID=1857489>

The Commission on the Status of Women is being held at the United Nations in New York City March 12-24, 2017. The theme is "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work." Please let the Secretariat know if you wish to be registered.

Let me remind you that the **fiscal year** for MWIA is July 1st to June 30th. Dues notices were sent out in July. Thank you to those who have paid and to those who have not yet done so, we look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

The website has a secure site for the National Coordinators. Please contact the Secretariat for access information. Please note that MWIA's expectation is that information given to NCs and Presidents is to be shared with your members, including this newsletter.

Let me wish you and yours the best of the festive season and a wonderful healthy, happy 2017.

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. 2016-2019 EXECUTIVE with email addresses:

President	Prof Bettina Pfleiderer, Germany	president@mwia.net
Past President	Prof Kyung Ah Park, Korea	past_president@mwia.net
President Elect	Dr. Clarissa Fabre, UK	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. Tuula Saarela, Finland	VP_northerneurope@mwia.net
VP Central Europe	Prof Khatuna Kaladze, Georgia	VP_centraleurope@mwia.net
VP Southern Europe	Dr. Antonella Vezzani, Italy	VP_southerneurope@mwia.net
VP North America	Dr. Padmini Murthy, USA	VP_northamerica@mwia.net
VP Latin America	Dr. Maite Sevillano, Brazil	VP_latinamerica@mwia.net
VP Near East/Africa	Dr. Mabel Aboah, Ghana	VP_africa@mwia.net
VP Central Asia	Dr. Piyanetr Sukhu, Thailand	VP_centralasia@mwia.net
VP Western Pacific	Dr. Cissy Yu, Hong Kong	VP_westernpacific@mwia.net

The Medical Women's International Association Executive 2016-2019

Front row left to right Kyung Ah Park, Clarissa Fabre, Bettina Pfleiderer, Shelley Ross

Back row left to right: Piyanetr Sikhu, Mabel Aboah, Padmini Murthy, Maite Sevillano, Cissy Yu, Khatuna Kaladze, Tuula Saarela, Antonella Vezzani (absent: Gail Beck)



4. NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGIONS

Australia

AFMW has established the Thank You Initiative to give their members a way to formally express their gratitude for the invaluable contributions of their mentors and teachers.

Brazil

Dra. Maite Sevillano reports that in this period the Paraná section of Brazil (we have an association in 2 states) was assumed Dr. Claudia Aguilar, and proactively has arranged our national congress in the city of Curitiba in 2017.

CONFEMEL joins associations, federations of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and from 2017 also Portugal and Spain. The new president is Brazilian, Dr. Jeancarlos. He was kind enough to visit me in the hospital and invited the Sao Paulo and Paraná sections to participate in the Confemel board, where we intend to discuss the role of women doctors in Latin America and the Caribbean. It will be helpful in contacting several countries, opening the possibility of having national medical associations joining MWIA.

With the support of our maximum authority in Sao Paulo, the regional council of medicine, we are developing a questionnaire that will collate the professional projects and colleagues involved.

With the support of the Brazilian Association of psychiatry, cardiology, rheumatology and immunology we are initiating our project on gender in medicine. We intend to launch a series of books with different specialties dealing with this topic and deliver to the Ministry of Health and education, and colleagues.

Dr. Anna Maria Martits goes on to report that in followup to the report in the September Update, I am pleased to report that the workshop on Gender Medicine and Endocrinology held during the Brazilian Congress of Endocrinology was a success. This was the first time this theme had appeared in an Endocrinology meeting and the directors of the Brazilian Endocrine Society, Dr Salles, Dr Castro and Dr Hohl, have invited us to organize similar workshops on Gender Medicine and Endocrinology for the next Meeting of the Brazilian Endocrine Society in São Paulo in May 2017 and for the next Brazilian Congress of Endocrinology in 2018. So the theme of Gender Medicine has settled on the agenda of the Brazilian Endocrine Society.

The ABMM (Brazil) has a department of Gender Medicine. Our main aim is to introduce Gender Medicine in the curriculum of medical schools in Brazil. This work begins with the presentation of the subject during the scientific meetings of different specialties. This already has been done in Clinical Pathology and Cardiology by Dr Marilene Mello and Dr Elizabeth Alexandre and now in Endocrinology by me. This was also my goal when I translated MWIA's Gender Mainstreaming Manual into Portuguese.

There is a very active WhatsApp group among the members of ABMM (Brazil) executive, allowing the exchange of important information. One of the results of this exchange helped to solve a serious discussion about wages between medical doctors of the city of Palmital and the municipal council of that city in the state of São Paulo.

News from our members:

Dr Nise Yamagushi, Professor of Clinical Oncology and director of ABMM Brazil, received “The Best of the Year” recognition from the municipal council of São Paulo for her important work in oncology.

Prof Ieda Verreschi, Professor of Endocrinology, and past member of the regional council of medicine of São Paulo, received a tribute for her huge contribution as director of UNIFESP (Federal University of São Paulo).

Dr Claudia Aguilar was elected director of ABMM –Parana State and is organizing the next congress of ABMM for 2017 in Curitiba, Parana.

Dr Fatima R.A. Alves, our president, is a professor of Otorhinolaryngology. This month she was judging a dissertation in her specialty at Santa Casa of São Paulo Medical School.

ABMM Brazil will be represented at the “Parlamentar Medical Front” by our directors Ana Regina Vlainich and Irene Abramovich.

On Nov 26th, Dr Helena Stivanin, our cultural director, organized a lecture about a famous Brazilian sculptor and architect of the 17th century “Aleijadinho- his art and his disease.” Dr Stivanin organizes an interesting cultural event this time every year.

Scientific meetings of ABMM Brazil planned for the first semester of 2017:

March: “Gender differences in pain”

April: Palliative care”

May: Corporate Compliance:- its meaning for women

June: HPV: Diagnosis and prevention

Canada

The National Cervical Cancer Awareness Week, also known as the PAP (Prevention & Awareness Program), is a Federation of Medical Women of Canada (FMWC) initiative. FMWC has been working in partnership with the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada, as well as several other medical associations and provincial partners, to strengthen our campaign and to increase awareness and access to cervical cancer screening. This program was held in October, 2016.

India

The National Conference of the Association of Medical Women India was held on October 15 and 16th in Nagpur and was well attended by national and international delegates. The theme was *Her Health- Nations Wealth*. The AMWI Mumbai Branch held the Sihrin Mehta poster competition for post graduate medical students and residents on December 3rd.

Italy

In September, AIDM participated in Florence at the conference "Sustainability and opportunities in the health sector" with the theme, "Gender medicine as a component of equity and sustainability in the health system." In November, a new AIDM section was inaugurated in Turin with a conference entitled "Critical issues, inequalities and perspectives of women doctors today." During this period many Italian sections are organizing educational events on domestic violence.

Nigeria

Aljazeera interviewed Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi of the Medical Women's Association of Nigeria on the return of the Chibok girls.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/10/nigeria-chibok-girls-tearful-reunion-families-161016174008963.html>

Panama

The Medical Women's Association of Panama is putting the finishing touches on the congress of the Pan American Alianza/Latin American Regional Meeting, which will be held May 17-20, 2017.

Russia

The MWIA Central European Regional Meeting was held from the 23-26th of November. It was a well organized and attended event. The MWIA executive was well represented by MWIA Secretary General, Dr. Shelley Ross, Vice President for Central Europe, Prof. Khatuna Kaladze, as well as MWIA President-elect, Dr. Clarissa Fabre. The theme of this meeting "*The health of women and children in the Russian federation: the social and health aspects.*" It was an historic event since in more than 95 years, it was the first time MWIA had a meeting in Russia and the Union of Medical Women of Russia is one of MWIA's newest members and an active one.

Thailand

Clinical Professor Dr. Siraporn Sawasdivorn, Vice President of TMWA 2014-2016, was invited to attend WHO SEARO as Member of the Technical Advisory Group for Woman and Children's Health in The South East Asia Region (SEAR-TAG). The plan is to review newborn death rates and to collect a database of newborn birth defects. The meeting was held in Jakarta, Indonesia on August 9-11, 2016.

The 11th Asia Pacific Conference on Tobacco or Health was held on September 23-25, 2016, in Beijing, China. Professor Emeritus Dr. Khun Nanta Maranetra, TMWA President and Professor Dr. Somsri Pausawasdi, Honorary Advisor for TMWA, previously President of The Medical Association of Thailand, President of The Thai Health Professional Alliance against Tobacco and a group of Thai medical profession went to attend this conference.

Professor Dr. Somsri Pausawasdi also went to attend World Medical Association annual general assembly in Taipei on October 19-22, 2016.

The annual meeting of The Thai Medical Women's Association Under The Royal Patronage of Her Majesty The Queen (TMWA) held its annual meeting on October 9th with election of the new committees.

Professor Emeritus Dr. Khun Nanta Maranetra will be the President for another term, Major General Jantra Chennavasin, M.D.; Khun Swanya Dejudom, M.D. Vice President 1 & 2 respectively, Mayura Kusum, M.D. will be the secretary for another term.

TMWA leadership program was organized by Chamaree Chuapetcharasopon, M.D., past President of TMWA and past Vice President of Central Asia Region of MWIA and Sukajan Pongprapai, M.D. The first class was successfully completed with 17 students graduating. Asian Oceanian Society of Radiology (AOSOR) and Dr. Chamaree Chuapetcharasopon from Thailand

also hosted AOSOR 2nd Youth Club leadership training program for young radiologists selected from national societies of 10 countries at Chiang Mai, Thailand on November 17-20, 2016. TMWA in collaboration with the Thai Heart Foundation Under The Royal Patronage of His Majesty the King has trained over than 700 laymen to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation. These include students, factory workers, running club, etc. and all of them became certified.

USA

AMWA recently launched its exhibition Women Physicians in World War I which talks about the contributions of women physicians in America but also has links to resources we found on women physicians in other countries. This is an ongoing project so we would love to hear from other countries and link to any resources that they might have about the women physicians in their country. Visit

<https://www.amwa-doc.org/wwi-exhibition/>

AMWA members were active participants in the *Ensuring Consumer Access to Healthcare Conference*, held November 16th in Washington, DC.

Since November, AMWA is partnering with SafetyNest, a platform which offers a centralized hub for reproductive health care providers and pregnant women to engage, learn, track, and share content that is easy to access and highly relevant to their health and that of their children.

Dr Padmini Murthy, VP North America, represented AMWA and MWIA at the Association of Medical Women in India Meeting held in October in Nagpur, India.

Dr Eliza Chin, Executive Director of AMWA, met the Warriors in Pink at an event organized by Ford which is an initiative against breast cancer launched by Ford Motor Company in NYC in November.

The 102nd Anniversary annual meeting will be held in San Francisco, California, from March 30-April 2, 2017. Registration is now open at www.amwa-doc.org.

United Kingdom

2017 will be an exciting time for the Medical Women's Federation as they celebrate their 100th anniversary. Please come and join the celebrations as the theme is 100 years of Medical Women: Past, Present and Future. Registration is now open at

<https://www.regonline.co.uk/builder/site/default.aspx?EventID=1857489>

For MWF members, the Dorothy Ward International Travel Fellowship is now open for entries, offering the chance for you to win £1000 towards your travelling expenses when visiting an overseas institution or research group.

5. REPORT FROM MWIA'S REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UN

Dr. Satty Gill Keswani and Dr. Padmini Murthy

Dr Murthy has been representing MWIA at various UN and NGO related events. She has been working on the upcoming CSW as a member of NGOCSW executive committee. Dr Murthy has been attending the DPI NGO briefings representing MWIA. In November, Dr Murthy was invited to be the lead discussant on the role of NGOs in promoting SDG 3 and SDG 5, which was organized by the DPI NGO Section. On December 1st Dr Murthy was invited to moderate a DPI NGO and UN AIDS Briefing, *Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030* in the Trusteeship council at the United Nations.



Partnering with Zonta International Dr Murthy was able to send 750 safe mother hood kits through Nobel Laureate Lemah Gowbee's foundation to Liberia.

Ms. Aishwarya Narasimhadevara has been attending several youth briefings as an appointed member of the DPI NGO Youth committee. In December, 2016, she is attending a conference on Human Rights in Colombo, Sri Lanka as a delegate/panelist representing MWIA.

Drs Keswani and Murthy have been working on the upcoming CSW parallel event for March, 2017.

6. CIOMS

Dr. Christine Wieland, CIOMS Representative

Dr. Wieland attended her first CIOMS meeting and reports that there are new statues and the result of recent elections sees a woman as vice president. Dr. Wieland is sitting on the CIOMS board.

The purpose of CIOMS is - "to promote public health through international collaboration and coordination including, **but not limited to**, medical products safety and ethical principles governing the conduct of biomedical research involving human subjects."

Dr. Wieland has been asked if MWIA has ideas to form new working groups to focus on women and women's health.

7. Central European Regional Meeting

Dr. Khatuna Kaladze, VP Central Asia

The Central European Regional meeting of MWIA was held for the first time in the Russian Federation from November 23-25, 2016. The theme was Actual Medical and Social Problems in the field of Health Care of Women and Children. Many thanks go to Dr. Khatuna Kaladze, VP for Central Europe, and Dr. Olga Gonchorova, President of the Russian Medical Women's Association, for organizing such an interesting congress. The venue was the First Moscow State Medical University.

The MWIA executive was well represented by the President, President-elect, Secretary-General, and VP for Central Europe, all of whom participated in the scientific program.

Topics ranged from the history of gender and health to the development of GenderMed Wiki, based on Wikipedia to heart disease in women, paid parental leave on a woman physician's life, to morbid obesity, development of disease registries to morbid obesity.

The meeting began with a tour of the medical museum and the pediatric ward of the I.M. Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University of the Ministry of Healthcare of the Russian Federation. The actual congress was held in its Congress Centre, a state of the art facility.

The final day was a round table held at the Duma with the Deputy Speaker of the Duma conducting the session. The MWIA executive present each gave a presentation. An outcomes document is to be developed.

The meeting was very successful and the Russian Medical Women's Association can be proud of producing such an excellent congress the first time it was held in Russia.

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

2017

1. **March 13-24, 2017**, United Nations, New York City

Priority theme: Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work

Review theme: Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls (agreed conclusions of the fifty-eighth session)

2. **March 14, 2017**, Finland

Annual General Meeting of the Finnish Medical Women's Association

Contact VP_northerneurope@mwia.net

3. **March 30-April 2, 2017**, San Francisco, USA
American Medical Women's Association annual meeting
www.amwa-doc.org
4. **May 10-13, 2017**, London, UK
Northern European Regional Meeting and Centennial Meeting of MWF
Theme: 100 years of Medical Women: Past, Present and Future.
In Celebration of 100th Anniversary of Medical Women's Federation
www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk
5. **May 17-20, 2017**, Panama City, Panama
Latin American Regional Meeting of MWIA/Pan American Medical Women's Association Meeting
gy.moreno@yahoo.es
6. **May 21-26, 2017**, Geneva, Switzerland
World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization
Please contact secretariat@mwia.net if you wish to be registered
6. **May 26-28, 2017**, Trieste, Italy
Annual meeting of the Italian Medical Women's Association
Contact vp_southerneurope@mwia.net
7. **August 25-27, 2017**, Hong Kong
Western Pacific Regional Meeting
Website under development
Contact vp_westernpacific@mwia.net

2018

1. **August 23-25, 2018**, Thailand
Central Asia Regional Meeting of MWIA
Website to follow in January 2017
Contact vp_centralasia@mwia.net

9. NAMES IN THE NEWS

Dr Mandakini Megh, National Vice President of the Association of Medical Women in India, was invited to deliver the Dr. Piroja Daroowalla Oration at the National Conference of AMWI held on October 15 and 16 in Nagpur

Dr Padmini Murthy, VP MWIA North America was invited to present the inaugural R. Lata Patil Oration at the National Conference of AMWI held on October 15 and 16 in Nagpur

Dr Eleanor Nwadinobi of the Medical Women's Association of Nigeria, has been appointed to the board of the Virginia Gidersleeve International Fund (VGIF) and is the first Nigerian on the board.

Dr. Catherine Yelland, of the Australian Federation of Medical Women and former President of the Queensland Medical Women's Society and committee member of AFMW, was appointed President of the Royal Australian College of Physicians

10. OBITUARIES

Dr. Edith Bethancourt, of the Panama Medical Women's Association and former President of the Pan American Women's Alianza in September, 2016

Dr. Jean Fourcroy, of the American Medical Women's Association and Past Vice President for North America, 2004-2007, passed away in October, 2016

11. BOOKS AND ARTICLES

1. **Reproductive Rights are Human Rights**

December 10th, Human Rights Day, is the perfect time to launch the [Consensus Statement on Reproductive Health Issues that Impact Women during Pregnancy, Childbirth and Postpartum](#), a statement developed at the Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Caucus of the Women Deliver Conference.

2. The **Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada** have launched their updated website on sexuality which can be found at <http://www.sexandu.ca>

3. **USAID's flagship Maternal and Child Survival Program** is pleased to introduce two new resources, the **Postnatal Care Pre-Discharge Checklist** and accompanying **Postnatal Care Pre-Discharge Poster**. Both were developed to help providers in health facilities operationalize the WHO 2013 Postnatal Care recommendations. The job aids remind providers that women should stay at least 24 hours after birth before discharge, while guiding them through a pre-discharge checkup for mother and baby.

4. **Study: More than a quarter of medical students are depressed, suicidal according to a new analysis in the Journal of the American Medical Association.** The analysis reviewed nearly 200 studies involving more than 129,000 students in 47 countries.

5. Australia—**Seeking Help for Domestic Violence: Exploring Rural Women's Coping Experiences**

<http://anrows.org.au/publications/landscapes/seeking-help-for-domestic-violence-exploring-rural-womens-coping-experiences>

6. The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives has ranked the **best and worst places to be a woman in Canada.**

[https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2016/10/Best and Worst Places to Be a Woman2016.pdf](https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2016/10/Best%20and%20Worst%20Places%20to%20Be%20a%20Woman2016.pdf)

7. **Inspire**: Seven Strategies for ending violence against children by multiple core agencies
<http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/207717/1/9789241565356-eng.pdf?ua=1>

8. **Global Gender Gap Report 2016**

[http://www3.weforum.org/docs/GGGR16/WEF Global Gender Gap Report 2016.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/GGGR16/WEF_Global_Gender_Gap_Report_2016.pdf)

9. **Global Nutrition Report 2016** states malnutrition is becoming the new normal across the globe

<http://ebrary.ifpri.org/utils/getfile/collection/p15738coll2/id/130354/filename/130565.pdf>

10. **Nobel Women's Initiative** has released a book of profiles of bold women who work for change - <http://whenwearebold.com/>

11. The **Gender Pay Gap** in the USA

Direct Link to Full 36-Page 2016 AAUW Report:

http://www.aauw.org/aauw_check/pdf_download/show_pdf.php?file=The-Simple-Truth

GENDER PAY GAP REPORT BY STATE RANKINGS -

<http://www.aauw.org/resource/gender-pay-gap-by-state-and-congressional-district/>

II. OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

1. World Health Organization (WHO)

a. The new WHO Framework on integrated people-centred health services can be found at:
(<http://www.who.int/servicedeliverysafety/areas/people-centred-care/en/>)

b. WHO has just prequalified its first **hepatitis C virus (HCV) rapid diagnostic test**, SD BIOLINE HCV, a tool that will aid diagnosis of HCV in adults in low- and middle-income countries and improve access to treatment.

c. WHO has developed a handbook to be used as a resource for up to date and practical guidance on **national health planning** and strategizing for health.
<http://www.who.int/healthsystems/publications/nhpsp-handbook-ch1/en/>

2. United Nations

1. **No safe place left' for children in war-ravaged Aleppo, says senior UNICEF official.**
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55741#.WEoK0 krJPY>

2. UN rights expert calls on countries to comply with laws that protect environment defenders,

http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55757#.WEoLL_krJPY

3. **Recent 16 days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence 2016**

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/16-days-of-activism>

3. CAN-MNCH is now **The Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health** (CanWaCH). It reflects the global shift in lexicon surrounding women and children's health to focus more explicitly on sexual and reproductive health and adolescent health. At the same time, the *Every Woman, Every Child* Global Strategy on Women's, Children's and Adolescent Health is intimately linked to the objectives of our own work, and we wanted to reflect that in our own name and language. www.CanWaCH.ca

4. **Global Mom's Challenge** connects moms in the US with peers around the world by sharing stories from partners and supports the UN's Every Woman Every Child Initiative.

<http://www.globalmomschallenge.org/>

5. Congratulations to **Women in Global Health** on their first year anniversary!

www.womeningh.org

6. Congratulations to **Wonca Women** on their new website on Gender Equity Standards Guidebook for WONCA Scientific meetings. www.gesguidebook.com

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Update will be published in March, 2017, the third in the new triennium. Please send us your reports, comments or any other interesting information by February 28, 2017, at the latest. We are always interested to put your name and your accomplishments in the Update. We are pleased to post the meeting information for your national association's annual meeting.

The executive of MWIA wishes you a wonderful festive season with family and friends and all the best of health and happiness for 2017!