

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MWIA



Update

No. 75 September 2018

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MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

THEME OF THE 2016-2019 TRIENNIUM

**“MEDICAL WOMEN: AMBASSADORS OF CHANGE”
MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

1. **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Professor Dr. Dr. Bettina Pfleiderer, Germany

The MWIA executive had a very busy summer; the preparations for the MWIA centennial activities are well on schedule.

“The unveiling of the centennial scarf”



After a very rigorous process, we now have an MWIA centennial scarf! The process which started on the 1st of July 2018 had 12 entries from 5 countries. It was a very difficult choice to make, because all the entries were novel, well connected to the centennial theme, and appealing. However, only one design could be chosen as the winning entry. The winning scarf was designed by Associate Professor Marina Di Domenico from Napoli in Italy. The winning MWIA scarf design by Marina features the central MWIA logo surrounded by different flowers, “as diverse as medical women belonging to the Association”. More information on the artist and the scarf can be found here:

https://mwia.net/.../uploads/2018/09/MWIA_SEPTEMBER_TEASER.pdf

More information on the two other finalists of the competition and their designs can be found here: https://mwia.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/runner_up_scarf_designs.pdf

We also started in September a monthly article series related to MWIA centennial activities. In the lead up to the centennial congress July 25-28, 2019, the MWIA centennial Public Relations Subcommittee is sending out a monthly article on various activities related to the centennial, or to the history of MWIA and soon to follow a call for recipes. The first in this series presented the outcome of the Centennial Scarf Competition: **“The unveiling of the centennial scarf”**

The MWIA centennial publication committee has just completed our MWIA *centennial book* “**100 years on 100 pages**”. This publication will be an amazing document of our centennial history. MWIA plans to self-publish this book; more information on this will follow soon. You will love it. These activities form part of our MWIA centennial package at the congress.

Updated information about our centennial activities can be found on http://mwia.net/centennial_congress/

The MWIA executive attended the 8th MWIA regional “Central Asia” congress (CARC) in



Bangkok September 6-8, 2018. The theme of the congress was: “*Women’s Well-Being: A Global Perspective*”. This was a wonderfully organized congress led by Prof. Emeritus Khun Nanta Maranetra, MD, President of the Thai Medical Women’s Association (TMWA) and her team with over 200 participants. The talks were of high scientific quality, they made us all feel very welcome and we made many new MWIA friends. The social program was also very enjoyable. One highlight was certainly the Gala Thai night, when many of the MWIA executive was dressed

in traditional Thai dresses. We all looked stunning. Thank you to the TMWA and the MWIA VP Central Asia Dr. Piyanetr Sukhu from Thailand for a fantastic Congress!

A youtube video about the congress and TV interview with MWIA president Bettina Pfliederer introducing MWIA to the audience can be viewed under this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lttj8JhyB4g>

2 more regional meetings are coming up - in Nairobi, Kenya (Africa and Near East) in November 2018 and in Tbilisi, Georgia (Central Europe; May, 17-18 2019). I will be attending both and I am very much looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible!

My next journey as MWIA president led me to St. Petersburg in Russia from September 19-21, 2018 where I was invited to attend the **Second Eurasian Women's Forum** on behalf of MWIA. The Eurasian Women's Forum is an important platform for discussing the role of women in society by global female leaders. The Forum was organized by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS). The Forum topic was '*Women for Global Security and Sustainable Development*'. About 2000 participants from about 110 countries were present. I gave input on female leadership, the increase in female scientists in medicine and the role of NGOs in interparliamentary dialogues. It was a very stimulating and interesting meeting.



The outcome document of the Forum can be found here:



<http://eawf.ru/en2018/about/docs/proekt2018/>

I was also honored to have received one of **the 9 Eurasian Women Forum awards 2018** for my work on global health to improve the wellbeing of women and children, which was awarded at a Public Recognition award ceremony.

As a reminder, we launched a new Facebook page in December 2017. Please follow us to receive updates on women's health, MWIA news and information about the upcoming congress.

<https://www.facebook.com/mwia.network>

2. REQUESTS FROM THE SECRETARY- GENERAL

Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada

In less than a year we will be gathering in New York City for our **Centennial Congress** from July 25-28, 2019. Registration can be found at www.amwa-doc.org/mwia100/. The room rate at the Brooklyn Bridge Marriott is better than what you often can find in New York and is in effect three days either side of the congress, so please take advantage of the convenience of staying in the same hotel where the congress will take place. Please see the information on the Centennial Congress later in the Update.

In the lead up to the Congress, each month the Centennial Public Relations Subcommittee under the chairmanship of Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi will send out a monthly article or **teaser** on various activities related to the Centennial, or to the history of MWIA and soon to follow a call for recipes. In the last month there will be a quiz on the previous information so stay tuned. The first teaser can be found under the section on the Centennial Congress.

Fundraising is underway in order to provide the Centennial Book on memory stick and hardcopy. As thanks for your donation, your name will be noted in the Centennial Book under Donors.

Thank you to the **Thai Medical Women's Association** for hosting such a well-organized and enjoyable Central Asia Regional Congress in Bangkok. See later in the Update for details of the event.

There are two **remaining regional meetings** planned for 2018. The first is the Near East and Africa Regional Congress in Nairobi, Kenya, November 11-15, 2018 (<http://www.kmwa.or.ke/mwia-near-east-and-africa-regional-meeting/>). The second is the Central European Regional Meeting to be held May 17-18, 2019 in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Social media has become such a daily part of our lives. MWIA has a twitter account and facebook pages for both our members and a special one for our yMWIA. Could you please let the Secretariat know if you have either twitter accounts or facebook pages and who is in charge (secretariat@mwia.net)

Gender equity and the empowerment of women became apparent once again when **Tokyo Medical University** apologized after an internal investigation confirmed that it altered entrance exam scores for years to limit the number of female students and ensure more men became doctors. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/tokyo-medical-university-women-admission-discrimination-altering-exam-1.4779570>

MWIA has publically indicated support for our **Nicaraguan colleagues** during the time of strife and violence in Nicaragua.

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. The Updated **MWIA Flyer** is available in English, Spanish and Portuguese to National Coordinator's on the NC secure site at www.mwia.net.

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Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mwia.network>

YMWIA facebook group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/youngMWIA/>

Twitter [@MedWIA](https://twitter.com/MedWIA) Hashtag [#MWIA100](https://twitter.com/MedWIA)

3. CENTENNIAL CONGRESS OF MWIA

With MWIA's Centennial Congress less than a year away, information about the congress will appear in all newsletters leading up to the congress. In addition, a Special Update calling for information from national associations and presenting the candidates running for office will be circulated in late November. For this issue of the MWIA Update, we are including several items of interest.

a. **Would you like your name to appear in the Centennial Book?**

Many exciting ideas have emerged to help make our Centennial a joyful and memorable occasion. One project that is nearing completion is a special Centennial Book '100 years in 100 pages,' with photos and text contributed by many member countries. We would like to provide this book on a memory stick to all participants and in addition print hardcopies for purchase at a reasonable price. All good ideas take money and in exchange for a donation to MWIA to help fund both having the book on the memory stick and in hardcopy, MWIA would like to offer you the opportunity to see your name under "Donors" in the Centennial book. We are working with the national associations to see if they could collect your money en masse to save bank charges, so please check with your national office as you consider this fundraising request. Thank you for your consideration.

b. **Travel Visas – Dr. Padmini Murthy**

Please leave yourself ample time to schedule your appointment with your nearest consulate/embassy. Visas are issued for a certain timeframe. It would be wise to get your appointment early in that timeframe but not so early that the visa would expire before you need it for the congress. It is our understanding that multi-entry visas are not being issued.

The congress website has a link to the US State Department so please check it regularly for updates.

Your visa letter is generated once you have registered.

c. **Program Deadlines – Dr. Padmini Murthy and Dr. Eliza Chin**

September 1, 2018, was the deadline for submission of abstracts for oral presentations. The Scientific Committee is working through these abstracts so that those who submitted abstracts

will know by the end of October whether their abstract has been submitted. This will allow them to meet the early bird registration deadline of the end of November. Abstracts not accepted for oral presentation also have the option of converting to a poster presentation.

The deadline for poster abstract submission has been extended to February 28, 2019.

The list of celebrity speakers will not be listed in the program until late in the spring as various agencies often make substitutions and we wish to be as accurate as possible.

d. The unveiling of the centennial scarf – Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi

After a very rigorous process, we now have an MWIA centennial scarf!

The process which started on the 1st of July 2018 had 12 entries from 5 countries. It was a very difficult choice to make, because all the entries were novel, well connected to the Centennial theme, and appealing. However, only one design could be chosen as the winning entry. The winning scarf was designed by **Associate Professor Marina Di Domenico** from Napoli in Italy. Marina says she loves to paint and to design scarves. In her words, “I love the clinical research in molecular oncology and I transfer my artistic sense in experimental work where it is possible to use fantastic and coloured combinations to detect target proteins related to cancer progression.”



The winning MWIA scarf design by Marina features the central MWIA logo surrounded by different flowers, as diverse as medical women belonging to the Association”.

The scarf is bordered by canary yellow, the dominant colour of purple and lilac, which are the colours of royalty, joy and a healthy life.

The design has flowers of diverse shapes, sizes and colours intertwined with a ribbon weaving its way through the arrangement and tied in neat bows symbolizing togetherness.

The arrangement symbolizes diversity and just like a beautiful bunch of flowers, each one displaying its splendour and yet as a bunch producing a blend of fragrances in one unique essence. One can only imagine the fragrance that the multiple flowers would give off as a collective.

Just like our centennial celebrations, where there will be a bridging the past with the present, **Marina Di Domenici's** artistic gift can also to be found in the genetic traits of her family as she says “My grandmother, a Neapolitan noblewoman, at the beginning of last century began collecting clothes of the time and created a theatrical satoria, that, in little time counted thousands of costumes from every historical period. These costumes were resold and fenced for theatrical performances and television fictions. My visits to the grandparents who lived in ancient and big houses near the tailor's shop consisted of trying hats, nineteenth-century clothes.

I was fascinated and attracted most from buttons, laces and colored fabrics. These objects and colors whilst interacting, would give life to a wonderful creation. The scarf will be worn by attendees as a symbol of our unity, as a means of identifying with the Association, and item of celebration at the MWIA centennial and a memorabilia.

As mentioned, the decision was difficult with so many novel designs to choose from. The two runners-up with pictures of their designs are as follows.

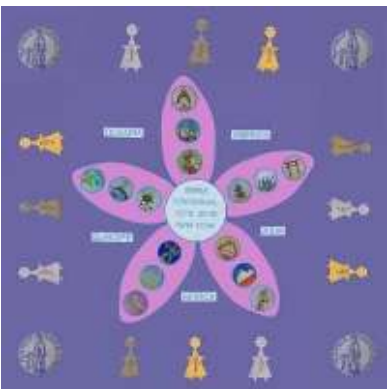
Dr. Chyong-Huey (Sherry) Lai – Taiwan, Province of China



This design shows lilies with a subtlety of the colours that run from pale to dark shades of lilac to purple and light to dark again with an almost watercolour affect. The merging of colours running into one another, shows how there are no boundaries as to the continued impact of the MWIA into the lives of those that we reach and impact daily. The MWIA logo appears like a water mark in the centre.

As Sherry explains, “Lilies are native all over the world and hold importance in different cultures. This led to various breeding programs, resulting in thousands of different colors and petal patterns we can find today. The strength and beauty of this international flower has cemented its place in diverse cultures of the world. With such an elegant look, it’s no wonder the lily flower means royalty, rejuvenation, and purity. The Lily flower symbol reflects the elegance, affinity, expertise, and international characteristics of the MWIA”.

Dr Francine Violette – France



The design is like a five - petal flower radiating out from a circle in the centre. The circle contains the centennial dates and venue. Within each petal are monuments representing the different continents. The edge of the scarf is lined with human figures of different shades depicting our diversity. The MWIA logo is proudly visible on each of the four corners. Interspersed between the petals are the names of each continent.

In the words of the designer, “I wanted to symbolize the female doctors of the five continents in the world, with their cultural and geographical diversity, united by their profession.

e. The fabric collage – Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi

As part of the preparations towards the centennial, we are inviting National Associations and individual members where there is no national association to contribute to the MWIA centennial fabric collage. The fabric collage will be a symbol of our unity, sisterhood and diversity.



Each National Association is invited to submit a piece of fabric which will be 14 inches wide and 14 inches long in size. This is approximately the size of a regular handkerchief. The small square fabric may be cut out from a larger piece of fabric, hand woven or crocheted, patterned or beaded but should be indigenous or peculiar to a country. A National Association may decide to use a pattern indicating its national emblem. For example, Canada may decide to present a fabric with the maple leaf pattern which is cut out from a larger fabric or painted onto a handkerchief.

A ribbon needs to be attached to each of the edges of the handkerchief sized fabric, and these will be used to tie it to a similar sized square from another country. The name of the contributing country needs to be on the back, with a short description or history of the fabric. (Please see a sample in the picture above)

The fabric collage will be displayed at the venue of the Congress for participants and guests to view the front, and walk to the back, to view which country each of the small squares originated from.

A poster version will also be produced as a keepsake for participants. The fabric collage will be displayed at The Legacy Center: Archives & Special Collections Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia after the congress.

Submissions are to be made by National Coordinators onsite, at the Conference venue registration desk. Members of the Public Relations subcommittee will be available to receive your entries. For planning purposes, could you please let me know by January 25, 2019 that you will be bringing a fabric collage to the congress?

For further enquiries please contact the Chair of the PR Subcommittee at elenwad@yahoo.co.uk
We look forward very much to receiving your contributions to the centennial collage.

**4. CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL MEETING
Dr. Piyanetr Sukhu**

Congratulations to Dr. Mandhakini Megh, from the Association of Medical Women in India (AMWI), who will be the next Vice President of Central Asia from 2019 -2022.

The Central Asia Regional Congress was held in Bangkok, Thailand on September 6-8 at Montien Hotel. There were a total of 232 registrants, 12 MWIA executive members, 9 registrants from Myanmar, our neighbour country, 2 from Taiwan, two from Japan, one from UK (not counting Dr. Clarissa Fabre who is President Elect and member of the executive) and two from India. Moreover TMWA was also extremely pleased to have Dr. George Curuby, who is our major philanthropist for our medical students program, join us too. Many generous donors, supporters, and members from Thailand also attended the congress especially at the grand opening event.

The theme of the congress mainly focused on the health and well-being of women and children then concluded with how to cope with ending of life graciously. Additionally there were E Poster presentations, workshops and public sessions.

Professor Emeritus Dr. Khun Nanta Maranetra, President of the Thai Medical Women's Association, delivered an inspiring grand opening speech, followed by Professor Dr. Bettina Pfleiderer, President of MWIA, Dr. Shelley Ross, Secretary General of MWIA. Keynote speech "Ethics and Well-being," was presented by Professor Dr. Prasit Watanatada, President of the Medical Council of Thailand.

In the evening of September 6th was the "Getting to know you" Reception cocktail, where everyone had chances to mingle and meet each other. We were also grateful to be honoured by Professor Emeritus Dr. Piyasakol Sakolsatayadorn, Minister of Public Health, who greeted all participants with an intimate, warm welcome.

On "Thai Night" Gala Dinner, everybody looked fabulous, majority in spectacular Thai costumes from various periods, enjoyed Thai dances, Thai food, and Thai music.

Although mainly in the Thai language, this link gives a flavour of the Central Asia Regional Congress <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lttj8JhyB4g>



Relaxation time at Gala Dinner "Thai Night "

5. UPCOMING NEAR EAST AND AFRICA CONGRESS

Dr. Mabel Aboah, VP for the Near East and Africa

Dr. Aboah writes that it is an honour to be communicating with you all on this august platform of the MWIA Newsletter.

The Near East and Africa Region of MWIA covers a very vast area consisting of all the countries of the African continent (54) and the countries of the Middle East (22), including Palestine and Israel, making a total of seventy-six countries. Apart from our vast range of extremely different cultures, there are also the diverse languages and even our lingua franca. As much as this is a most welcoming fact and strongly represents the spirit of MWIA, as a strong unifying Association, there is a huge challenge of trying to get the Region to function as one unit.

Nonetheless, we have tried over the decades to bring as many National Associations and individual members on board and endeavoured to make the Regional Association as accommodating and all encompassing as possible.

We in the region are organizing our triennial Regional Conference from 11th to 15th of November, 2018, in the beautiful cosmopolitan city of Nairobi, Kenya. The theme of the conference is: **ADVANCING WOMEN'S HEALTH AGENDA; Priorities and Opportunities through the UN SDGs and AU Agenda 2063.** The Conference Venue is Movenpick Hotel and Residences, situated at a very beautiful part of the city.

The Kenya Medical Women's Association (KMWA) under the leadership of Dr. Christine Sadia, has laboriously laid up an elaborate, comprehensive program for our continuous professional development and thorough enjoyment. The very apt and pertinent scientific sessions have been well interspersed with enjoyable breaks, and the icing on the cake is the Safari expeditions (which are legendary to Kenya).

We, of the Near East and Africa Region of MWIA, are extending a very warm and hearty **WELCOME**, to all our sisters all across the globe to come and join us celebrate MWIA in a grand style. To all our sisters and participants who will be joining us for this celebration, we wish you a safe journey to Nairobi, Kenya.

And for those, who for one reason or the other, cannot join us, but wish us well and a successful conference, we say "Asante Saana," a Big Thank you (in Swahili).

KARIBU! WELCOME.

6. NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGIONS

Australia

- AFMW is funding 5 travel scholarships for young members (under 40) to attend the MWIA Centennial Congress at New York in 2019.
- AFMW's annual face-to-face meeting will be held on Saturday 10 November 2018 in Melbourne. Current triennium 2017-2020.

Queensland Medical Women's Society

- **The Resilience on the Run** programme developed and implemented throughout Queensland by our **Vice-President, Dr Ira van der Steenstraten** has been recognised at the national awards as in Canberra as **AMA Best Public Health Initiative**.
- We also congratulate **Dr Jacqueline Deen**, who has been elected as the national representative for **yAFMW**
- Associate Professor Deb Colville, President of the AFMW visited Brisbane as a guest of QMWS, to officially open the Medical History event, which was a great success. The next day, Deb provided a Curriculum Vitae Workshop in conjunction with a financial workshop sponsored by William Buck and HillRoss Accounting.
- Our facebook page has reached almost 250
- Dinner meeting on 7 August 2018, concerning The Healing Foundation, with guest speaker Leann Wilson, recipient of the Queensland Premier's Reconciliation Award
- At our May meeting, our guest speaker artist Kathryn Brimblecombe-Fox's presentation "Journeying Through Landscape – Real and Unreal," transported us from land to sky and into space. This meeting was generously sponsored by MDA National. Through Kathryn's deep connection with the Australian Outback we had the opportunity to reach our rural colleagues in medicine. We also welcomed Dr Sarah Coll, President of the Far North Queensland Women's Medical and Legal Group, who will join the QMWS committee as one of our AMFW representatives, and thereby provide a voice for their 50 or so members from this group within our state and national sphere. We presented a \$1000 cheque to author Ms Elspeth Muir for her nominated charity, the Missing Person's Advocacy Network.

Victorian Medical Women's Society

- New online membership system has now gone live.
- Dr Lorraine Baker is delivering the Constance Stone Oration.
'I don't know how she does it' - Presentation was well attended by resident doctors & students
- Meeting with Greens representative Senator Janet Rice to discuss financial support for students who are parents
- National Women's Day cemetery walk
- National Women's Day casual evening dinner catch at pub - open to members & non-members
- Hospital liaison representative was appointed to provide conduit between VMWS & female doctors' hospital jobs/ training

- Strengthening our alliances with other female medical organisations
- Invitation to attend joint Royal Australian College of General Practitioners' Women in General Practice & National Faculty of Sexual Health in June 15/16 at Novotel in St Kilda

Medical Women's Society of New South Wales

- CV/Interview workshop was held on 2 June 2018. The doctors and students who attended the workshop reported it was very useful and enjoyable.

ACT & REGION MEDICAL WOMEN'S SOCIETY

- Actively working on breastfeeding and bullying and harassment.
- Are putting some money towards funding 2 ACT MWS members to attend the MWIA New York event in 2019
- Fundraising event on 27 July 2018
- Annual ski trip in August 2018
- Celebration dinner held on 19 September 2018
- Have reviewed our policy on "Bullying and Harassment of doctors and medical students" the MWS of the ACT and region
- Charity donations reviewed - money will be put towards some new instruments for Dr Liz Gallagher to take to The Solomons.

Brazil

A- Scientific Sessions: August: "Reflections of the Revolution of Longevity in Health"
September: "Innovation in Health: Technology"

B- Activities of directors and associates:

There was an election for a five year tenure 2018-2023, of the Regional Council of Medicine (CRM) of the state of São Paulo and Dr Irene Abramovich, one of our directors, is one of the elected counselors.

Fatima Alves, our president, participated in two symposia at the congress of Otorhinolaryngology Foundation in August. Our director Nise Yamagushi was a winner of the Joseph Cullen Award –Prevention/Early detection of the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer.

Marilene Melo, our vice president, presented a speech about "Main Diseases which are presented in different way in Men and Women" for lay and professional groups, in a great effort to promote the science of sex differences.

Marilene Melo in September also presented two speeches: "Gender Differences in dyslipidemia and the impact on cardiovascular risk." in Lima, Peru during the Latin American Congress of Laboratory Medicine and during the Brazilian Congress of Laboratory Medicine together with Elizabeth Alexandre.

Canada

The Federation of Medical Women of Canada held a most successful annual general meeting and educational session at the Intercontinental Toronto Yorkville Hotel. Entitled, "Women Physicians: Making a World of Difference—Taking care of ourselves, those close to home and the world around us." From humanitarian medicine through infertility to nutrition and brain health, there

were a number of excellent speakers. The gala was held at the Bata Shoe Museum and could you think of a better place for women physicians than being surrounded by shoes! Many attendees battled the aftermath of the tornado in Ottawa to make their way to Toronto for the meeting.

Dr. Bev Johnson handed over the presidency to Dr. Kathee Andrews of Toronto.

We were delighted to have the President and President-elect of the American Medical Women's Association in attendance, Dr. Connie Newman and Dr. Roberta Gebhard.



Left to right: Drs. Connie Newman, Bev Johnson, Roberta Gebhard, Shelley Ross, Vivien Brown

#CANADAvsHPV begins October 1st with a launch and call to action on Parliament Hill. This is the second annual HPV Awareness Week. You will recall in an earlier newsletter that Dr. Vivien Brown, chair of the HPV Awareness Week Campaign, issued an invitation to all national associations to join Canada and feel free to use their materials as women doctors make the public aware of HPV disease, its detection and prevention.

Hong Kong

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Dr WONG Kuo Jui on 21 March, 2018. Dr WONG was a Life Member of Hong Kong Women Doctor Association (HKWDA) and she was active in supporting HKWDA's activities till her last days. Besides being a caring family physician, Dr WONG was also a talented singer and choir master.

As part of the mentor-mentee program, a barbeque gathering was conducted for doctor mentors and student mentees to mingle and bond with each other.

A one-day visit to Shenzhen's latest high technology and biomedical research centres was held. Medical students from the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong's

medical schools visited Peking University Shenzhen Hospital, Beijing Genomics Institute, Stem Cell Bank and medical equipment enterprise.

Feedback to the Government's consultation paper on Miscellaneous Sexual Offences.

The Academic and Education Committee organized an academic lunch symposium. Dr Victoria TANG, Psychiatrist gave a talk on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in Children and Adolescents.

Ireland

While the Canadians were holding their annual meeting, a group of women physicians in Ireland held the inaugural meeting of Women in Medicine in Ireland. Dr. Margaret McWeeney, a long time member of MWIA, spoke at the conference, telling younger physicians what it was like to practice medicine as a woman in the 1970's. (www.wimin.ie)

Japan

Dr. Yoshiko Maeda, President of the Japan Medical Women's Association (JMWA) wrote that a Japanese medical university has systematically discriminated against female applicants because women tend to quit as doctors after starting families, causing hospital staffing shortages. The Yomiuri newspaper said Tokyo Medical University has manipulated the entrance exam results of women since about 2011 to keep the female student population low. Quoting unidentified sources, it said the manipulation started after the share of successful female applicants reached 38 percent of the total in 2010.

Under Dr. Maeda's name, the Japan Medical Women's Association's (JMWA) produced an official statement regarding "Tokyo Medical University has manipulated the entrance exam results of women" is as follows:

The first impression that I heard the report of Tokyo Medical University is "This is really putting the clock back!" It was astonishing that women in Japan are still being stripped of their right to seek entry to the medical profession. In Japan, the Act on promotion of women participation and advancement in the workplace was enacted in April 1st, 2016. The Japanese Government is aiming for "Promoting Dynamic Engagement of All Citizens" including woman activity. Any medical university should not shut the door by the reason of an examinee being a woman.

Ginko Ogino is the first woman who passed the doctor's national examination in Japan. She wanted to become a doctor when she was 19 years old, but could not have a chance to learn medicine just because she was a woman. Because there was gender discrimination, it took nine years before she entered the private medical college. She graduated from a college by excellent results, but a national examination was not taken for gender discrimination again. She negotiated with a government official to take a national examination and she took an examination two years later and passed it. It will be that Ginko Ogino is certainly surprised that women lose a right to learn by gender discrimination in modern Japan.

The ratio of woman among medical students in Japan rose steadily afterward in 10% in 1965, then it was with 30% in 1995; after that remains the same level to date (than Ministry of

Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology "school basics investigation"). The ratio of woman medical student is higher than 50% in some Japanese universities. I cannot help wondering that the ratio of woman medical student remains at the same level in 30%.

Instead of worrying about women quitting jobs, they should do more to create an environment where women can keep working. There is not the way of working reform only for the karoshi prevention and thinks that it should be performed to make the workplace which can show ability regardless of gender.

The non profit foundation Japan Medical Women's Association sets up gender equality committee from 2007 and holds "the carrier symposium for women who want to become a medical person" once a year. We continue appealing of creation of ideal workplaces for woman doctors and of changing of preconceptions about the division of roles between men and women.

We continue this activity and will support it in future not to being stripped of their right to seek entry to the medical profession.

Korea

Dr. Hyang Aie Lee (orthopedic surgeon and family doctor) is inaugurated as the 29th President of Korean Medical Women's Association (KMWA) on 21 April 2018 at the 62nd annual general meeting of KMWA.



Photo: Outgoing president, Dr. Bong-Ok Kim (Left) and the incoming president, Dr. Hyang Aie Lee (Right)

The KMWA published and distributed 'Response guideline for sexual violence in medical settings' in April 2018. According to the data reported by the "Korean Intern & Resident Association" in 2017, 48.5% of woman medical doctors had experienced sexual harassment, and 16.3% had experienced sexual assault. After realizing the seriousness of sexual abuse in medical facility, KMWA started to establish the guideline. The guideline contains protocols of processes to deal with each event including the way of reporting and legal aid.

The KMWA held an opening ceremony of "Human Rights Center for Women Medical Doctors" on 25 July 2018. KMWA declared the human rights of women medical doctors who had suffered from any kind of sexual abuse, in cooperation with the "Korean Women Lawyers Association."

Malaysia

Dr. Pamela Lee Yew Fong writes in facebook that she wishes to extend her thanks to [Bettina Pfleiderer](#), [Shelley Ross](#) and [Piyaneetr Sukhu](#) for their support as Malaysia Medical Association (Perak state branch) successfully organizes their first "Women in Medicine" symposium. She was honoured to have been invited and shared the stage with other well esteemed female doctors. The opening address was delivered by the wife of the State's President, who herself is a Pediatric Cardiologist. The Q&A session was an all women panel and this event was reported in the local newspapers.

Philippines

The Philippine Medical Women's Association (PMWA) will hold its 69th Annual Convention on 17-18 November 2018 at Marco Polo Hotel, 1600 Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Metro Manila, Philippines with the theme PMWA@69: Continuously creating an Impact on the Community. In the evening of 18 November 2018, we will have our fellowship night and induction ceremonies of the new set of officers of PMWA for the year 2019.

Taiwan, Province of China

The Taiwan Medical Women's Association (TMWA) will have two international conferences held in Taiwan in October 2018: -

1. Symposium: "Cervical cancer prevention and HPV testing & vaccination health literacy- Worldwide Perspectives" (10/26) at the 6th International Health literacy Conference: A Health Literate Asia and Beyond, Taiwan, 25-27 October 2018.

"Implementation of National HPV Vaccination Programme" (10/28) at the 2018 Global health Forum in Taiwan, 27 – 29 October 2018.

United States of America

The American Women Physicians in World War I was screened at the American Library in Paris on September 5th.

Dr Murthy VP MWIA represented AMWA at the CARC Congress in Bangkok from September 6 – 8th 2018.

The AMWA Interim Leadership meeting was held on September 15th and 16th at the home of Berta Van Hoosen, founder of AMWA in Michigan.

Dr. Connie Newman President of AMWA and Dr Roberta Gebhard President elect of AMWA attended the annual meeting of the Federation of Medical Women on Canada on September 21st-23rd in Toronto Canada.

AMWA with its partners - medical students, physicians, and community partners - is throwing a first ever “VOTEKIDS” concert in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Learn what you can do to protect children from gun violence and other public health on September 30th.

The local organizing committee of AMWA is working on the upcoming centennial congress in New York City in July 2019. The web site of the congress is being updated frequently as information is updated. Registration for the Congress and the hotel is open. The sub committees of the LOC are coordinating the various aspects of the logistics and organization for the upcoming congress. The LOC is working on fund raising and outreach for the conference.

7. REPORT FROM MWIA’S REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UN

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

Drs Satty Keswani and Murthy have been attending the DPI briefings and representing MWIA at the United Nations DPI NGO Annual Conference on August 23rd and 24th at the United Nations. They were active participants at an event on complementary medicine and met health professionals from Puerto Rico, India and Latin America.

Dr Murthy represented MWIA and academia at the 73rd United Nations General Assembly from 24th September to 28th September. She participated in the High-Level Political meetings during the UN General Assembly on TB elimination and Non Communicable Diseases. The high level meeting on TB elimination was historic as it was the first time a whole session was devoted to this major public health challenge was convened at the United Nations with member states signing a declaration.

Drs Keswani and Murthy are working with potential partners in planning a session at the United Nations during the upcoming centenary in 2019.



Dr Murthy with Madagagascar delegation at the High level meeting on TB during UN Gen Assembly 2018



Drs Keswani and Murthy with a colleague during the UNDPINGO conference in August 2018

8. REPORT FROM MWIA'S REPRESENTATIVE TO WHO

Dr. Clarissa Fabre, UK

A recent report by the WHO (www.who.int/news) revealed that **alcohol** is responsible for more than 5% of all deaths worldwide. Of these, 28% were due to injuries, including road traffic accidents, suicide and interpersonal violence. The young continue to bear the brunt, with 13.5% deaths of those in their 20s linked to drinking. The report says 'Proven cost-effective actions include increasing taxes on alcoholic drinks, bans or restrictions on alcohol advertising, and restricting the physical availability of alcohol.' MWIA could play a role here, in pushing governments to make changes. 'Reducing the harmful use of alcohol will help achieve a number of health-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including those for maternal and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and mental health, injuries and poisonings', says the WHO report

WHO is working in partnership with Ministries of Health and other partners to help **increase availability and uptake of the HPV vaccine** for adolescent girls, to help prevent cervical cancer. Negotiated through GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance as well as the Pan American Health Organisation's Revolving Fund, pricing reductions has played a very significant role in expanding access in eligible countries, including most recently, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

10 lower income countries will have introduced the vaccine with Gavi support by the end of 2018, while 10 more hope to follow suit next year. It would be very good if MWIA, with its worldwide networks could help with awareness campaigns to provide parents, young people, schools and health workers with fact-based information on HPV and cervical cancer.

9. EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY

MWIA's Representatives are Prof. Bettina Pfliederer and Dr. Antonella Vezzani

The EWL at their first meeting of the new executive decided on a list of **key priorities between now and June 2020** which include: reviewing our current strategy and designing a new strategic framework for EWL; strengthening our financial resilience, with a particular focus on securing funding for members; deepening engagement with all EWL members, with an emphasis on capacity building and strengthening member organisations; developing a comprehensive diversity, inclusion and equality policy; continuing to strengthen our political influence; increasing our communication reach; and developing risk assessment mechanisms.

The Austrian EU Presidency is organising a Conference of Gender Equality Ministers on October 11-12, 2018 in Vienna on the topic of gender and youth.

10. CIOMS

The CIOMS June 2018 Newsletter is now available, click [here](#).

Some of the highlights include:-

- First meeting WGXI on Patient Involvement in the Development and Safe Use of Medicines
- 71st World Health Assembly and 70th anniversary of the creation of WHO
- Mumbai Workshop on Research Ethics and Risk Minimisation
- Internship opportunity to join the Medicines Safety Team at WHO Geneva

We also take this opportunity to circulate the [annual report of 2017](#) activities from European Medicines Agency involving patients, consumers, healthcare professionals and academics.

The CIOMS September 2018 Newsletter is now available, click [here](#).

Some of the highlights include:

- 18th WHO ICDRA conference
- IUPHAR World Congress
- China–CIOMS Forum on Drug-Induced Liver Injury (DILI)
- News from CIOMS partners
- 14th MedDRA Implementation Working Group Meeting
- CIOMS supports WHO interns in Geneva

11. yMWIA

Dr Geneviève Koolhaas, President, Dr Marion Okoh-Owusu, Secretary General yMWIA

Call for Activity Updates from yMWIA members for yMWIA December 31, 2019 Report

Greetings from the yMWIA executive. We are happy to inform you all that the executive of MWIA and yMWIA are planning a special meet-up event for all yMWIA colleagues during the

centennial in New York City, July 25-28, 2019. In preparation for this festive event we would like to ask you for your help.

MWIA provides a global platform to share our scientific work but also our personal experiences while working on our careers. We hereby hope to inspire you and help you where possible. In order to do so, we would love to hear from you and to share your work and experiences concerning the theme “Ambassadors of Change” with us. Of course we will draft a formal report on activities as well, so please do send us your activity photos together with a brief narrative. All individual and group submissions received will be featured in the yMWIA report. This special report is expected to inspire young lady doctors as we share activities on our theme ‘AMBASSADORS OF CHANGE.’

And please don't forget to register for the centennial by using this link:
<https://amwa-doc.org/mwia100>.

Please kindly email yMWIA reports in Microsoft word format (.docx) to:
drokohowusu@gmail.com by December 31, 2018, to enable us to compile for the planning committee by January 31, 2019. We are looking very much forward to celebrating with you 100 years of inspiring work of young medical doctors and students in New York next year.

12. CALENDAR OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS MWIA AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS – CONGRESSES AND MEETINGS

2018

1. **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
2. **October 3-6, 2018**, Reykjavik, Iceland
World Medical Association General Assembly
www.wma.net
www.worldhealthsummit.org/conference.html
3. **October 14-16, 2018**, Berlin, Germany
10th World Health Summit 2018
www.worldhealthsummit.org/conference.html
4. **October 17-21, 2018**, Coex Convention and Exhibition Centre, Seoul, Korea
WONCA International Congress, Primary Care in the Future: Professional Excellence
<http://www.globalfamilydoctor.com/Conferences/WONCAWorldconference2018.aspx>

5. **November 10-11, 2018**, Melbourne, Australia
Annual General Meeting of the Australian Federation of Medical Women
www.afmw.org.au

6. **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
<http://www.kmwa.or.ke/mwia-near-east-and-africa-regional-meeting/>
10. **November 14, 2018**, Antwerp, Belgium
Medical Women's Association of Belgium Congress
Burn-Out: Gender Related?
<http://mwab.be/>

7. **November 17-18, 2018**, Manila, the Philippines
69th Annual Convention,
PMWA@69: Continuously Creating an Impact on the Community.
Marco Polo Ortigas Manila, San Antonio, pasig, 1600 Metro Manila
pmwa_doctors@yahoo.com

8. **November 17-18, 2018**, Calcutta, India
Annual meeting of the Association of Medical Women in India
missionkolkata@hotmail.com

9. **December 5-6, 2018**, New Delhi, India
Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH)
2018 Partners' Forum
Vigyan Bhavan Conference Centre
www.who.int/pmnch

2019

1. **April 5-7, 2019**, Sun City Resort, North West Province, South Africa
2nd Annual Medical Women's Association of South Africa Conference
chantellj@foundation.co.za

2. **May 17-18, 2019**, Tbilisi, Georgia
Central Asia Regional Congress of MWIA
VP_centraleurope@mwia.net

3. **May 19-24, 2019**, Geneva Switzerland
World Health Assembly
www.who.int

4. **June 3-6, 2019**, Vancouver, Canada
Women Deliver Conference

wd2019.org

5. **July 25-28, 2019**, New York City, USA
Centennial Congress of the Medical Women's International Association
www.amwa-doc.org/mwia100/

6. **November 30, 2019**, Brussels, Belgium
Medical Women's Association of Belgium Congress
Gender related perception of Pathology
<http://mwab.be/>

2020

1. **May 15-17, 2020**, cruise
Northern European Regional Meeting
vp_northerneurope@mwia.net

2. **November, 2020**, Mumbai, India
Central Asia Regional Congress of MWIA

13. **NAMES IN THE NEWS**

Dr. Angel Arnaut was awarded the Enid Johnson MacLeod Award by the Federation of Medical Women of Canada for her work in minimally invasive techniques in breast surgery oncology.

Dra. Michelle Bachelet, former Director General of UN Women, has been appointed the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Dr. Joanna Bates of Vancouver was awarded Honorary Membership by the Federation of Medical Women of Canada for her work as an educator, innovator and researcher.

Dr. Vivien Brown of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada was awarded the Dr. May Cohen Award for translating the FMWC vision into action in the field of healthy aging and HPV prevention.

Professor Judith Goh AO of the Australian Federation of Medical Women has been named the @ama_media Woman in Medicine for 2018! Prof Goh has spent about 3 months every year for 23 years training doctors in third world countries. #womaninmedicine

Ms. Dalia Karol was awarded the Student Leadership Award by the Federation of Medical Women of Canada for her work with mental health stigma.

Dr. Khunying Kobchitt "Kobbie" Limpaphayon of the Thai Medical Women's Association received the 2018 Public Service Award from the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) for her work on "SAFE," (Safety, Acceptability, Feasibility and program implementation Effort of the single visit approach of visual inspection of the cervix with acetic acid followed immediately by cryotherapy.

Professor Padmini Murthy, Vice President for North America for MWIA, is **chair-elect** of the International Health section of the American Public Health Associations which is one of the largest health associations in the world. Her term starts in Nov 2018.

Professor Bettina Pfleiderer, President of MWIA, received one of the nine Eurasian Women Forum awards 2018 for her work on global health to improve the well-being of women and children.

14. OBITUARIES

Dr. Keiko Hamada of the Japan Medical Women's Association in a traffic accident September 24, 2018.

Dr Kuo Jui Wong of the Hong Kong Women Doctor Association on 21 March, 2018.

15. PUBLICATIONS

Honourable Healers: Pioneering Women Doctors by Mairilyn Murnane
<http://scholarly.info/book/honourable-healers-pioneering-women-doctors/>

Worldview Conflicts about the Role of Women in Society
<http://www.css.ethz.ch/en/services/digital-library/articles/article.html/383dbda8-e7f0-4b4a-ba7f-f9a4acb4621e>

Former Irish President & UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson launches a new initiative with podcasts pairing her with comedian Maeve Higgins
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/jul/24/mary-robinson-launches-new-feminist-fight-against-climate-change>
<http://www.other-news.info/2018/07/mary-robinson-launches-new-feminist-fight-against-climate-change/>

The Empowering Internet Safety Guide for Women
<http://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2018/downloads/2018-GRID.pdf>
<https://www.vpnmentor.com/blog/the-empowering-internet-safety-guide-for-women/>

II. OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

1. World Health Organization (WHO)

a. The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control is meeting in Geneva October 1-6, 2018, and the link to the Performance and Progress report is
http://www.who.int/fctc/cop/sessions/cop8/FCTC_COP_8_14-EN.pdf

b. **WHO's 2016 Recommendations on Antenatal Care for a Positive Pregnancy Experience** , can be found in the two policy briefs:

<https://www.mcsprogram.org/resource/recommendations-antenatal-care-positive-pregnancy-experience-summary/> and regarding ultrasound

<https://www.mcsprogram.org/resource/recommendations-antenatal-care-positive-pregnancy-experience-ultrasound-examination/>

The full antenatal care recommendations may be found at

http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/maternal_perinatal_health/anc-positive-pregnancy-experience/en/

c. **Saving lives, spending less: a strategic response to noncommunicable diseases**

<http://www.who.int/ncds/management/ncds-strategic-response/en/>

2. **United Nations**

a. A **gendered approach** to the High Level Political Forum 2018 applies a gender lens to the six SDGs being considered at the HLP

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/eb520eecfe82a5bf0d814ea1f/files/36b944e0-c372-4efd-8360-ea5f337ab7b1/A_Gendered_Approach_to_the_HLPF_2018.pdf?utm_source=NGO+CSW%2FY+Constituency&utm_campaign=0c3eedc8a0-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_01_24&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_67ac6441ff-0c3eedc8a0-411760601&mc_cid=0c3eedc8a0&mc_eid=07f5d20caf

b. The Secretary General reports on the High Level Forum on **Sustainable Development** regarding goal 5: Gender Equality and Empowerment

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/18541SG_SDG_Progress_Report_2018_ECOSOC.pdf

c. The second High-level United Nations Conference on **South-South Cooperation** will be held in Buenos Aires, Republic of Argentina, from 20-22 March 2019 under the overarching theme "Role of South-South cooperation and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: challenges and opportunities".

The sub-themes of the Conference shall be (i) Comparative advantages and opportunities of South-South cooperation; (ii) Challenges and the strengthening of the institutional framework of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation; (iii) Sharing of experiences, best practices and success stories; and (iv) Scaling up the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in support of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation.

<https://www.unsouthsouth.org/bapa40>

d. **The 67th United Nations Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organization (DPI/NGO) Conference** focused on finding global solutions for global problems, emphasizing the importance of multilateralism, closer partnerships between the UN and civil society, and the role that young people have to play.



3. The 10 Worst Countries for Women

<https://www.businessinsider.com/worst-countries-for-women-2018-3?IR=T#7-iraq-4>

4. The government in Argentina rejected the bill to legalize abortion.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/aug/09/argentina-senate-rejects-bill-legalise-abortion>

5. A Handbook to protect civilians from armed conflict

<https://crisisation.org/handbook/contents/>

<https://crisisation.org/wp-content/pdf/creative-coalitions-a-handbook-for-change.pdf>

6. **The University Heart Centre in Graz, Austria**, realizes that interventional cardiology is mainly a man-dominated profession, and they are looking to create new training and research grants for female colleagues. gabor.g.toth@medunigraz.at

7. The five year project of **Saving Mothers, Giving Life** has produced a report which can be accessed at: www.savingmothersgivinglife.org.

8. **CanWaCH** is launching a gender equality blog series during Gender Equality Week, September 23-29, 2018. <https://www.canwach.ca/>

9. **One Billion Rising** gives a global call to action in its 7th year. The 2019 theme is "Rising: From A Campaign, To A Way Of Life," amplifies that in the face of the global crisis women face amidst capitalism, colonization, racism, imperialism, environmental plunder and war, activism must become a daily practice. <https://www.onebillionrising.org/>

10. The Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada has developed a contraceptive guide, called **It's a Plan**. <https://www.itsaplan.ca/>

11. **Wonca Women** have developed a survey on working conditions that can be completed in English or Spanish through the following links:

<http://survey.aub.edu.lb/index.php/193928?lang=en> For English

<http://survey.aub.edu.lb/index.php/193928?lang=es> For Spanish

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Update will be published in December, 2018, the ninth in the new triennium. Please send us your reports, comments or any other interesting information by November 30, 2018, 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.