

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MWIA



Update

No. 71 September 2017

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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 Pfeleiderer, Germany

This has been a very productive summer for our MWIA committees and the MWIA executive!

Before I go into more detail, I want to thank all of you who had completed the **MWIA membership survey**: we recorded an amazing high number of **1150 responses** and I presented some of the data related to the Western pacific region (n = 227) at the MWIA Western Pacific Regional meeting in Hong Kong 25-27th August 2017.

After analyzing the responses of our survey it became evident that MWIA needs to sharpen its objectives, since no clear response pattern emerged from the question what MWIA is standing for. Based on this feedback I revised the objectives/visions for MWIA, which was approved by the MWIA executive as follows:

MWIA is as an international non-governmental organization (NGO) of Medical Women and medical students from many different countries and cultures.

- We have an important voice on all issues of interest to medical women e.g. work-life balance, maternity leave, career progression, fighting discrimination, mentoring of young medical doctors and students
- We initiate and support scientific projects relating to health and well-being – locally, nationally and on a global scale
- We have developed training modules for physicians e.g. on gender mainstreaming, violence against women and girls, adolescent sexuality
- We serve as a platform for medical women and students to foster dialogue and action on various health issues internationally e.g. female genital mutilation, women's reproductive health, maternal and infant mortality

Further analyses of our questionnaire revealed that members wanted MWIA to address mainly topics such as mentoring and leadership, work-life balance, violence against women and children, as well as sexual harassment at the work place. Also many of you reported that they had experienced or experience some form of sexual harassment. The MWIA scientific committee has taken this up and a **sexual harassment questionnaire** was developed by Prof. Jan Coles from Australia, Co-Chair of the scientific committee, in close collaboration with Dr. Antonella Vezzani (chair of the scientific committee), Dr. Yvonne Buowari, and the MWIA president.

The data obtained will provide MWIA and its members with descriptive data that can be used to sensitize the medical community to sexual harassment to reduce this form of violence. Also supportive measures of women doctors who experience sexual harassment will be suggested based on responses of the survey.

You should have all received the link to **our sexual harassment survey** meanwhile and I invite you all to take part in this survey to support this important project.

The link to the survey can be found here.

https://monashmnh.s.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7WBnTKZkIgOlaF7

All data is completely anonymous and cannot be traced to any particular person. Please also see my accompanying letter and the explanatory statement at our MWIA website. <http://mwia.net/news/>

I also had the pleasure to attend the MWIA Western Pacific Regional Conference in Hong Kong - 25-27th August. Regional meetings are the pillar of MWIA's regional networking and I want to congratulate Dr. Cissy Yu and the Hong Kong Women Doctors' Association, the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, and the Midwives Association for this inspiring and well-organized congress. Over 200 participants from Western Pacific countries and regions, UK, Germany, USA, Turkey and Nigeria attended (see the group picture).



I had the honor to present a keynote with the title: "Medical Women and Women's Health - A Global Perspective" and concluded my talk by saying that even steps that seem small in comparison can result in bold action and will have a sustainable positive impact on women's health. **We as medical women should not stop raising our voice as medical doctors nationally and globally on important health related topics!** MWIA is an important global partner in this endeavor!

Last but not least, the MWIA scientific centennial subcommittee started to work, which is co-chaired by the MWIA president and Prof. Theresa Rohr-Kirchgraber; the committee consists of MWIA members from all MWIA region, as well as AMWA members. The overarching theme of the congress is "*The Centennial Congress of the Medical Women's International Association: Medical Women- Ambassadors of Change in a Challenging Global World.*" We completed our list of subtopics and themes for abstracts and drafted an abstracted submission form. As soon as the centennial congress webpage is online you will find the abstract submission information. Also, the congress venue in New York has been booked and the contract signed last week. The final date for our MWIA congress is the **25-28th of July 2019** now. Please mark this in your calendar.

I am looking forward to my visit to India in the middle of December attending the National Conference of Association of Medical Women in India (Mumbai Branch).

2. REQUESTS FROM THE SECRETARY- GENERAL

Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada

MWIA's Centennial Meeting is finalized! It will be in New York City and the firm dates are July 25-28, 2019. Watch for our hosts, the American Medical Women's Association, to have their website up and running in the next few months. Please remember that it is important for such congresses to have attendees stay at the congress hotel. The **First Special Update** will be circulated in January, 2018, and will contain a call for nominations.

The **Federation of Medical Women of Canada** is launching its inaugural **HPV Prevention Week** October 1st. The link to all information is <https://fmwc.ca/hpv-prevention-week-2017/> and the hashtag is **#CANADAvsHPV**. Please follow this exciting event and plan to add your country next year to this annual education awareness week.

The **sexual harassment survey** is ready for your input at https://monashmnh.s.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7WBnTKZkIgOlaF7. Thank you to Dr. Jan Coles of Australia for her leadership in getting ethics approval for the survey.

The **Western Pacific Region** had a very successful regional congress in Hong Kong. Please see the calendar of events for regional meetings in 2018.

MWIA has an extensive workplan with **WHO**. Please let the secretariat know if you are working with migrant women, particularly those who were health care workers in their home land, as there is an interest in how they access health care. MWIA was able to connect our member organizations with those countries leading the work on the Quality Agenda. The Global Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents is rolling out its workshops in Africa and the Caribbean and once again, please let the Secretariat know if you wish to be connected to this work.

To keep abreast of **news**, please visit the MWIA website at <http://mwia.net/news/>

As a reminder to National Coordinators, it is anticipated that you will circulate this newsletter to your membership. In addition, if you have not accessed the secure site for NCs please let the Secretariat know.

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
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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. Message from the Treasurer

Dr. Gail Beck, Canada

I want to take a few lines in this update to thank those national associations and individuals who continue to support MWIA with your dues. The Executive Committee is particularly relying on your support and enthusiasm as we approach our centenary in 2019.

I am presently working with the Executive Committee to develop a Request for Proposals so that the website can be updated to the standard that you expect in the twenty-first century. This is absolutely necessary as we move forward. We want to provide you with the best possible access to the work we are doing.

In addition to this, the Executive Committee is also considering how to contribute to the program for the centenary meeting. The American Medical Women's Association is working very hard to

develop a special program for those who can attend and MWIA will develop their own contribution to the celebration. For those who cannot attend, the Executive Committee realizes that you will want to be a part of the events in ways that are now possible through social media in real time.

All of these endeavours require resources and your diligence in paying your dues makes all of these things possible.

I wish you all success in your important work on behalf of women and women doctors.

5. NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGIONS

Brazil

Of the 82 members of the Medical Association of Sao Paulo, 8 are women and all are members of the Brazilian Medical Women's Association (ABMM).

In July, there was a very successful presentation at the ABMM- Parana section about "Exercise and Women's Health."

Dr Marilene Melo, ABMM vice president, went to a meeting of Women Medical Students and spoke about Gender Specific Medicine and the aim of including this important subject in medical school curriculum.

The new executive for ABMM-SP for 2018 was approved. The president will be Prof Magda M C Sampaio, Professor of Pediatrics at the University of São Paulo Medical School.

There was a meeting of GAMT (a support group for women with Turner's Syndrome), which is the object of an important study by Prof Ieda Verreschi, of ABMM executive and a Professor of Endocrinology at EPM (Paulista Medical School).

Dra Fátima Alves, ABMM President's doctorate thesis: "A clinical data and hearing of individuals with Alport syndrome" was cited in an important international article about the subject. She also presented in August during the Brazilian Congress of Otorhinolaryngology a lecture about vaccination and Otorhinolaryngology: "New options of vaccines with impact in Otorhinolaryngology."

Dr Sonia Rolim will be the new representative of ABMM at the MWIA violence module. She is a professor of Gynecology at the Santa Casa Medical School, and a member of many national and international associations, and Director of ABMM. She is a member of the Center of Accidents and Violence at Santa Casa Medical School, representing the department of Gynecology.

Canada

The annual conference of FMWC was held from September 15-17 in Ottawa. The theme of the Conference was Women's Health and Well-Being: Connected, Compassionate and Courageous. There were 170 in attendance. As part of the meeting, there was a march on Parliament Hill to protest against the proposed Liberal tax reform on private corporations. Check out this you tube

link for messaging from MWIA's Secretary General:
m.youtube.com/watch?v=oOvIU2QcWhY&feature=youtu.be



Dr. Clover Hemans holding the sign on Parliament Hill
with L to R Drs. Shelley Ross, Zohra Docrat, Shirley Hovan & Sajni Thomas

The Federation under the leadership of Dr. Vivien Brown is launching the inaugural **HPV Prevention week**, beginning October 1st. The plan is to spread this to all MWIA associations as an annual event. The link to the information on the website is <https://fmwc.ca/hpv-prevention-week-2017/> The hashtag is #CANADAvsHPV.

Due to ongoing lobbying by the Federation, British Columbia has become the latest province to provide the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination to boys, as part of B.C.'s publicly funded immunization program.

In addition to the new HPV Awareness week, October 16-20, 2017, is the annual cervical cancer awareness week when clinics are encouraged to sign up to hold a Pap test clinic.

Hong Kong

The VP for the Western Pacific, Dr. Cissy Yu, is from Hong Kong. She will be attending the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific from 9-13 October 2017 in Brisbane, Australia, the AGM and Strategic Planning Workshop of Australian Federation of Medical Women (AFMW) from 11-12 November 2017 in Sydney, Australia, and will be joining Dr Deb Colville, National Coordinator of AFMW, to meet individual MWIA members in New Zealand in November 2017.

Please see later in the Update a summary of the Western Pacific Regional Meeting held in Hong Kong August 25-27, 2017.

Japan

On May 14th, the Japan Medical Women's Association (JMWA) held its 62nd general meeting in Omiya City, Saitama Prefecture. Prof. Sumiko Nagoshi gave a scientific lecture with the title "The time has come to stamp out hepatitis C virus." Hideki Togi of the Gagaku Players gave a splendid performance at the social gathering, finishing our general meeting on a high note.

On June 18th, JMWA held a memorial gathering for our ex-President, Prof. Hiroko Yamamoto, with her family. Tears flowed during this emotional meeting, but it was heart warming to honour Hiroko.

Korea

Dr. Bong Ok Kim, President of the Korean Medical Women's Association writes:
Do you know there are twin sisters of national associations with the same initials in MWIA?
KMWA stands for both Kenyan and Korean Medical Women's Associations.

As I was travelling in Kenya for awhile during this summer, I tried to contact the KMWA sisters in the Kenyan Medical Womens' Association. With the generous assistance of our Secretary General, Shelley, I could finally have a wonderful lunch time with four members of KMWA at a magnificent outdoor restaurant named DARI at Karen, the city named after Mrs. Karen Blixen, the writer of "Out of Africa" on Sunday Aug. 6. Drs. Christine Sadia (President), Fatmah Abdullah, Wambani Sidika Jeska and Esther Amma Arthur Ogara joined me. Immediately we could feel the closeness as real sisters and shared life and professional experiences. Both KMWA's will support each other with an improved relationship.

As our Kenyan friends will hold the next regional conference in November 2018 I do hope everything go well in the preparation process.

I thank our Kenyan friends for their warm hospitality and for taking the time to share experiences which made my trip very special.

I would strongly recommend members of MWIA try to contact the local associations when you travel abroad.

Mongolia

Mongolia Medical Women Association (MMWA) held an election with the formation of a new Board in August 2017. The new leadership consists of:
President - Dr. Mendsaikhan, former staff of World Health Organization (WHO)
National Coordinator - Dr. Nergui, former staff of UNICEF
Secretary/Treasurer - Dr. Amartuvshin PhD, former staff of United Nations (UN)

New Zealand

The organization, Associated Salaried Medical Specialists, NZ, have started a facebook for medical women.

Nigeria

Dr Stella Kokoricha Essiet, the newly elected National Coordinator for the Medical Women's Association in Nigeria, writes that the biennial Conference and 40th Anniversary celebration of MWAN was held in Abuja from September 17-19, 2017. The theme of the conference was "Women and children in humanitarian crises."

The conference was preceded by a Road Walk led by the wife of the Executive Governor of Kebbi State, Dr Zainab Shinkafi Bagudu, around the major areas of the city on September 14th.

Dr Zainab S. Bagudu and another medical woman, who is also the wife to a state Governor, led the Association in a medical outreach to a community in a suburb of Abuja called Piwoyi, where hundreds of people were treated to free consultations, free drugs and some refreshments on Saturday the 16th.

About four hundred and four member delegates from 30 MWAN states branches were treated to a rousing welcome party at the National Hospital Foyer on September 17th. The opening ceremony took place at the Sheraton Hotels and Towers with many relevant stakeholders including the wife of the vice president, the Minister for Health Prof. Isaac Adewole, and Dr Ehanire, chairman of the Senate Committee on health, Dr Olarenwaju Tejuosho, a representative of the UN to Nigeria, Dr Alakija, who gave the key note address and so many others. Members were treated to a Social night by a MWAN elder and past National Coordinator, Dr Funke Lawson. The scientific sessions were very rich with so many good presenters and delegates were awarded ten CME points at the end of the two scientific sessions held.

The General Assembly took place at The Merit House on September 19th, where issues of the Association and welfare of members were deliberated upon extensively. Dr. Yvonne Dabota Buowari spoke on behalf of the MWIA Scientific Committee about the new Sexual Harrassment Survey, which is now open for completion. (The link to the survey is https://monashmhs.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7WBnTKZkIgOlaF7.)

The election took place for the new executive to pilot the affairs of the Association for the next two years. Their inauguration took place that same night at the sumptuous investiture dinner of the new MWAN President, Dr. Joyce Barber, at Sheraton Hotels with so much excitement. Many deserving members got awards from the outgoing president and it is worthy of note that the new president was awarded the Irene Ighodalo's pin. The transition was a very smooth one. There was so much dancing and merry making till the wee hours of the morning of September 20th when the final goodbyes were said. It was indeed a memorable time for all of us.

United States

July: AMWA partnered with Green Science Policy to offer online webinars on six classes of chemicals of concern to educate physicians.

August: AMWA board members, MWIA NGO representatives to UN were working on finalizing the venue and details of the upcoming MWIA Centennial Congress to be held in NYC in 2019.

September: AMWA hosted a webinar: “On how to position yourself as a physician leader” which was well received by the membership. The AMWA interim meeting was held on Sept 15-17 in Kansas City and there was a special event honouring women physicians in World War 1. The meeting was well attended by physicians, medical students and residents. AMWA is a co-sponsor of the 8th Biennial National Conference on Health and Domestic violence in San Francisco. AMWA is also a co-sponsor of the Gender Divide in Health Care Professions (2nd Annual women in science and health care symposium) at the Rosalind Franklin School of Medicine in Chicago.

6. WESTERN PACIFIC REGIONAL MEETING OF MWIA

Dr. Cissy Yu, VP for Western Pacific

with additional summary by Drs. Deb Colville, Kate Duncan and Marjorie Cross of Australia

The 2017 WP Regional meeting was hosted by the Hong Kong Women Doctors Association. 247 delegates, from 13 countries, speaking over 20 languages attended. These included Germany, Turkey, United States, United Kingdom, People’s Republic of China, and Nigeria, as well as the member countries of Western Pacific Region, being Australia, New Zealand (individual member), Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Philippines, and of course Hong Kong.

A business meeting was held on the first day addressing reports from the member country’s associations, and an individual member Dr Margaret Maxwell from New Zealand (former VP of WP MWIA). Dr Bettina Pfeleiderer International President, and Dr Cissy Yu, VP for WP MWIA addressed the meeting. They discussed the current activities and policies of MWIA. Three resolutions were drafted and will be submitted to MWIA. The Australian Federation of Medical Women (AFMW) will nominate the incoming Vice President of MWIA (Western Pacific Region) and the result will be announced by December 2017. Korea Medical Women Association (KMWA) will be organizing the next Regional Conference; Philippines Medical Women Association (PMWA) will be hosting the next Regional Business Meeting in Cebu to discuss the governance and collaborations among the various national associations in the region.

The conference themes were Women Health and Empowerment.

The scientific meeting was held on the second day with two plenary sessions and two concurrent sessions. The two parallel themes of the MWIA meeting Women’s Health and Gender Equity, and the Professional Lives of Medical women were addressed in these sessions. The concurrent sessions had “Sunrise” and “Sunset” themes, one addressing issues in Maternal Child and Adolescent health, the other addressing later- life topics, menopause aging and palliative care.

The meeting had a very positive mood. It was a great meeting of minds, friendly and very well organized. If there was a negative it was the typhoons, which meant that our female doctors from Macau were serving their communities and unable to join us. The second typhoon also

unfortunately caused the cancellation of hospital visits on the Sunday, much to the disappointment of those who otherwise have enjoyed these opportunities.

7. REPORT FROM MWIA'S REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UN

Dr. Satty Gill Keswani and Dr. Padmini Murthy, USA

Report of activities from July to September, 2017

Drs. Keswani and Murthy and youth Representative, Aishu Narasimhadevara, have been representing MWIA by attending events held in and around the United Nations.

July: Aishu Narasimhadevara attended the HLPF- High Level Political Forum and represented MWIA and interacted with several youth delegates. Aishu Narasimhadevara has been reappointed to the DPI NGO Youth steering committee for 2017- 2018. Mini Murthy attended a reception on behalf of MWIA at the Taipei Educational and Cultural Office, hosted by the Ambassador during the High Level Political Forum (HLPF).

August: Mini Murthy was invited to moderate a health panel at the annual UNDPI NGO Conference – Intergenerational Dialogues and the youth rep of MWIA was an attendee at the conference. In August, 2017, Murthy also represented MWIA at the executive meeting of DPINGO as a newly elected member and discussed potential opportunities of working with other health NGOs in advancing SDG 3. Mini Murthy attended and presented at the Western Pacific Regional Conference of MWIA in Hong Kong.

September: Mini Murthy attended the monthly executive committee meeting and planning committee meeting for CSW 2018. Aishu Narasimhadevara and Mini Murthy represented MWIA by attending the general debate and several events on health, gender equality and advocacy during the 72nd UN General Assembly. In the late summer and fall each year, the various WHO Regions hold their annual regional committee meetings. Due to MWIA's official status with WHO, it is invited to send a representative to each of the meetings

8. REPORT FROM WHO Regional Committee Meeting for SE Asia

Dr. Piyanetr Sukhu, VP for Central Asia

In the late summer and fall each year, the various WHO Regions hold their annual regional committee meetings. Due to MWIA's official status with WHO, it is invited to send a representative to each of the meetings.

I had the pleasure of attending the WHO Regional Committee meeting for South East Asia on behalf of MWIA from September 6-10, 2017, in the Maldives.

There are 11 member countries in the region. The Director is Poonam Ketrpal Singh. There was a great deal of business on the agenda covering a variety of health related topics. As an example, the region boasts many achievements by its various members such as eliminating

neonatal tetanus, decreasing maternal mortality by 69% and under 5 mortality by 64% in Sri Lanka, Thailand and the Maldives, and eliminating lymphatic filariasis in Thailand. Thailand became the first country in Asia and the second globally to eliminate mother to child transmission of HIV and Syphilis.

The countries of the region signed the Male Declaration in Building Health Systems Resilience to Climate Change.

It was a great opportunity to network on behalf of MWIA and to see the workings of WHO in the region where the national associations can be actively involved.



Dr. Piyanetr Sukhu at SEARO Regional Committee Meeting

9. EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY

Dr. Edith Schratzberger Vecsei and Prof. Bettina Pfliederer

In early September, the Executive Committee met in Brussels, coinciding with the start of the third edition of AGORA, EWL's feminist summer school.

The agenda for our Executive Committee meeting on 7 September was packed. We spent time discussing **EWL's funding policy**, including topics like ethical funding, reviewed our **various Working Structures, EWL membership** and how to implement the **members' engagement strategy**, adopted during the 2017 General Assembly.

A key date in our schedule for 2017 is the [EU Annual Colloquium on Fundamental Rights](#) taking place on 20-21 November, which as you know is focusing on "women's rights in turbulent

times". We are in contact with European Commission Vice President Timmermans Office to discuss how EWL can best participate and contribute.

The next day, we spent the morning with the 50 **AGORA** participants, talking about EWL and working in small groups exchanging information and ideas on a number of topics, from cyber violence to intergenerational feminist leadership, campaigning and creating a diverse and inclusive feminist movement. It was great to meet these amazing young feminists from all over Europe and hear from them how we can work together to build a true feminist Europe.

Please see below the latest round of updates and calls for action from the European Women's Lobby. Don't forget to go to [our website](#) for lots of other news and to our members' forum, [the Living Room](#), where we also invite you all to post your own news and calls to action.

Launch of Loud and United Video

(Post in the EWL living room: <http://www.womenlobbyforum.org/viewtopic.php?f=44&t=131>)

We are happy to share with you our [Loud & United to end VAWG video](#), which summarizes a set of key messages of our Conference on violence against women and girls (VAWG) in June 2017, key moments of the demonstration and our demands.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P9sm3vHsup0>

The link to the We move petition "Rise up against violence" is

<https://act.wemove.eu/campaigns/365>

10. **CIOMS**

Available until October 11th: [Public consultation on the CIOMS Guide to Vaccine Safety Communication](#)

In spite of increasingly anti-vaccines attitudes, according to WHO, vaccine safety crises are rare and most are not related to problems with vaccine products themselves but rather to their public perception. However, unfounded or not, such crises have the potential to disrupt immunization activities, and thereby affect negatively public health. As vaccines safety is increasingly a public concern, the need to communicate vaccines safety issues properly is a must. Bearing this in mind for the background, we are pleased to inform you that CIOMS has opened a public consultation on its new Guide to Vaccine Safety Communication draft via its website www.cioms.ch.

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

2017

1. **October 11-14, 2017**, Chicago, USA
World Medical Association General Assembly
www.wma.net

2. **November 3, 2017**, London, UK
Fall meeting of the Medical Women's Federation
Celebration and New Beginning: A Hundred Years Past and into the Digital Future
www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk
3. **November 25, 2017**, Paris, France
French Medical Women's Association (AFFM) is convening a symposium on the Infant at Risk at the Palace of Luxemburg
<http://affm-asso.fr/>

2018

1. **March 12-23, 2018**, New York, NY, USA
Commission on the Status of Women in New York
Priority theme: Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls;
Review theme: Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women (agreed conclusions of the forty-seventh session);
www.unwomen.org
2. **March 22-25, 2018**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
North American Regional Meeting and AMWA AGM
www.amwa-doc.org
3. **April 27-28, 2018**, Palermo, Italy
Southern European Regional Meeting of MWIA
Vp_southerneurope@mwia.net
4. **May 21-29, 2018**, Geneva, Switzerland
World Health Assembly of WHO
www.who.int
5. **September 6-8, 2018**, Bangkok, Thailand
8th Central Asia Regional Meeting of MWIA
Theme is "Women's wellbeing-a global perspective"
Montien Hotel, Bangkok
www.carc2018.com
www.tmwa.or.th
2018carc@gmail.com
6. **September 21-23, 2018**, Toronto, Canada
Annual general meeting and scientific session of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada
www.fmwca.ca
7. **October 1-6, 2018**, Geneva, Switzerland
Eighth Session of the conference of the parties to the

WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

Rue de Varembe 17, 1211 Geneva

www.who.int/fctc

8. **October 3-6, 2018**, Reykjavik, Iceland
World Medical Association General Assembly
www.wma.net
9. **November 11-15, 2018**, Nairobi, Kenya
Near East and Africa Regional Meeting of MWIA
Theme is Accelerating Women's Health Agenda: Priorities and Opportunities through SDGs
www.mwia.net

2019

1. **June 3-6, 2019**, Vancouver, Canada
Women Deliver Conference
<http://womendeliver.org/conference/2019-conference/>
2. **July 25-28, 2019**, New York City, USA
Centennial Congress of the Medical Women's International Association
www.mwia.net
3. **Autumn, 2019**, Cruise still in the planning stage
Federation of Medical Women of Canada 95th anniversary meeting

12. **NAMES IN THE NEWS**

Dr. Padmini Murthy, Vice President for North America for MWIA, was elected to the executive of the NGO Section of the Department of Public Information at the UN in New York.

Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi of the Medical Women's Association of Nigeria has been awarded the prestigious honour of Fellow of the inaugural African Festival of Arts and Culture by [The Economic, Social and Cultural Council \(ECOSOCC\) | African Union](#).

The Federation of Medical Women honoured the following with awards at their AGM in Ottawa:

Monica Olsen received the Honorary Member Award

Dr. Shaila Misry received the Enid Johnson MacLeod Award for research

Dr. Janet Dollin received the May Cohen Award

Dr. Jaelene Mannerfeldt received the Reproductive Health Award

Dr. Pamela Liao received the Margaret Owen Waite Memorial Fund Scholarship

Ms. Danusha Jebanesam received the Student Leadership Award

Dr. Usha Saraiya, immediate past Vice President of the Central Asia Region of MWIA, was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Asia Oceania Research Organization on Genital

Infections and Neoplasia (AOGIN) for her contribution to Cytopathology and colposcopy. Founding President, Dr. Neerja Bhatla, and current president, Dr Shalini Rajaram, conferred the award at the 8th international conference of AOGIN in Lucknow.



Dr. Usha Saraiya receiving her lifetime achievement award

13. OBITUARIES

Dr. Eileen Cambon, a past president of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada, and National Coordinator to MWIA for Canada, passed away on August 8, 2017, at the age of 91.

Dr. Laurie Delbridge (nee Trotter), of the Australian Federation of Medical Women, passed away April 26, 2017, at the age of 93. She was President of the Queensland Medical Women's Society from 1986-87.

Dr. Patricia Rebbeck, of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada, in September, 2017. Dr. Rebbeck was the first female surgeon in the province of British Columbia and well known for her work on the surgical treatment of breast cancer.

II. OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

1. World Health Organization (WHO)

- a. **Framework Convention on Tobacco Control** launched their statement for a smoke free world. <http://www.who.int/fctc/mediacentre/statement/secretariat-statement-launch-foundation-for-a-smoke-free-world/en/>
- b. **AA-HA!** The WHO team for Accelerated Action for Adolescent Health (AA-HA!) team reports that workshops are rolling out in Africa and the Caribbean to develop and update their adolescent health strategies and plans.

2. United Nations

- a. **UNICEF**
Building the Future: Children and the SDGs in rich countries. One in five children in the world's 431 richest countries lives in relative poverty. Direct Link to Full 58-Page UNICEF 2017 Report: https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/RC14_eng.pdf
<https://medium.com/world-economic-forum/these-rich-countries-have-high-levels-of-child-poverty-a3e1bdb5fb31>
- b. **Human Development Report** comments on women's reproductive rights as human rights. <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/women%E2%80%99s-reproductive-rights-are-human-rights>
<http://report.hdr.undp.org/>
- c. UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security
[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1325\(2000\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1325(2000))
- d. Up to three quarters of children and youth face abuse, exploitation and trafficking on Mediterranean migration routes as they try to reach Europe, according to a [new UNICEF and IOM report](#).

3. **WONCA extends** an invitation to colleagues to join them at the innovative *1st International Perinatal TOTAL Health Congress*, in Sinaia, ROMANIA, from 27th to 30th June 2018. This will look at the first one thousand days of life, and the theme is proving popular with family doctors globally. WONCA is one of the scientific partners to the congress and our President, Professor Amanda Howe, will be one of the plenary speakers. **Deadline for abstracts is November 1st, 2017.** For more details about the conference itself: <https://www.perinatal2018international.org/>

4. **The World Medical Association** made a plea to all member states at the UN General Assembly to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The WMA, together with International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, the International Council of Nurses

and the World Federation of Public Health Associations, has signed a joint statement welcoming the landmark treaty as ‘a significant forward step towards eliminating the most destructive weapons ever created, and the existential threat nuclear war poses to humanity and to the survival of all life on Earth.’

5. **Chile**’s Constitutional Tribunal voted to legalize abortion under three circumstances. With this shift, Chile will no longer be considered one of the most restrictive countries in the world in terms of abortion laws.

6. Women Deliver’s **Deliver for Good** is a global campaign that applies a gender lens to the Sustainable Development Goals and promotes 12 critical investments in girls and women to power progress for all. <http://womendeliver.org/deliver-for-good/>

7. **High Impact Practices** are evidence based family planning practices. A new website has been launched. <https://www.fphighimpactpractices.org/>

8. **Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada** wrote to Health Canada voicing their concern about the recent approval of a generic "Diclectin" (doxylamine-pyridoxine), which contains the artificial sweetener, mannitol, for the treatment of nausea in pregnancy. Mannitol is contra-indicated for pregnancy by the FDA.

They also released a ground-breaking **clinical practice guideline** to raise awareness among health care professionals on how to screen for and manage substance during pregnancy. Even though the health risks to the fetus are well known, at least 11% of Canadian women report smoking or drinking alcohol during pregnancy, and another 1-2% admit to using opioids and cannabis.

9. **FP2020** held its **Family Planning Summit** in London, UK, to discuss efforts to reach the Family Planning 2020 (FP2020) goals and ensure that more women and girls around the world are able to determine if and when they have children. Family planning is a best-buy in global development. When women and girls have access to family planning, they are able to complete their education, create or seize better economic opportunities, and fulfill their full potential—in short, entire families, communities, and nations benefit. In addition, eleven **‘global goods’** covering six themes were highlighted at the Summit. These global goods are a diverse set of initiatives of vital importance to the reproductive health sector, involving combinations of governments, donors, organizations, and multilateral agencies:

Visit the **website** for more details on all Summit **outcomes** and **commitments**.

10. **Women’s World Summit Foundation announces**

2017 - 17 Days of Activism for the Empowerment for Rural Women Leaders - Website - <http://womensection.woman.ch/index.php/en/campaign-materials2/2017-kit>

2017 - 17 Days Campaign for Rural Women & Their Communities **KIT** -
http://womensection.woman.ch/images/17_days/kits/2017_17days_kit_en.pdf

11. The **National Institutes of Health (NIH)** has published a Request for Information (RFI) on the next Trans-NIH Strategic Plan for Research on Women's Health. It can be found in the latest NIH Guide (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-17-108.html>).

12. **Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights** is challenging the Canadian provinces to offer the medication free of charge to those who want it. New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and Alberta have already decided to offer it along with surgical abortions. Manitoba has also reportedly decided to offer medical abortions free of charge.

13. **The Women, Peace and Security Network-Canada (WPSN-C)** brings together organizations and individuals to advocate for Canada's full commitment of the global Women, Peace and Security agenda. This agenda includes increasing women's participation in peace building and conflict resolutions, supporting women peace builders (their organizations and movements) around the world, preventing and responding to conflict-related sexual violence and the human rights of women and girls during armed conflict, investing in conflict prevention, and ensuring attention to gender perspectives in relief and conflict reconstruction efforts. Find out more at our website: <https://wpsn-canada.org/>

14. **PMNCH NGO** launched the Partnership's first mentorship program for the adolescents and youth constituency (AYC).

15. **US AID**

The translated brief summarizes the revision process and selected **highlights from the World Health Organization's 2017 Second Edition of the Managing Complications in Pregnancy and Childbirth (MCPC): A Guide for Midwives and Doctors**. These highlights include updated clinical guidelines from a subset of revised chapters: emotional and psychological support; hypertensive disorders of pregnancy; bleeding in early pregnancy and after childbirth; and prevention and management of infection in pregnancy and childbirth.

You can find the newly translated briefs here— <http://bit.ly/MCPC-Brief>

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Update will be published in December, 2017, the sixth in the new triennium. Please send us your reports, comments or any other interesting information by November 30, 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.