

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MWIA



Update

No. 65 March 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

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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 come here in Korea. Many flowers are already out and we are expecting beautiful cherry blossoms soon.

Personally, I retired from Yonsei University at the end of February as a professor of Anatomy due to the age limitation of this position. I was decorated for my 40 years of teaching at the University by the Korean President, Park KH. At the same time, I have been appointed as a Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Yonsei, the same university, where my role will be to teach premedical students.

On February 19-22, I visited Kuala Lumpur on the invitation of the Malaysian Medical Association to give a talk with the title of 'Work-Life balance of women doctors' and it was well received.

While there, I encouraged them to form a national association of MWIA called the Malaysian Medical Women's Association and they agreed. While waiting to launch their national organization, they have already had application from Dr. Lee for an individual membership.

I hope to see you all in Vienna in July for our XXXth International Congress of MWIA.

2. REQUESTS FROM THE SECRETARY- GENERAL

Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada

MWIA's **Vienna 2016 International Congress** is only four months away. If you have not taken time to register, please do so at www.mwiavienna2016.org. The Austrian Medical Women have done an excellent job in planning an exciting congress for us.

I would like to remind you that the **Second Special Update** that went out to all national associations in January, 2016. In that Update were a number of questions asked of each national association, with a request to return that information by April 1st. Thank you to those associations who have already replied. I look forward to hearing from others soon. This is the opportunity for MWIA to collect information about the work that all of you are doing for women doctors and women and children in general.

One of the questions asked was whether you would like to take advantage of the **opportunity to host the MWIA Centennial Congress in 2019**, so I look forward to receiving a number of bids. 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.

MWIA had an excellent attendance at the **60th Commission on the Status of Women** at the UN in New York. MWIA had a parallel event organized by our UN representatives, Dr. Satty Gill Keswani and Dr. Padmini Murthy entitled, “The role of medical women in sustainable development through eliminating Violence Against Women.” The Nigerian Medical Women also hosted a parallel event on their work for women and girls.

May 23-27 is the timing for the **World Health Assembly of WHO**. If you would like to attend, please email secretariat@mwia.net so I can register you under the MWIA delegation.

MWIA is pleased to hear that **Dr. Edith Schratzberger**, our MWIA representative to the **European Women’s Lobby** (EWL), will be running for President of EWL at their upcoming general assembly in Brussels in June. For those of you involved with the EWL, please lend your support at voting time.

MWIA has joined the **Kota Alliance** as an affiliate member. The Kota Alliance is a group of civil society organizations working for gender equality and women’s empowerment. www.kota-alliance.org

MWIA will be represented at the **DPINGO Conference** in Gyeongju, Korea, May 30-June 1, 2016 by President, Kyung Ah Park, and by our alternate representative to the UN, Dr. Padmini Murthy. Youth will be represented by Aishu Narasimhadevara. There is room for more registrants, so please contact secretariat@mwia.net if you wish to be registered. The theme is Education for Global Citizenship.

MWIA continues to partner with ZONTA International with **birthing kits**. Kits have recently gone to Haiti, Uganda and Cameroon.

Let me remind you that the **fiscal year** for MWIA is July 1st to June 30th. Dues notices were sent out in July. Voting at the Vienna Congress in July, 2016, is dependent on the number of members from your national organization. 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. The information for the upcoming Vienna 2016 congress will be found on this 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. THANK YOU FROM THE TREASURER

Dr. Gail Beck, Canada

It is just a few months until we will all see each other again at an International Congress. All of our National Associations will be considering the payment of their dues so that their allotment of votes for the General Assemblies can be determined. But, as I have noted previously, your dues are much more important to MWIA than just votes. Because of this, I want to personally thank those members and National Associations who have been diligent in paying their dues.

Here is the list of everything funded by MWIA through 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 in 2015, they attended 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.

It is important to note that 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 in New York and Dr. Iris Habitzel in Vienna. All of the Executive Committee members donate a significant amount of personal funds to the organization in order to complete their work on behalf of MWIA. MWIA is fortunate to be served by such dedicated volunteers. I want to thank the members of MWIA, especially the Executive Committee members and UN/WHO representatives who give so much to MWIA.

Throughout history, women and women's organizations have self-funded so that the lives of others might be improved. The members, National Associations and MWIA representatives continue in this tradition. I hope you all join me in thanking them.

4. VIENNA 2016 UPDATE

MWIA's 30th International Congress is being held July 28-31, 2016 at the University of Vienna. The theme of Generation Y: Challenges of the Future for Female Medical Doctors offers the opportunity for a variety of topics to be discussed. The final program will be coming out in April. The congress is packed with scientific papers, workshops and posters with intermingling of social and cultural events. Thank you once again to our Austrian Medical Women for taking on the organization of the congress.

Please remember to register at <http://www.mwiavienna2016.org>. Vienna is very busy in summer. Please remember to book your flight and accommodation early.

5. 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_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 Pfleiderer, 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

6. NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGIONS

Australia

The AFMW has a project underway to commemorate the female medical doctors who served in **WWI**. For the past one hundred years, the more than twenty Australian women doctors who served in WWI in England and throughout the European battlefields have largely remained invisible. Most of the Australian women doctors who went to war paid their own way to England to join organizations that enabled their participation in the war effort. Two principal such concerns were the Scottish Women's Hospital (SWH) and the Women's Hospital Corps with its Endell Street Military Hospital.

Dr. Gabrielle Casper led a contingent of female medical students from Notre Dame Medical School to **CSW** in New York to give them first hand exposure to international policy development.

Brazil

Anna Maria Martits, Director, International Affairs, ABMM

The elected executive of ABMM (Brazilian Association of Medical Women) for 2016-2018 was installed in office during a ceremony held in the precincts of APM (Medical Association of the State of São Paulo) on March 12, 2016. President: Dr Fátima Regina Abreu Alves; Vice President: Dr Marilene Melo and directors for the departments.

During the ceremony there was a lecture held by Dr Alexandrina Meleiro, psychiatrist, specializing in the medical profession: "Medical Women: Management of their Careers." The ceremony was followed by a pleasant lunch.

During the same ceremony the executive of ABMM-SP (State of São Paulo Branch of ABMM) also was installed for 2016-2018. President: Dr Ivone Meinão; Vice-President Dr. Maite Sevillano. Dr. Sevillano is the Vice President-elect for Latin America for MWIA for 2016-2019 and is member of the International Scientific Committee of MWIA Vienna 2016.

During the same ceremony, many important women were honoured by ABMM-SP for International Women's Day:

Luiza Trajano: important entrepreneur and one of vice presidents of the organizing committee for the Olympics RIO 2016;

Janaina Paschoal: Lawyer, professor, one of the authors of the first lawsuits for the impeachment of the President;

Claudia Colucci: a journalist specializing in health issues;

Katia Boulos: a lawyer specializing in human rights;
Professor Dr Miriam Sotto: Professor of Medicine.

Canada

The Federation of Medical Women of Canada is calling for abstracts from residents for its annual meeting in September.

France

Dr Thi Thoï Pham, Dr Marie-Dominique Ghnassia

The General Assembly of AFFM was held on February 6th during which the President, Cecile Renson, presented the moral report of 2015 which was agreed upon unanimously, and the financial report was presented by Dr Marie-Claire Brusset, Treasurer. Francine Violette, VP in charge of the continuous formation for liberal doctors, presented the data processed during 31 Sundays in 2015. Thi Thoï Pham, France's NC, presented the MWIA's report.

For personal reasons, Dr Brusset announced that she wish to resign as Treasurer and Marie-Dominique Ghnassia, Honorary President, has been elected unanimously as new Treasurer (this is possible according to the articles of AFFM).

The General Assembly was followed by the annual scientific symposium with the topics of "Ways of rejuvenating one's face" and "Breast reconstruction." The moderator was Professor Laurent Lanteri, Head of the Department of Plastic, Reconstructive and Cosmetic Surgery at the European Georges Pompidou Hospital in Paris. The symposium was very successful.

After many years of dedicated service, Cécile Renson announced her resignation as President at the executive board meeting on March 3rd. In accordance with the regulations of AFFM, Francine Violette, Vice-President, will replace her until the general Assembly of 2017. The board will to look for solutions to achieve the objectives of the association and will maintain close relations especially with MWIA.

Kenya

The Kenyan Medical women held a very successful 6th Annual Scientific Symposium on March 19th. The theme was "Current updates on HIV."

United Kingdom

From the MWF website

MWF are disappointed and dismayed by the Equality Analysis undertaken by the Department of Health on the proposed junior doctor contract, released yesterday. This contract is to be imposed upon doctors in training in England from August 2016.

The analysis acknowledges that changes in the contract will disadvantage women particularly those training part time, carers and lone parents.

MWF are concerned about suggestions in the analysis that women doctors who are mothers need to seek informal childcare for the increased number of evenings and Saturdays worked. This particularly affects many doctors, predominantly women, without local family and support. Junior doctors are entitled under the Human Rights Act to a family life and under their educational contract to specialty training enabling career progression and adequate preparation for professional examinations.

The spreading of a limited number of junior doctors more thinly across seven days is not going to achieve safer care or improved training of our future specialists. It is more likely to result in women doctors stepping into specialties with less acute commitment, moving out of training or leaving medicine.

You can read the equality analysis and the family test of the new contract [here](#).

7. **REPORT ON CSW60**

The Commission on the Status of Women took place at UN Headquarters in New York from March 14th to 25th. The priority theme was “Women’s empowerment and its link to sustainable development” and the review theme was “The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls ([agreed conclusions](#) from the fifty-seventh session).”

Lifted from the UN Women home page is the following summary of the work done before and during CSW with hyperlinks.

Preparations

Multi-Stakeholders Forum

On 21 January 2016, UN Women convened a forum to engage a range of stakeholders in the preparations for CSW60 at UN Headquarters in New York.

- [More information](#)

Expert Group Meeting

In preparation for the sixtieth session, UN Women convened an expert group meeting (EGM) on “Women’s empowerment and its link to sustainable development” from 2 to 4 November 2015 in New York.

- [More information](#)

Organization of the session

The Commission's two-week session included the following activities:

- [Organization of work](#)

Agreed conclusions

The outcome of the Commission's consideration of the priority theme takes the form of agreed conclusions, negotiated by all States.

- Agreed Conclusions (advanced unedited version)

Resolutions

- Resolution on multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

Official Documents

- See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw60-2016#sthash.PCE6YLzC.dpuf>

8. REPORT FROM MWIA'S REPRESENTATIVE TO WHO

Dr. Clarissa Fabre

The major current concern of the WHO is the escalating threat posed to global health security by the **Zika virus**. Not wanting to repeat mistakes made in the West African Ebola outbreak, the WHO was quick to raise the alarm and establish an emergency response programme.

A causal link between Zika virus in the mother and microcephaly in the newborn baby has yet to be firmly established, but remains a worrying possibility. In the countries most affected by Zika virus, 56% of pregnancies are unintended. There are many reasons for this, including poor quality sex education, poor access to contraception, high prevalence of rape, and cultural barriers that make it difficult for women to negotiate the use of contraception with their partners. The countries most affected also have widely varying laws on abortion. In El Salvador, for example, abortion is completely outlawed, and many women who have had miscarriages are serving prison sentences of up to 40 years on abortion charges.

WHO is the only international organization with legitimacy to plan and execute international responses to such emergencies. It has been suggested that in some areas it lacks the capacity and culture required. Consequently, the response unit needs a powerful director backed by an independent board which can cut through WHO's regional and national bureaucracies.

As part of a delegation of MWIA members I attended the **UN's 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)** in New York in March. MWIA organised a parallel event on the Role of Women Doctors in the Sustainable Development Goals by Addressing Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG), at which I was privileged to speak.

Highlights of the UN Conference for me were:

1. One of the **Woman of Distinction Award winners**, Bandana Rana was an inspiring speaker. She is a former journalist from Nepal, founder of Saathi, the

national network against domestic violence, and Chair of a worldwide network of women's shelters.

2. **Presentations on Cyber violence**

There are various types of cyber violence. For example, selling girls to the sex trade or young girls for marriage; selling body parts such as eyes, eggs, breast milk; renting wombs so that women are impregnated and give birth over and over again; bullying, harassment, stalking. Commercial sexual exploitation has moved from brothels and is much more cyber-based and clandestine. Victims are taken away by motorbike or taxi to whoever wants to exploit them.

3. **Presentations on VAWG in the digital and technological age**

In many countries, even in remote areas, girls have mobile phones, even though they may not have enough food to eat. They must be educated to use the technology, which can also be used to blackmail them, or to lure them from rural to urban area, to be trafficked to another country. There is an entire industry to help men spy on women, for example a website called 'Spouse Tracker.'

4. **Huru International** is an NGO which developed, and is distributing, re-usable menstrual pads to young girls in low and middle income countries, to prevent them losing several days each month in education. This is a perfect area which MWIA could support.

5. **Justin Trudeau, the Canadian prime minister**, who last year unveiled a cabinet with an equal number of men and women 'because it is 2015,' spoke at the conference. "I am going to keep saying loud and clear that I am a feminist until it is met with a shrug....calling myself a feminist simply means that I believe in the equality of men and women." The hour-long discussion in which he was involved was punctuated by repeated cheers and applause.

9. REPORT FROM EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY

Dr. Edith Schratzberger

MWIA's president-elect, Professor Bettina Pfleiderer became a member of a working group: mapping sexual education in March 2016. She was actively involved in fine-tuning a questionnaire which was sent to all EWL member associations last week.

MWIA is also working with the EWL who is applying for funding for education on assisted reproductive technology. If funded, Professor Pfleiderer will be a member of the board of **CohART: Cohorts on Health in Assisted Reproduction Technology**.

If you are a member of EWL, Please remember to cast your vote for Edith Schratzberger in her election for President of the EWL in June.

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

2016

1. **April 28-39, 2016** Buenos Aires, Argentina
World Medical Association Council Meeting
Sheraton Buenos Aires
www.wma.net
2. **May 13, 2016** Edinburgh, Scotland
Medical Women's Federation Spring Meeting
John McIntyre Conference Centre, Pollack Halls, 18 Holyrood Park Road, Edinburgh
www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk
3. **May 16-19, 2016** Copenhagen, Denmark
Women Deliver Conference
Bella Centre, Copenhagen
www.wd2016.org
4. **May 30-June 1, 2016** Seoul, Korea
DPI/NGO Conference
<http://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/>
6. **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
7. **September 23-25, 2016**, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
Annual meeting of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada
www.fmwc.ca
8. **October 19-22, 2016** Taipei, Taiwan
World Medical Association General Assembly
Grand Hyatt, Taipei, Taiwan
www.wma.net
8. **November 2-6, 2016**, Riocentro-Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
21st World Conference of Family Doctors
http://www.wonca2016.com/ingles/trabalhos/index_atividades_cientificas.php#c

9. **November 14-16, 2016**, Vancouver, Canada
Fourth Global Symposium on Health Systems Research
<http://healthsystemsglobal.org/>
For an opportunity for funding in order to attend, visit
<http://www.who.int/alliance-hpsr/news/2015/HSRCall.pdf?ua=1> before February 19th
10. **November 23-25, 2016**, Moscow, Russia
Central European Regional Meeting
Details to follow

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. May Cohen of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada will be inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame in April. Dr. Cohen was responsible for the success of MWIA's Gender Mainstreaming in Health Manual. Congratulations Dr. Cohen! Her biography is available at WWW.CDNMEDHALL.ORG/INDUCTION

Professor Amanda Howe, President-elect of WONCA and member of the Medical Women's Federation, was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire

12. OBITUARIES

Professor Tess Cramond, AO, OBE, of the Australian Federation of Medical Women in December, 2015, at the age of 89.

13. **BOOKS AND ARTICLES**

Lancet Violence Against Women SERIES: <http://www.thelancet.com/series/violence-against-women-and-girls> and the call to action <http://raisingvoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/CalltoAction.16Days2014.LancetVAWSeries.pdf>

NGOCSW has a guide for NGO's and human rights advocates to help negotiate the UN and CSW

http://www.ngocsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/NGO-Main-Guide-2016_122115.pdf

UNDP link to the Human Development Report

<http://report.hdr.undp.org/>

II. OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

1. World Health Organization (WHO)

a. The Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS) of the World Health Organization recently [reviewed updated data on HPV vaccine](#). Following a systematic investigation of safety concerns raised about HPV vaccines, to date, the GACVS has not found any safety issues that would alter recommendations for the use of the vaccine.

b. **Partnership for Maternal, Child and Newborn Health** has developed a new strategic plan for 2016-2020, which has 4 strategic objectives: prioritize engagement in countries, drive accountability, focus action for results, deepen partnership.

c. **Framework Convention on Tobacco Control** has written to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHF), stating that tobacco use undermines human rights, particularly the right to health, highlights the importance of tobacco control measures and requests that the IACHF support FCTC implementation/tobacco control.

2. United Nations

a. The United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women is accepting applications for its 20th grant cycle (2016) from civil society organizations and government authorities. The application deadline is **4 May 2016**. The complete **Call for Proposals** detailing criteria, eligibility requirements and application guidelines is available at: <http://grants.unwomen.org/> or via the UN Women homepage.

3. The **Cervical Cancer Action Coalition (CCA)** met in London regarding “Investing in Cervical Cancer Prevention 2015-2020 (report [is on the CCA website](#)) and developed a 5 year global initiative to tackle cervical cancer in low and lower-middle income countries.
4. **Family Care International** has become part of Management Sciences for Health. They are still concentrating on sexual and reproductive rights as well as maternal, child and newborn health. <http://www.msh.org/>

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please mark your calendars now for the 30th MWIA International Congress in Vienna, Austria, from July 28-31, 2016. Registration is open at www.mwiavienna2016.org. **The final program will be out in April.**

The next Update will be published in June, 2016. Please send us your reports, comments or any other interesting information by May 31, 2016, at the latest. We are always interested to put your name and your accomplishments in the Update.

We hope to meet many of you in Vienna in July as we gather around the theme of **Generation Y: Challenges of the Future for Female Medical Doctors.**