

MWIA



Update

No.83 September 2020

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1.MEDICAL WOMEN’S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION



2019- 22 Executive Committee Members

President: Dr Eleanor Ann Nwadinobi
Secretary- General: Prof Dr. Padmini Murthy
Treasurer: Dr. Helen Goodyear
Past President: Prof Dr. Bettina Pfleiderer

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

Central Europe: Dr. Edith Vecsei (Austria)
Northern Europe: Dr. Elisabeth Lichtenstein (Sweden)
Southern Europe: Dr. Antonella Vezzani (Italy)
North America: Dr. Vivien Brown (Canada)
Latin America: Prof Dr. Magda Maria Sales Carneiro Sampaio (Brazil)
Near East &Africa: Dr. Christine Sadia (Kenya)
Central Asia: Dr. Mandakini Megh (India)
Western Pacific: Dr. Desiree Yap (Australia)

2. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi, Nigeria **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**



Greetings Dear Friends,

The veil of COVID-19 seems to be lifting to varying degrees, but we are certainly not out of the woods yet. More is being demanded of us in the medical community and I applaud our colleagues even as the race for a vaccine is ongoing. As we navigate our way out, one thing that is glaring is the best of humanity that shines through and our motto *Matris Animo Curant* has taken on even more meaning.

I have embarked on a "MWIA VISIBILITY TRACKER" project where I am currently tracking MWIA'S visibility in the women's global health space. I acknowledge our members who despite all odds are ensuring that the activities of MWIA are not invisible. Our regional and special partnership reports in this update come together to tell our story. A story for which we should be very proud.



This quarter was a very busy one for me as I was invited to participate in several Global events as a speaker or panelist on behalf of MWIA as President .

United Nations engagements

On the July 7th, I was invited by the Executive Coordinator and Spokesperson on Addressing Sexual Harassment and Other Forms of Discrimination at UN Women, I was the Lead Panelist at UN Women webinar on Sexual Harassment “Sexual Harassment and COVID-19: the Healthcare sector and Domestic Spaces”

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/events/2020/07/event-sexual-harassment-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>

On the 23rd of July I was invited by the United Nations Department of Global Communications, Civil Society Unit I made a presentation in the Civil Society Communications Workshop Series: Communication Challenges and Opportunities in the COVID-19 Era.

MWIA events

At the July 25th Interim Exco meeting, MWIA Committees, received Exco approval to conduct their activities. They are already yielding results with the World Medical Association Journal which has our MWIA article "What is the potential impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goal of Reaching Zero Unmet Need for Contraception by 2030".

The MWIA Secretary General, Prof. Dr Padmini Murthy, hosted a very well organised Beijing +25 event on 22nd August. It was a time to go back in history and emphasise that MWIA was started by our courageous founders in 1919 in the middle of the Spanish flu. The title of my message was 'From whispers to amplified voices'. It was a time to hear from the MWIA amazons who were in Beijing 25 years ago and these included Past Presidents Dr Florence Manguyu, Dr Shelley Ross, UN Representative Dr Satty Keswani and Dr Christine Sadia, current regional VP for the Near East and Africa region. Each of the MWIA Regional VPs i.e. Dr Edith Schratzberger-Vecsei, Dr Elizabeth Lichtenstein, Dr Madakini Megh, Dr Magda Sales Carneiro, Dr Desiree Yap, Dr Vivien Brown made presentations on how things had progressed in their different regions in the past 25 years. Prof Dr Bettina Pfleiderer, Past President, Dr Helen Goodyear, Treasurer, and chair of yMWIA Dr Genevieve Koolhaas also provided interesting perspectives.



On the 12 th September, it was a great honour and privilege for me to be invited by the China Medical Women's Association (CMWA) to join in the 2020 virtual annual congress, and to celebrate the 25th anniversary of CMWA . ‘The role of medical women in addressing the intersections pandemics of COVID-19 and violence against women and girls”.

It was my pleasure to give a Goodwill message on the 19th of September at the MWIA Near East and Africa Regional Congress pre-conference webinar on ‘Gender and COVID- 19’ in place of the



face to face regional meeting which has now been postponed to March 24-27th March 2021 due to COVID-19.

Other Global activities

On the 21st of September International Peace Day, I was deeply honoured to be invited by the Coady International Institute, Nova Scotia, Canada to be the Distinguished speaker at the opening plenary. Local Women's Voices For Peace – 20 years of 1325 in honor of the 20th anniversary of UNSC Resolution 1325. The Conference convened women, women-led organizations, and groups from across the globe to focus on their successes and challenges in implementing UN1325 and community peacebuilding. Honourable Ms. Jody Williams Nobel Peace Laureate was the keynote listener. In her acknowledgement of my presentation she echoed the fact that amplifying local voices is extremely important as was the case for the abducted Chibok girls. In her words" local



voices are last to be heard and should be pushed to the fore".

Once again, I applaud you our MWIA members globally for your dedication and sacrifice in the discharge of your duties.

Please keep safe.

Warmly,

Dr Eleanor Nwadinobi
President
Medical Women's International Association

3. Message from the Secretary-General:

Dr. Padmini Murthy USA



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I write this message to you from my home office as most of us globally are working from home, as we are adjusting our lives to more than 6 months of confinement, confusion due to the COVID 19 catastrophe.

Like all of you it has been challenging working remotely as I have been training our medical students and public health students using online technology. Navigating each day is a learning experience.

I have had the privilege of representing AMWA and MWIA at various webinars .It was an honor for me as faculty to represent my university including being on a panel with Dr Anthony Fauci one of the most respected medical authorities internationally and the current director of the National Institutes of Health , USA . This panel was organized by the United Nations Academic Impact in July. Please find the link to the video below <https://youtu.be/6Y3KDt3s-lA>.

On a personal note it has been exceedingly busy as I have participated as a speaker and moderator on twelve both national and international webinars during the months of July – September. I have also had several articles and op-eds published on various platforms. Dr Vivien Brown VP North America and I have contributed chapters to an important book on Menopause to be released in October 2020.



It has been personally gratifying that in September we at AMWA i.e. Dr Eliza Chin and myself in partnership along Tzu- Chi Foundation and PLPC, a computer hardware company in California. were able to donate 80,000 face masks to the residents of the Navajo Nation as they have been facing severe PPE shortages. Please see photos below.



On August 22nd the virtual event Women Doctors Around The World: Advocates For Women's Empowerment to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of BPfA was well attended by the MWIA members, please find the link to the video below which has also been posted on MWIA and yMWIA face book pages .Here is the link to download the recording: <https://vimeo.com/user109923882/download/457538279/d6b982f8db>.

I would like to invite you all to share your publications and links to presentations made as your contributions are valued and make us more connected as a cohesive force during these uncertain times. Kindly send your contributions to the Vice Presidents in your regions who will send them to the Secretary General to be featured in the news update.

Stay safe and I would like to express my sincere appreciation and thank you for all the heroic work and your continued dedication to the communities you live and work in. Please stay safe and unfortunately many of our medical colleagues globally have laid down their lives while in their line of duty i.e. while caring for their patients.

Peace, Health, and Human Rights!

Padmini Murthy MD, MPH
Secretary General MWIA

4.Contact information for MWIA:

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Facebook group

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

YMWIA facebook group

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

Twitter @MedWIA Hashtag #MWIA100

5.Message from treasurer

Dr. Helen Goodyear UK



It has been an unprecedented time that we have been through with COVID-19 and I have put in a new photo with my COVID length hair! All of us have been through difficult times and work is a challenge, trying to deal with COVID but for me making sure that children with other disorders are looked after and their quality of life made as good as possible. As I write this piece I am excited that in 2 days' time I will be having my first holiday in 6 months (a "stacation", cycling from Yorkshire to Scotland) providing we do not become affected by any new Lockdown rules.

I am pleased to say that the MWIA audit is underway and I am hoping it is a good sign that after an intense flurry of requests to supply information all has gone quiet. We are aiming for the end of the month to have it completed although this might slip as Birmingham, UK goes into Lockdown next week.

Thank you to national associations and individual members who have paid their dues. The dues notices went out in July/August. I would be grateful if national associations could put how many members they are paying for as often bank fees get deducted and it can be difficult to work out numbers of members.

We are continuing to sort out MWIA financial matters which has taken more time than expected due to COVID 19 and renewal of MWIA's registration. Hopefully, this will shortly be in place and we can continue with looking at modernising our banking and proceeding with a sound investment strategy.

I was delighted to be able to join in the excellent meeting on 22nd August organised by Mini, our Secretary General 'Women *Doctors Around the World: Advocates for Women's Empowerment*'. It was very uplifting to hear historical aspects and all that is now going on in the different regions. Due to technology we were able to have this meeting and it was lovely seeing everyone.

Please contact me on helengoodyear@btconnect.com for any treasurer issues.

6. Message from MWIA Past President

Prof. Dr. Dr. Bettina Pfeleiderer- Germany



Since writing my last message, the COVID-19 pandemic still controls our lives and activities. Again – in my role as MWIA past president and/or MWIA representative, I have been attending many virtual meetings on behalf of MWIA in the last three months. I will just highlight a few.

I had the honor to give some remarks at the MWIA event “*Women Doctors Around the World: Advocates for Women’s Empowerment*” to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) on the 22nd of August. The event was put together by MWIA’s Secretary General Prof. Dr. Padmini Murthy with an impressive set of speakers. Dr. Murthy also moderated the event. For me, it was very inspiring to listen to the history and regional reports presented in this meeting and the role MWIA played and is still playing!

Indeed - some progress had been made since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was put in place 25 years ago. However, there is still unfinished business and it is time to turn vision into sustainable action. We are still waiting for a full implementation of the BPfA and to continue to make sure that women and girls are not left behind globally.

Female physicians need to be role models as important stakeholders in accelerating the pace of change:

- Female Physicians are an important first line responder group and advocates to prevent and combat all forms of gendered violence against women and girls.
- We need better working conditions and to tackle the gender pay gap for female physicians, as well for all women globally and female physicians should raise their voice in tackling this injustice.
- Gender equity and gender aspects related to COVID-19 but also to other diseases should be included in all level of medicine and gender sensitive medicine needs to be taught already at medical school to improve medical treatment for all.

A global network such as MWIA is vital to spearhead those discussions and stimulate actions of our members to serve as ambassador of change and pf women’s human rights now and in the next 25 years.

MWIA is also a European-wide member of the **European women’s lobby (EWL) and I am MWIA’s current representative to the EWL**. I was in this role attending the EWL board meeting virtually at the afternoon of the 7th of September and the EWL General Assembly (GA) at the afternoon of the 8th September in the afternoon (see the photo to the right).



Over 100 EWL members from across Europe and EWL staff took part. Many ideas were exchanged to turn EWL's goals into real actions. Among many topics, EWL's work program for next year was discussed and approved by the membership. A report on the review of EWL's membership fees policy was also presented by the membership committee. I hope to present some results of the latter debate in my next message, being a member of this committee.

Even though we are all aware that meeting virtually is not the same as meeting face-to-face, but it is a way we are still connected with each other against all odds. This is something we can build upon when we will meet again in person!

Reports from Regions

A. Central European Region

Dr Edith Schratzberger-Vecsei VP MWIA Central Europe

The COVID 19 situation continues to pose challenges for the region. As mentioned in my earlier June update as physicians we continue to see psychosomatic and psychological challenges in our patient population. The meetings of the national associations in the region continue to be virtual. With the numbers of COVID rising and there is a possibility of lockdown measures being in place again. In September Dr. Schratzberger-Vecsei participated on a conference which focused on the strategies and concepts for effective COVID management.

The Austrian annual meeting planned for October 2020 has been cancelled.

B. Northern Europe

Dr Elizabeth Lichtenstein VP MWIA Northern Europe

Finland

The Finnish Medical Women Association board has hold one meeting and one tele meeting after the Covid-19 outbreak. We plan to arrange a professional event later during the fall and provide a streaming service to better reach our members. The established, close co-operation with the National Council of Women in Finland continues.

The reservation for the next Northern Europe regional meeting is May 7th-9th, 2021 remains valid. We are, however, prepared to adjust the plan in accordance with the actual COVID--19 situation. The final decision about the conference will be made by early 2021 at the latest.

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the everyday life of all citizens in our country (population. 5,5 million) The first case of the coronavirus in Finland was confirmed on January 29, 2020. By September 10, 2020, the number of confirmed cases in the country has reached a total of 8,512. The death toll is 339 by mid September 2020 and there are presently 14 people hospitalized. In international comparisons our figures are very low, but the amount of cases is steadily growing.

The national safety measures are comprehensive. Wearing a face mask is recommended in public transport, for persons seeking the coronavirus test on their way to take the test and before the completion of test results and when passengers arriving in Finland from a risk area making their way from the place of arrival to quarantine or who they have an urgent reason to spend time outside the home during quarantine.

The "Koronavilkku" mobile app is part of the Finnish government's test, trace, isolate and treat strategy. The free of charge "Koronavilkku" smartphone app has been published to help break infection chains. The app makes it more efficient to reach people exposed to the virus and refer them to treatment. It has been over 2 Million loadings so far. The app will allow people to participate in preventing the spread of the virus and to protect their own and their loved ones' health faster.

Sept.17th, 2020

Tuula Saarela
NC, Finland

Netherlands

Of course, this calendar year was completely ruled by Covid-19 in the Netherlands too. By March this year the south became an epic center in which complete hospitals were floated with severely ill patients. In Rotterdam, a national coordinating center was installed which managed the spread of patients in need of an intensive care (IC) treatment. All hospitals had to upgrade IC capacity which asked the high flexibility and development of new skills in a minimum of time. An extraordinary team spirit took hold of all teams both in hospitals but also in nursing home, which were hit extremely hard. This last case was especially the consequence of a lack of personal protecting equipment (PPE). Today, marked September 17th a total of 88.073 patients were tested positive, 82 positive cases/100.000 habitants were reported these last 14 days.

Due to Covid-19 all other regular health care was paused, consequences measured in numbers (with deadly outcome) are not yet clear. Increased stress levels because of the lockdown have resulted domestic violence, women in academics were struggling to uphold their deadlines. Combining both family life and professional life has always been a challenge, however the lockdown made this a terrible struggle.

On the positive side we have seen an increase of 24 to 36% of women board members in Dutch hospitals. The team spirit created within all teams was exceptional and described as the best positive side effect within this devastating pandemic.

On a personal note I have been taking active part in a new movement 'happy in healthcare' last November. The direct cause was alarming number of 20% burn-out among residents. Among residents and young specialist different brainstorm sessions were organized to make an inventory of which priorities were needed to restore a happy and healthy working climate. A successful and very inspiring evening of which the result will be analyzed by prof Dr. Lombarts, professor professional performance. A project to be continued....

As chair of the young MWIA it was a great pleasure to attend the zoom meeting with 58 women (executive committee, vice presidents of the regions). A new era has emerged in which the digital revolution will prevail; our Facebook and Twitter account are actively visited. The twitter account I have started and social media I run reach more and more (young) colleagues every day.

I would love to speak to you there, hear what you have learned or would like to learn from the talent MWIA has to offer.

Kinder regards

Geneviève Koolhaas,
National coordinator the Netherlands, Chair yMWIA

Ireland

While 2020 has been a challenging and unusual year for us all, the Women in Medicine in Ireland Network (WiMIN) has continued to advocate and agitate on behalf of female doctors and medical students in Ireland.

In January, our founder Dr Sarah Fitzgibbon spoke at a well-attended Study Day for local GPs in Cork about physician wellbeing and the importance of self-care, based on her own experiences as a patient and a doctor. In February, she spoke at an event hosted by University College Cork Medical Society, to discuss the issues of gender in medicine.

March 2020 began with a conference organised by the RCSI student chapter of the Association of Women Surgeons, with an inspiring line-up of speakers including the pioneering Professor Averil Mansfield. Dr Fitzgibbon encouraged the students in attendance to avail of the supports of their senior colleagues through mentorship and informal connections.

Our own national conference was due to take place in Belfast on March 21st but was inevitably cancelled as the Covid19 pandemic took hold on our island. While initially rescheduled until September, we have now set our new date for March 13th, 2021. We aim to make the conference fully accessible via web streaming, thereby ensuring accessibility for as many participants as possible. We will miss the face-to-face collegiality, but we will enjoy sharing our experiences, nonetheless.

April was a month filled with webinars, remote meetings, teleconferences, and very steep learning curves, as we all grappled with the changes imposed upon us by the pandemic.

In May we had an enjoyable and collaborative video call with Professor Neena Modi of the UK's Medical Women's Federation, looking at areas where our two national organisations could work together.

Throughout the summer months we have collaborated with various national organisations, including participating in a focus group for Action Team 16 of the Our Public Service 2020 reform framework. This aims to improve equality, diversity, and inclusion in the public service in Ireland. We also contributed to research being carried out on behalf of the National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCi) on women's committees/caucuses in local government, and helped in the editing of updated guidelines for healthcare professionals in the area of female genital mutilation (FGM), published by AkiDwA.

Our weekly #SundayWiMIN social media campaign remains extremely popular. Each Sunday a different medical woman with connections to Ireland is honoured with a tribute on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. These women include doctors and medical students who have achieved great heights either personally or professionally (and some of them literally, like our Everest mountaineer!)

We hope to host a virtual conference soon, to allow our members to gather informally online, to connect and share, and to strengthen our ties in this most difficult of times.

Sweden



The Swedish Association has during the summer did not have any activities due to holidays and Covid-19 situation where many of us have done numerous hours at the hospitals.

In early September, the board of the Swedish Medical Women's Association had their AGM on Zoom where the new board was elected. This was followed by the constitutional board meeting and two days of planning the for future events within the national Association.

During this weekend three propositions have been written to the Swedish Medical Association suggesting that they work for Equal pay for male and female doctors, that a gender perspective and gender analysis should be included in all reports presented by the Swedish Medical Association, and that the Swedish Medical Association puts pressure on all the medical universities to include gender medicine in their curriculum. As the Swedish Medical Association does not have their AGM until November, we do not know yet if they will incorporate these resolutions.

We are also continuing to work together with the Finnish women's medical Association towards the Northern Europe Regional meeting and the new dates proposed are May 7-9, 2021, thus being that the COVID-19 situation is solved.

After a long day's work with meetings via Zoom and IRL we all relaxed and had a good dinner at the venue where we were staying just out of Stockholm. This is our new executive committee:



Seven out of ten members of the new board of The Swedish Medical Women's Association
From top left; Sarah Galien treasurer, Elizabeth Lichtenstein vice chair, Anne Gonzàles board
member, Helena Thiman board member.
Sitting from left Sofia Kühner board member, Susanne Bergenbrant Glas Chair, Hanna-Klara
Ednell board member

United Kingdom

MWF President Professor Neena Modi was elected to be British Medical Association President 2021-2022, at the BMA AGM on September 15th. Our immediate Past President Helena Bowden Jones, an Addictions Specialist, gave the Victor Horsley lecture on gambling at the BMA annual representative meeting. This Meeting had been condensed from 5 days to one on Zoom, due to COVID 19. Dr Helena Mckeown chaired the Annual Representative meeting. The MWF collaboration with the BMA on gender equality was highlighted by Dr Chaand Nagpaul in his opening address.

MWF members have maintained a high profile in the media, holding our Government to account. MWF continues to lobby for fair treatment of NHS staff during the COVID Pandemic with equality embedded in the system. Retired colleagues who felt able to return to the workforce during the pandemic were enabled to do so.

MWF continues to publish a monthly newsletter to our members. A 'Heroes of the NHS' Annual Junior Doctors Prize, including prose poetry and artistic contributions is being held, and will be judged in due course. Our autumn /winter edition of Medical Woman magazine is about to be published and has a dedicated section to MWIA activity.

MWF is consulting on the current Obesity Strategy.

We are also collaborating with Womanthology Founder, Fiona Tatton on relevant health issues to women. Professor Wendy Savage continues her campaign to preserve every woman's right to choose, in relation to abortion and proposed a motion which was unanimously agreed on this subject at the BMA meeting.

The Keep our NHS Public campaign which she instigated goes from strength to strength, and Richard Horton, editor of the Lancet, gave a hard-hitting critique of our Governments shortcomings in handling the Coronavirus Pandemic at the AGM on the 12th September.

C. Southern Europe

Report from Italy

Dr. Antonella Vezzani VP MWIA Southern Europe

Italy is continuing to recover after the Covid-19 emergency. The National Health System is restoring ordinary healthcare activities, but organizing support services in the event of a resumption of the pandemic

The Italian Medical Women's Association (AIDM) with the support of the Ministry of Health, continues to maintain an active toll-free number to answer doubts and requests of Italian women regarding Covid-19.

Furthermore, AIDM, in collaboration with the Higher Institute of Health and the Federation of Italian Scientific Societies, has developed a distance learning course (FAD) entitled "***Covid-19 health emergency and gender differences in epidemiology and in the clinic***".

Along the whole "Boot", despite the objective difficulties, there are numerous initiatives from the sections

The Rome section has developed a project with an association of psychologists for the stress assessment of general practitioners during the Covid-19 epidemic.

The Bari section has organized a series of webinars, which will take place from September to December, entitled "***AIDM and medical-scientific news*** "

A sign of hope comes from the Lombardy Region, the most affected by the pandemic: the sections of Bergamo, Brescia, Crema, Milan and Pavia have organized a regional congress for November 14, in Crema, entitled "***Covid-19: The After. New maps of gender medicine between body and mind***".

On 29 August, our National President, Dr. Antonella Vezzani, took part in the National Congress of Italian Hospital Cardiologists and participated in a round table entitled: "***HEART OF A WOMAN: HEALTH IN THE FACE OF THE CHALLENGES OF GENDER MEDICINE***"

D. Report from North America

Dr. Vivien Brown VP North America,

Canada

Federation of Medical Women of Canada

Our Dr. Mamta Gautam, Physician Health, Leadership Guru and Past President, led "Coping with COVID" on May 19th to our membership. She offered weekly check-in virtually for women physicians across Canada since the start of COVID. This service was utilized; themes covered the impact of COVID and how this changed over time for women physicians.

Some of the local branches opened their virtualized events to the general membership, such as the Vancouver branch's book club.

Our AGM will be held October 3rd virtually. This will be followed by our national HPV Prevention Week October 5th to 9th.

From our subcommittees:

1.WPS - Women Peace and Security

A. produced a document on the "Abortion Myths" to be shared on our website and with other national organizations.

2.Gender Based Violence

A. began a fundraising campaign to support women's shelter in specific regions

3.HPV week will start on October 5th now marking the 3rd year in Canada that this is celebrated, with daily webinars and an educational presence on social media.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Niec

MWIA rep for the FMWC

MWIA and Women's Conferences

The focus on women started long before Beijing with three prior world conferences. Mexico City hosted the first World Conference on Women in 1975 to coincide with International Women's Year and the beginning of the UN Decade for Women. The second was in Copenhagen in 1980 to report on progress from Mexico City and with an emphasis on employment, health, and education. In 1985, Nairobi was host to the third conference, which resulted in the Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. However, the strategies were focused on women and ignored the power relations between women and men.

A turning point for gender equality and the empowerment of women was the International Conference on Population and Development that occurred in Cairo in 1994. MWIA's own Dr. Florence Manguyu headed its NGO section. It was realized that any gains in health and population depended on the involvement of women.

Beijing was the fourth World Conference in 1995, resulting in the Beijing Platform for Action. The key words first heard in Nairobi once again were gender equality and the empowerment of women, but with a commitment to gender mainstreaming to be applied to all UN activities.

Despite reviews every 5 years since 1995 the achievable goals from Beijing have not been achieved, mainly for political and financial reasons. One must ask the question as to whether it is in the best interest of those in power to make women equal and empowered?

There are some highlights of the conference that come to mind. Hillary Clinton led the US delegation and made the famous statement that women's rights are human rights. The NGO's were situated miles from the main meeting, making it difficult to interact with the government delegations. **Although many of MWIA's national associations were at Beijing, the official delegation from MWIA consisted of Drs. Dorothy Ward, Carolyn Motzel, Satty Gill Keswani, Vibeke Jorgensen, and Catrin Williams.**

The conference was a watershed moment for gender equality and empowerment of women and the desire to attain those two goals has driven us onward. Primary education, maternal mortality, and gender-based violence have all seen some improvement. Money and political will remain the biggest obstacles. Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, a former Director General of WHO and former Prime Minister of Norway, said that no country treats its women the same way it treats its men. Going forward, UN Women has created the Generation Equality Forum, which will proceed in 2021, having been delayed due to Covid19.

MWIA took Beijing's commitment to gender mainstreaming to heart and wrote the Manual for Gender Mainstreaming in Health. For health, gender mainstreaming has 3 aspects: the first is that sex and gender medicine focuses on the biologic differences in illness and health between women and men, but secondly the more important aspects are the gender roles and norms and power relations between women and men lead to inequities that influence health. And thirdly, gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women address inequality and improve health outcomes. The importance of gender mainstreaming has once again come to light in this time of Covid-19, as women's lives have been disproportionately affected compared to men.

Submitted by Dr. Shelley Ross
Past President and former SG MWIA
Past President, Federation of Medical Women of Canada

United States of America

American Medical Women's Association

AMWA has continued its speaker series, [One World, One World: Women Physicians Come Together](#), the latest event with women leaders in [Trinidad and Tobago and Georgia](#). We invite colleagues around the world to use the resources and graphics on the AMWA website bit.ly/amwacovidnews. AMWA continues to help with the PPE shortage around the country through the [American Women's Hospitals Service](#) (AWHS). Through our partnership with The Robonauts, we have provided over 2000 3-D printed face shields which have been shipped to healthcare providers in the U.S. and abroad with a large supply going to the Navajo Nation. Through Dr. Padmini Murthy and the Tzu Chi Foundation, AMWA / AWHS helped secure a donation of 80,000 masks to be sent to [Navajo Nation](#) from PLPC, a computer hardware company in California.

AMWA also hosted an expert panel on [Sex & Gender Differences in COVID Vaccine Development](#) moderated by MWIA Secretary General, Dr. Padmini Murthy..

September is Women in Medicine Month in the U.S. and AMWA has partnered with She Leads Healthcare and Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine to host the campaign #Her Time Is Now to promote gender equity in medicine. We encourage you to share information from this campaign in your countries and promote the #PromoteHer, #PayHer, #CiteHer, #QuoteHer, #RecognizeHer, #SponsorHer, #InviteHer. Information and graphics are available at bit.ly/hertimeisnow. We will be posting photos wearing #HerTimeIsNow masks on Sept. 30, so join us and share the graphics!

AMWA co-sponsored the 3rd [Sex and Gender Health Education Summit](#) which was held virtually and brought together sex and gender health experts, faculty, and students to promote the integration of sex and gender health into educational curricula. The Summit included attendees from all the major health professions, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, dentistry, physical therapy/occupational therapy, EMT, and physician assistant schools. To register for access the Summit recordings, please visit sghesummit.com. We would be happy to work with MWIA leaders who want to launch a similar campaign within their countries.

1. New initiatives:

[Humans Before Heroes: Reframing Mental Health Licensure Questions](#) – an effort to ensure that mental health questions asked by licensure bodies are fair and focus on current impairment. We promoted our annual #Light4Docs campaign on September 17, National Physicians Suicide Awareness (NPSA) Day. During the event, we highlighted two associations who are at the forefront of issues related to physician mental health, Physician Support Line (PSL, a network of volunteer psychiatrists who are providing free and confidential support to physicians and medical students) and Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes Foundation (a foundation established by the family of Dr. Lorna Breen, and ER physician who died by suicide during the COVID-19 pandemic).

[Dance, Theater, and Medicine](#) (launches 9/25) – a platform for the exchange of research and ideas to blend the performing arts with the practice of medicine.

2. Other News:

The [AMWA Music and Medicine Committee](#) has created a wonderful video, “Physicians Healers and Healthcare Heroes” to honor healthcare providers around the world. Many photo from the MWIA meeting are included there.

2020 is the Centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote in America. Please visit our exhibit on [women physician suffragists](#). We are working hard on campaigns to get women out to the ballot box in November of 2020 for our presidential elections.

AMWA member, Dr. Alyson McGregor published, [Sex Matters: How Male-centric Medicine Endangers Women’s Health and What We Can Do About It](#)

AMWA member, Dr. Padmini Murthy co edited and authored Technology and Global Public Health published by Springer.

https://www.springer.com/us/book/9783030463540?utm_medium=display&utm_source=criteo&utm_campaign=3_fjp8312_product_us&utm_content=us_banner_29012020&s=08#otherversion=978303046355

Dr. Padmini Murthy was quoted on CNN after she spoke at a panel with Dr Anthony Fauci organized by the United Nations on July 8th .

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/13/health/masks-respect-coronavirus-wellness/index.html>

Follow us @AMWADoctors on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#).

Please note you can click on the hyperlinks in the update for more information.

Submitted by Eliza Lo Chin, MD, MPH, AMWA Executive Director and Interim National Coordinator. [@ElizaChinMD](#)

E. Report from Latin America

Brazil

ABMM (Brazilian Association of Medical Women)

Update of activities from MWIA Latin American Associations (July – September 2020)

i. Participation of several members in the “**MWIA virtual event for Beijing Platform for Action**”: Drs. Anna Maria Martits (Brazil), Ana Regina Vlainich (Brazil), Berta Aguilar (Panamá), Bertha Teresa Castro (Peru), Dayara Martínez (Panamá), Fatima Abreu Alves (Brazil), Gysella Moreno (Panamá), Magda Carneiro-Sampaio (VP), Maria Jesús Rojas (Peru), Marlene León Barros (Peru) and Verónica Rodríguez Torres (Mexico).

ii. Virtual Scientific Meetings of the Brazilian Medical Women’s Association (ABMM):

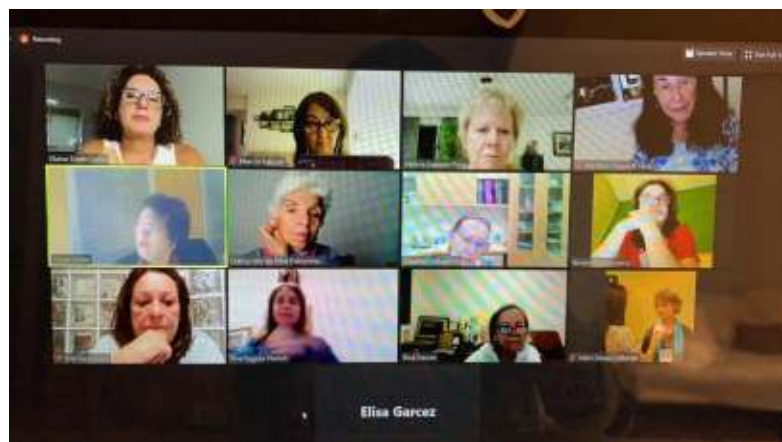


06/28 - “Assessment of lean and fat mass and visceral adipose tissue in women and men of the Brazilian population” (São Paulo, SP) – figure 1

07/08 “Side effects of long term hormonal therapy at the transgender population” (São Paulo, SP) –



figure 2 and 3



07/22 “Dietetic recommendations aiming at preventing chronic diseases and aging” (São Paulo, SP)
- figure 4



09/08 “Changes in feeding behavior during the pandemics”, the first online event organized by the ABMM section in the State of Paraná” (City of Curitiba).

09/25 “XXII Brazilian Congress of Cancerology 2020” (figure 7), coordinated by Dr Nise Yamaguchi, from ABMM;



iii. **Virtual Scientific Meetings of the Panamanian Medical Women’s Association (ASOMEPA):** series of 6 weekly online events on “Lessons from the Covid-19 pandemics period”, on 08/06, 08/13, 08/20, 08/27, 09/03 and 09/10, with the participation not only of medical doctors from Panamá, but also from other Latin American countries, such as Brazil and Peru. ASOMEPA is a very dynamic society, with active participation of many outstanding medical doctors (figures 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12).



Figure 8



Figure 9

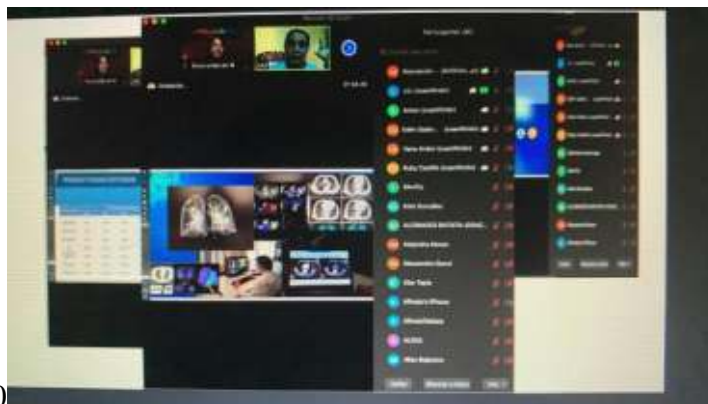


Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12

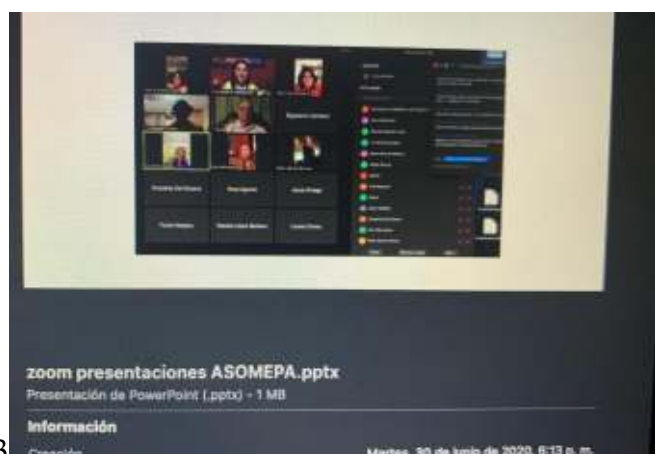


Figure 13



Figure 14

iv. Awards and Honors:

Dr. Nelci Zanon Collange, ABMM elected president, took oath as a member of the Academy of Medicine of State of São Paulo (8/17)

v. Participation in Events:

Dr. Elizabeth Giunco Alexandre, current ABMM president, was an attendee of the European Congress of Cardiology - The Digital Experience on 08/30/20

Sex and Gender Health Education Summit 2020 - virtual – sponsored by Thomas Jefferson University, AMWA, Laura Bush Institute for Women Health and Mayo Clinics on Sept 11 to 13 which was attended by Drs. Marilene Mello, Elizabeth Giunco Alexandre, Fatima Abreu and Anna Maria Martits, all from the ABMM executive board.

Dr. Nise Yamaguchi will be the President of the 22nd Brazilian Congress of Oncology that will be held in São Paulo on Sept 25 - 26.

Other ASOMEPA activities

ASOMEPA has regularly promoted continuous education activities for its members, as well as encouraged them to get involved in virtual social living and exchange of professional experience among the members. This Association current board has also developed psychological support for family members of medical doctors and other professionals who died due to Covid-19. The Panamanian colleagues have also developed philanthropic actions in order to help particularly elderly persons living in nursing homes (Figures 13 and 14)



Figure 15



Figure 16

List of the members of the Medical Women's Association in Peru

REBECA KUNIYOSHI KIYAN kuniyoshi.rebeca@gmail.com
MARLENE LEON BARROS draleon24@yahoo.com (current president)
YOLANDA BAZAN CASARETO yc_bazan@yahoo.es
MARIA JESUS ROJAS QUINTANA rojasmariajesus14@gmail.com
LUISA URIBE HERNANDEZ uribeluisa@hotmail.com
AMANDA CASTILLO MALPARTIDA acm1906@hotmail.com
MILAGROS TOLEDO CASTILLO militc2@yahoo.es
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ROSA MAITA ZEGARRA rb_maitazegarra@hotmail.com
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HILDA LAU LI hildalauli@yahoo.com
BERTHA CASTRO SALAZAR berthacastros@yahoo.com
MARIA ANGULO JAVE marianaja@yahoo.com
ROSA FALCONI SANDOVAL rosafalconi@yahoo.com
HELENA TIMOTEO QUISPE helentimq@hotmail.com
MARTHA RONDON RONDON mbrondon@gmail.com
LUZMILA MOLINA ROJAS – not available
PAULA LUGO VALENZUELA pediatricorazon@yahoo.es

Sao Paulo, September 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Magda Carneiro-Sampaio', with a long horizontal line underneath.

Prof. Magda Carneiro-Sampaio, MD, PhD

F. Report from Near East and Africa Region

Dr. Christine Sadia –Vice President (Near East and Africa Region)

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone Medical Women's Association, a member of the Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) was founded in 1974. Records show that our founding mothers (the likes of Dr. Olayinka Koso- Thomas and Dr. Ola During) were very active in MWIA and impacted MWIA in diverse ways. They attended numerous conferences and made presentations.

Sadly, as years went by, the association became dormant as our founding mothers became challenged health wise with little means of continuity. This was because of the numerous socio-economic instabilities we experienced as a nation. These instabilities included but not limited to the 10 years old civil war in the 1990s, the Ebola Outbreak in 2014- 2016, the mudslide in 2017, etc. These lead to a mass relocation of medical workers to other countries with the association becoming inactive.

Notwithstanding, recently, the younger female medical generation has come together to rekindle the membership and continue the strides taken by our founding mothers. A relaunching ceremony (partly virtual) is being scheduled for **7th November 2020**. We are cordially inviting you and your association and will be delighted if we have a statement from the Medical Women's International Association. Details of the ceremony will be communicated to you later.

Dr. Melvina Thompson Secretary General, Sierra Leone Medical Women's Association

Welcome message from VP NEAR

Dr. Melvina Thompson

Congratulations from the Office of the Regional Vice President for Near East and Africa. It is with utmost heartfelt joy as we receive you to join the rest of sister National Associations in the Region. I take note with special gratitude the efforts of young medical colleagues in their great efforts and we highly congratulate all sisters in Sierra Leone. We are aware of the challenges Sierra Leone has gone through and we stand in solidarity with the strong women of Sierra Leone. On a personal note, I am willing to connect you with some of the sisters within the UN Country Office in your country when this support is needed.

We look forward as a Region to support in any way possible as you plan for the launch. We pray and wish you all the very best as you lift up the banner of women doctors in Sierra Leone.

Looking forward to connecting with you soon. Please share the telephone contacts of your leadership for inclusion in our regional communication platforms which are being completed shortly, so that we can connect better.

Dr. Christine Sadia – Regional Vice President (NEAR)

G. Report from Central – Asia

Dr Mandakini Megh Vice President, Central Asia

Dear MWIA Friends,

For the past six months the entire world is going through turbulent and unsettling times. The world has seen unforeseen challenges regarding our health, our well-being, and our work as physicians. We all are facing an unprecedented global challenge still doing our best in most critical time of our lives and profession. Let us move, stand up and rise to the challenges of COVID-19 and beyond! Wishing you all the best in coming months, I am presenting report of Central Asia.

Dr. Usha Saraiya, our Honorary member was felicitated on Teacher's Day by Bengal O&G Society for her commitment to teaching and inspiring generations of Students.

Under the leadership of Vice President MWIA Central Asia Dr Mandakini Megh Lecture series on “POPULATION STABILISATION” was conducted on 22nd July 2020. The program was inaugurated by Dr Usha Saraiya Honorary member of MWIA. It was a hugely successful program.

ICOG LECTURE SERIES
IN COLLABORATION WITH
AMOGS
ON
“POPULATION STABILISATION”
ADDRESSING CONTRACEPTIVE NEEDS WITH
ACCESSIBILITY OF SAFE ABORTION SERVICES
IN COUNTRY
DATE : 22ND JULY, 2020 TIME : 4 PM to 7 PM
ICOG CREDIT POINTS -02

Dr Mandakini Megh
CHAIRPERSON, ICOG

Dr Alpesh Gandhi
PRESIDENT, FOGSI

Dr Nandita Palshetkar
PRESIDENT, AMOGS

Prof Bharti Maheshwari
COURSE COORDINATOR
FOGSI MTP COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON
drbhartimaheshwarimtp20@gmail.com
Ph no. 9927856780

Vice President MWIA Central Asia Dr Mandakini Megh has conducted an Online Certificate and Lecture series on ULTRASOUND IN OBGYN with ICOG from 3rd-5th August 2020. “POPULATION STABILISATION” & “ULTRASOUND IN OBGYN” both the program were inaugurated by Dr Usha Saraiya Honorary member of MWIA.

FOGSI-ICOG series of Online Certification and Lecture series
ICOG CERTIFICATE & ONLINE LECTURE SERIES
ON
ULTRASOUND IN OBGYN
06 ICOG CREDIT POINTS
3RD, 4TH, 5TH AUGUST 2020

DR ALPESH GANDHI
FOGSI PRESIDENT

DR USHA SARAIYA
CHIEF GUEST

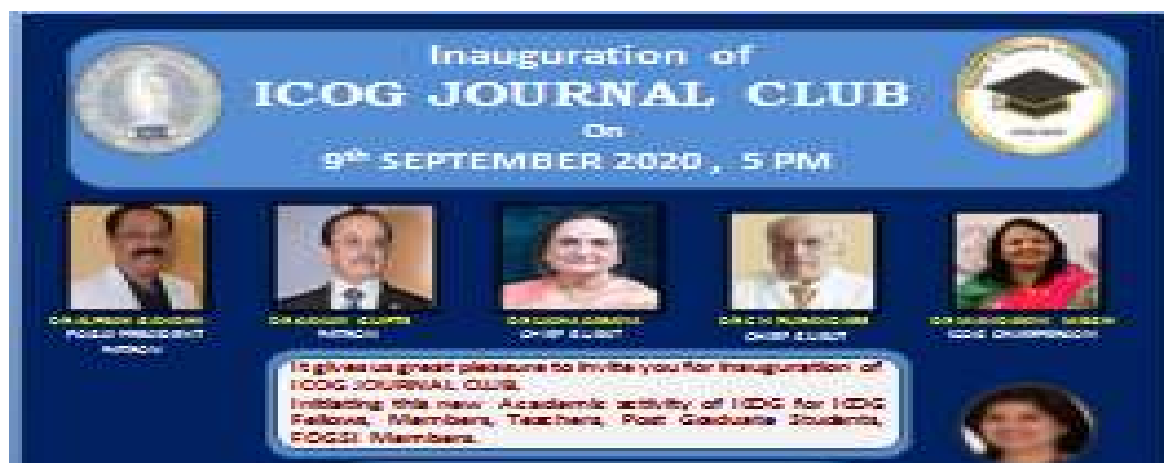
DR MANDAKINI MEGH
ICOG CHAIRPERSON

COURSE COORDINATOR
DR ARCHANA BASER
VP FOGSI

DR PARUL MOTDAWALA
ICOG VICE CHAIRPERSON

With the initiative and under the guidance of Dr. Mandakini Megh ICOG Journal Club has launched on 9th September 2020.

It is a very meaningful activity for student- regular online Journal club.



Virtual event for Beijing Platform for Action BPfA Confirmation was organized and moderated by MWIA Secretary-General Dr Padmini Murthy and MWIA President Dr Eleanor Nwadinobi. Event was successful with large participants, Dr Usha Saraiya, Dr Mandakini Megh, Dr Yamini Alsi, Dr Mrudul Chande, Dr Pushpa Thorat many other AMWI members has took part in this virtual event.

Report of AMWI , INDIA



President Dr Yamini Alsi

Association Of Medical Women In India organized a Council meeting on 06-06-2020. Members from all branches attended the meeting in large number, total 28 people were logged in. President Dr Yamini Alsi welcomed the attendees. From change of Bank Signatories, printed copies and e-journal, encouraging young members to join the Association and CARC Conference which will be clubbed with Annual Conference ; various topics were discussed. Vote of thanks were given by Dr Nalini Kurvey, secretary AMWI.

Report of Nagpur branch Dr Mridul Chande



Greetings from Association of Medical Women, Nagpur!

Pray for each one's safety & good health in present Covid-19 pandemic, a crisis.

On 29th July 2020 - We started our monsoon session on a mood elevating note.

A unique e Cultural Bonanza to cheer up our members who were relentlessly fighting against Covid-19 pandemic.

A whopping number of 22 members participated in the event.

It gives an opportunity to present their talents in music, dance, and drama.! Its energized and motivated them.

It was a vibrant cultural programme and highly appreciated.



On 4th August 2020- Youth is the future of our nation. Keeping this in mind we organized a Webinar on 'Nutrition for "Child's Body & Mind"'. Expert gynaecologist, paediatrician and psychiatrist took part in this webinar deliberated their respective stances.

On 17th August 2020 - An interesting and important webinar on "Menopause" was organized. The panelists discussed all things menopause related in this webinar that gives a broad overview of menopause, looking at symptoms, diagnosis, treatment and self-care and support.

On 24th August 2020- A webinar was organized on "Nutrition in pregnancy in COVID-19 Era", Protecting maternal nutrition in the context of COVID-19 is most vital component.

Then we had deliberation on Eye Care in menopause. Which is very much beneficial in all aspects as most of us were hardly aware of those!

On 5th September 2020- Fibroid are real troublemakers in the uterus of a woman, accept when they are asymptomatic. But when symptomatic, these fibroids are very painful.

We organised a panel discussion on "Medical Management of Fibroids"

In this Panel discussion we have covered various aspects of IUGR and its challenges, management of IUGR and the most difficult question "When to deliver" was discussed in detail.

Topic 2 : Management of IUGR & when to Deliver

Dr. Alka Mukherjee
Secretary AMWN, ISOPARB, Human Rights
President ELECT NOGS

Dr. Nalini Kurve
Chairperson

Dr. Sangeeta Tappur
Chairperson

Dr. Yamini Alsi
Chairperson

Agenda

- Welcome by President NARCHI : Dr. Ujjwala Deshmukh
- Panel Discussion in Fibroid Management : 4:15 PM to 5:00 PM
- Management of IUGR & when to Deliver : 5:00 PM to 5:30 PM
- Q & A : 5:30 PM to 5:45 PM
- Coordinator : Dr. Mrudul Chaudhary, Dr. Ujjwala Kedare, Dr. Pragati Khathkar
- Vote of Thanks : Dr. Sheela Jain & Dr. Alka Mukherjee

On 8th September 2020 - Doctors are bogged down by so many issues including Medico-legal in addition to day to day stress of managing serious patients. The speakers were well known faculties, experts in medico-legal aspect of medical world.

All the webinars were well attended and highly appreciated.

The unique multi-disciplinary fabric of our organisation gives us an opportunity to take care of women in holistic manner.

Report of Kolkata branch by Dr Bulbul Raichoudhuri



The West Bengal branch is at present running the pediatric immunization clinic thrice a week and about 75 children are being attended to.

Report of Mumbai branch by Dr Geetha Balsarkar



On 25th July 2020 AGM was held on Zoom. Along with AGM, Dr. Abha Nagral gave a lecture on liver disorders and prevention as it was WORLD HEPATITIS DAY.

On 5th August, there was a postgraduate lecture taken by Dr. Geetha Balsarkar on contraception. Hope everyone stays safe and healthy.

Thailand

Report from Thai Medical Women's Association (TMWA)

On July 31 to August 2, 2020 the outing trip and concluded session of 3rd Leadership program in Prachinburi provinces. Visiting the Chao Phraya Abhaibhubejhr hospital and Thai Traditional Medicine, Ted Talk from each participant. The success of Leadership and empower medical women team!!!



On August 22, 2020 TMWA committee attended the Medical Women's International Association - Women Doctors Around the World: Advocates for Women's Empowerment (A virtual meeting to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of BfPA)



Two women are shown in a video call. One woman is wearing a purple top and the other is wearing a green top.

The Thai Medical Women's Association (TMWA) Under The Royal Patronage of Her Majesty The Queen

The 33rd Executive Committee 2019-2020

President	Vice President 1	Vice President 2
Jantira Chemsavasin MD.	Khun Swanya Daj-Cléon MD.	Clin. Prof. Siraporn Sawandharn MD.
Secretary	Treasurer	Foreign affairs
Mayura Kusum MD.	Pornwuthai Suraporn MD.	Darunee Budhan MD.
		Piyonori Sukhapanayakha MD.

TEAM MORAL WISDOM ALTRUISM

The Thai Medical Women's Association (TMWA) Under The Royal Patronage of Her Majesty The Queen

Current Activities- Women and health

- Early detection of Female Cancer: Screening of Cancer of Cervix, Breast tumor twice a month at TMWA clinic
- Elderly Club: Support the voluntary elderly to perform health and social activities



The Thai Medical Women's Association (TMWA) Under The Royal Patronage of Her Majesty The Queen

Education and training of women

- Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women
- Women in power and decision-making
- TMWA Scholarship Program for Female Medical Students: A monetary grant that does not require repayment, to select financially needy and academically promising students who want to return to their homes in the provinces after graduation
- TMWA Leadership Program: to develop and empower medical women into the outstanding and effective leadership



The Thai Medical Women's Association (TMWA) Under The Royal Patronage of Her Majesty The Queen

The girl child and Human rights of women

Teenage Pregnancy Initiative Project

Objective: To advocate and support the government agencies in solving and preventing the teenage pregnancy

- Coordinate and Strengthening the working network between government agencies, communities, local administrative and private organization



On September 3, 2020 TMWA Teenage Pregnancy committee in collaboration with Nakornsawan Teenage Pregnancy committee and Mahidol University (Nakornsawan campus) arranged the

meeting to progress the working of ‘The Integrated Prevention and Solution for Teenage Pregnancy’ This will be the model for other provinces in Thailand.



H. Report from Western Pacific:

Dr. Desiree Yap VP Western Pacific

The Western Pacific Region has been busy – and not just with COVID-19 although this has presented challenges to all countries in the region.

We held a successful regional webinar on August 8 2020 and will hold a scientific symposium on October 10 2020 as we had had to reschedule our Regional conference which was due to be held this weekend. Our symposium is open to all MWIA members and the theme is: COVID 19 EXPERIENCE IN DEPTH IN THE MWIA WESTERN PACIFIC REGION: A VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM. This symposium is being hosted by the Korean Medical Women's Association. Our annual business meeting will be held on the same day.

As a region we are keen to invigorate our y-MWIA eligible members and are undertaking some activities to support this group.

Our regional meeting has been postponed to August 19-21, 2021 and will be held in Seoul Korea.

Australia

AFMW- Australian Federation of medical Women

National members:

Current representatives:

AFMW President: Assoc Professor Deborah Colville

FMW Treasurer: Dr Marissa Daniels

AFMW National Coordinator: Dr Magdalena Simonis

AFMW Secretary: Dr Marjorie Cross

Next Annual General Meeting: November 7th, 2020 - With a planned scientific meeting on the same day.

Next Annual General Meeting: November 7th, 2020

- With a planned scientific meeting on the same day.

November 8th triennial AFMW Council Meeting

News of members:

Deaths: Dr Gytha Betheras, died 30th July 2020, Victoria, Australia.

Dr Robyn Hewland, died 13th June 2020, Christchurch New Zealand.

Membership activities:

1. Weekly Saturday open forum – informal new initiative for AFMW:

Provides opportunity for members to discuss matters that are current and affecting our medical women and communities we serve. How we can impact

- change and advocate for women during times of crisis. Actions agreed on, reviewed at Tuesday morning meetings with executive.
 - COVID 19 - Impacts on General Practice and GP frontline issues in primary care 15/08/2020; other topics also covered yAFMW initiatives, masks and fit testing.
2. AFMW Governance group: constitutional change recommended to hold November AGM electronically in view of COVID-19 and current State of Disaster declared in Victoria. Ongoing – exploring ideas to improve AFMW Governance through Constitutional review
 3. Tasks arising from, associated with “Black lives Matter” Open Forum Saturday 13th
 - Reconciliation Action Plan ongoing. Reflection stage of this process
 - Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP): AFMW developing a RAP process and review of wording of Constitution to identify the Reconciliation Action Plan- foreshadowing the centrality of an Aboriginal woman medical practitioner on Council. Develop a collection of resources for accessing.
 - See attachment: [New RAP Impact report out now](#)
 4. Open Forum run by yAFMW: **An Introduction to "Young AFMW"**
 - (i). Introductions: What is "Young AFMW"
 - (ii) Professional/training issues and how can AFMW support yAFMW and vice versa topics:
 - time management: study, work, research, caring
 - breastfeeding, child-care access while working
 - career options and progression
 - flexible training
 - cyber security, social media
 - AFMW and MWIA opportunities: meetings, committee, leadership, research, other
 - (iii) What patient and community health and wellbeing issues are important
 - (iv) How can yAFMW help advance medical women's societies?
 - Intergenerational Issues being explored
 5. Job share initiative Victoria, being discussed at National level: opportunity for expansion
 6. Climate Change: DIVESTMENT and a submission to Federal Government on environmental laws. We aim for economic recovery post COVID 19 to harness the
 1. opportunity to transition away from fossil fuels, to renewable energy; investing in green infrastructure and public transport and projects that help protect our natural

environment. This is supported jointly by 75% of all doctors in Australia: AMA, RACGP, RACP, ACEM, RANZCP, RANZCOG, ACRRM, CICM, AMSA. We have called upon the Prime Minister to prioritise public health in its economic stimulus package, which demands action on climate change highlighting the urgency of the problem. This discussion is now mainstream.

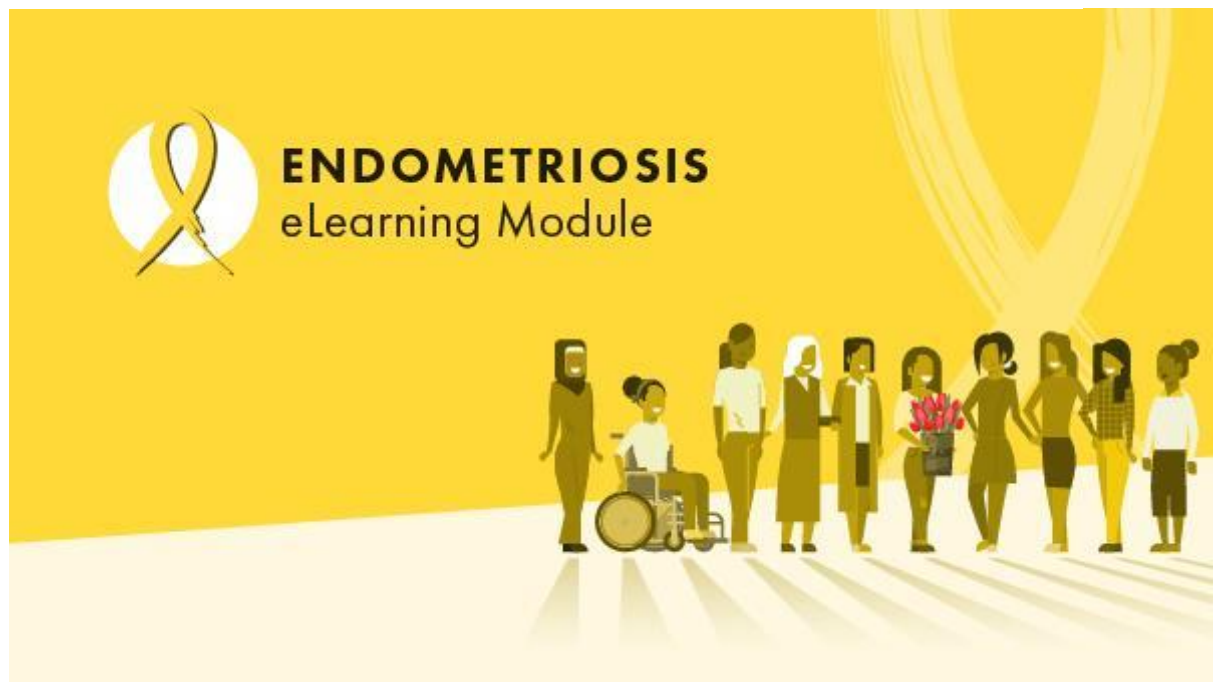
7. Articles by members:

[Study links hot flushes, night sweats to CVD in women](https://www1.racgp.org.au/newsgp/clinical/study-links-hot-flushes-night-sweats-to-cvd-in-women?utm_source=racgpnewsgpnewsletter&utm_campaign=newsgpedm&utm_medium=email)
https://www1.racgp.org.au/newsgp/clinical/study-links-hot-flushes-night-sweats-to-cvd-in-women?utm_source=racgpnewsgpnewsletter&utm_campaign=newsgpedm&utm_medium=email
[Metabolic coenzyme shows promise for improved egg quality](https://www1.racgp.org.au/newsgp/clinical/metabolic-coenzyme-shows-promise-for-improved-egg)
<https://www1.racgp.org.au/newsgp/clinical/metabolic-coenzyme-shows-promise-for-improved-egg>
[COVID-19 and expectant mothers: ‘Assume this is dangerous to her and her child’](https://www1.racgp.org.au/newsgp/clinical/covid-19-and-expectant-mothers-assume-this-is-dang)
<https://www1.racgp.org.au/newsgp/clinical/covid-19-and-expectant-mothers-assume-this-is-dang>

8. Other: to be distributed and shared.

Endometriosis – download Raising Awareness Tool for Endometriosis (RATE)

9. eLearning



New! Endometriosis eLearning Module and Awareness Tool

Over 700 000 Australians and New Zealanders have endometriosis. It takes up to 12 years for a diagnosis. Learn to diagnose faster and manage symptoms more effectively for better patient outcomes with the Endometriosis module. Free, and available for all trainees and fellows interested in refreshing their knowledge on endometriosis. Complete it now via [CLIMATE](#) (RANZCOG username and password required or create an account).

National Advocacy Priorities:

- Generation of 2 COVID 19 website statements from our perspective as medical women.
- Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP): AFMW applied to become an affiliated organisation of the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association. Review of wording of Constitution to identify the Reconciliation Action Plan-foreshadowing the centrality of an Aboriginal woman medical practitioner on Council. Develop a collection of resources for accessing.
- See attachment: [New RAP Impact report out now](#)
- Climate Crisis action through advocacy and Doctors for the Environment

National Projects and Research:

1. SPHERE COVID-19 Coalition:

NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Sexual and Reproductive Health for Women in Primary Care (SPHERE) which AFMW is a supporter of, has received government funding to commence a five-year project ORIENT, that will test the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of a nurse-led model of care in general practice, to increase long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) uptake and improve access to early medical abortion services in rural and regional areas. The multidisciplinary ORIENT team comprises leading Australian and international researchers, in collaboration with patients and key primary care and rural sexual health stakeholders. These include the RACGP, Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association, and family planning organisations.

National association MWIA activities:

- promotion of MWIA nationally
- yAFMW Coordinated yWPMWIA meetings – two to date and will continue with ongoing engagement.
- Climate Health Emergency Resolution submission 2019: submission to MWIA to ratify Resolution on Climate Change and its effects on women's health at next MWIA Triennial Meeting.
- MWIA Resolution and call to action on FGM: August 27th, 2019. Proposing an additional clause to MWIA resolution No 3, Cessation of female genital mutilation

That MWIA resolution No 3, Cessation of female genital mutilation include a statement which reads as follows: 'Social media platforms such as Facebook, which permit the promotion of harmful acts such as female genital mutilation, become complicit in the promotion of human violation and abuse of children. Upon recognition of this fact, immediate withdrawal of the said promotion should be undertaken.'

- Scientific and Research Committee survey to members, Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) member survey of COVID-19 experiences as healthcare providers.
- MWIA Mentoring – Buddying Programme (MWIA – MBP): Mentoring- Leadership, in development.

National Plans for CSW/Other UN meetings: and the advocacy on ILO 190 and Sexual Harassment in workplace -

- Responded to by Victorian Medical Women's Society and AFMW
- Attendance annually at the CSW

National Plans for WHO:

- Contribution to WHO Special Interest Group meeting
- Attendance at World health Assembly (WHA) COVID-19 Address, May 2020 attended by 10 AFMW members.

National Photographs:

Zoom session Primary Care COVID response August 15th, 2020/Leadership forum





China

Quarterly Update of China Medical Women Association Q3, 2020

CMWA Key Indicators (YTD Q3, 2020)

- Number of Current Representatives: **49,421**
- Number of National/provincial Sub-societies: **48**
- Number of National Research Centre: **2**

Member Activities	Description
Actively contain the spread of COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coronavirus is raging all over the world, and lives are being lost every day. In the face of this serious crisis, CMWA has responded actively to roll out all the possible channels to be part of the strength to fight against COVID-19.• CMWA members fearlessly joined the National Emergency Rescue Medical Team to take over and to support the medical care in Wuhan, Heilongjiang and Jilin, where were the COVID-19 pandemic areas. CMWA doctors also traveled thousands of miles to Europe and Africa to help local healthcare professionals to provide vital medical care to local patients.• CMWA experts took the leadership in conducting COVID-19 related clinical studies, issuing clinical guidelines to improve the understanding of the virus and to promote the clinical experience to benefit the patients, i.e. Prof. Qiao Jie conducted multidisciplinary clinical research focusing on the maternal/new born baby safety. Prof. Zhang Lina, critical care expert from Xiangya Hospital, published national guideline in clinical ultrasonography application of COVID-19 pneumonia.• CMWA sub-societies and provincial branch associations also called for donations to support with medical equipment and PPE with warm response among members.

<p>Share & exchange updated scientific experience of COVID-19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMWA has actively conducted numerous virtual meetings with national/international medical communities, to share updated COVID-19 information and experience. • Joint effort between CMWA members and other scientific organizations were recognised. • China Association for Science and Technology, and Chinese Medical Association have jointly put in place a COVID-19 Academic Research Communication Platform for worldwide researchers to release results and participate in discussion. By May 31, a total of 104 journals and 970 papers and reports had been posted. • Chinese Academy of Sciences has released the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Resource database and built the Novel Coronavirus National Science and Technology Resource Service System and the COVID-19 Pneumonia Scientific Literature Sharing Platform. As of May 31, the three platforms had provided nearly 48 million downloads, browsing and retrieval services to more than 370,000 users worldwide. • China has established an international pool of experts and has cooperated with other countries in vaccine and medicine research and development. Chinese scientists, medical institutions, and disease control centers have published dozens of well-researched papers in some of the world's leading academic journals such as The Lancet, Science, Nature, The New England Journal of Medicine and etc. • Medicine research and development, and experimental results of vaccines on animals. To accelerate the development of vaccines and the clinical trials of medicines, China has also carried out cooperation in scientific research with other countries, and with such organizations as the WHO, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation and the Global Alliance for Vaccines.
<p>Sustain CMWA development, strengthen cooperation with MWIA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMWA will keep grow and develop to support Chinese female health care professionals. • Membership fee collection was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Along with the ease of lockdowns, CMWA has promptly informed all the sub-societies and provincial associations to complete the fee collection with bank transfer to MWIA.

- **Next annual national meeting: 11-12 September 2021**

- **National Advocacy Priorities:**
 1. Publicizing the issue of latest development of CMWA and its branches.
 2. Promote 'Her Stories' in the clinical front line for Taking care and supporting female doctors.
 3. Broadcasting our official accounts on leading social media i.e. WeChat, Weibo and etc.

- **National Projects and Research:**
 1. Science Popularization Education Activities: focusing on women's health, maternal and child health care, psychological counseling, rehabilitation, nutrition, chronic diseases, diseases of the elderly, etc. This national campaign was joined by 350,000 people, through major websites including SINA, SOHU, TECENT and etc.
 2. Program for Female Doctors 'Career Development': 30 female medical professionals who joined rescue operations of COVID-19, would have short-term education exchanges in China or overseas.
 3. Bringing Up Health Assistance to the Remote and Developing Regions: Benefiting approx. 100,000 people by in-depth supporting rural clinics and establishing remote-consultation network in western region of China, combined with online/off-line science popularization education activities

- **National association MWIA activities:**

- **National Plans for CSW/Other UN meetings:**

- **National Plans for WHO:**

- **National Photographs: Pictures of Annual Congress of CMWA, 12 SEP. 2020, Beijing**





Hong Kong

National members: Hong Kong Women Doctors Association

Current representatives:

Dr Cissy YU, President

Dr IP Wing Yuk, National Coordinator

Dr Amy KEUNG, National Coordinator

News of members/ membership activities:

HKWDA has been invited by the International Social Service (ISS) Hong Kong Branch to deliver the online talks for women in the community, to enhance their knowledge during COVID-19. The online talk was held in July 2020 via Zoom. Dr Mandy Ng, Chairlady of Community Service Committee delivered the topic 'Healthcare System in Hong Kong' and Dr Bonnie Wong delivered the topic 'Current situation and Prevention of COVID-19'.

Next annual national meeting: 23 October 2020

National Projects and Research:

Adoption of integrated behavioural model with technology as an enabler of community mobilisation and support for promoting cervical screening behavior

National association MWIA activities:

1. Dr Cissy Yu, President of HKWDA, Dr Josephine Ip and Dr Amy Keung, National Coordinators, Dr Sarah Chan and our Student Members, Kristy Yim, Christine Ho and Emily Leung participated, gave views and presented to the WPR Open Forum via Zoom on 8 August 2020.
2. MWIA Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) was held on 22 August 2020. Dr Cissy Yu joined the Zoom Meeting. HKWDA submitted reports on achievements of BPfA - Women and Health, Women and Education to Vice President, Western Pacific Region.

National Photographs:



MWIA Western Pacific Region Open Forum via Zoom on 8 Aug 2020

Japan

National members: Japan Medical Women's Association

Current representatives: Tomoko Otani M.D

News of members/ membership activities:

1. Since 2007, we have held a symposium on gender equality once a year.

Japan is a gender inequality country with 121st out of 153 countries in GGGI. Especially in the political field, the ranking is 144th, which is near the bottom, and realization of gender equality in politics is urgent. Therefore, this year, we will hold a symposium on October 3rd, entitled "Democracy to think with female newspaper reporters." Based on the spread of COVID-19, we will hold it online this time and release it on YouTube later. We look forward to this symposium as it will be the first web symposium for the JMWA.

2. Western Pacific Zoom Conference: The first Zoom conference was held on 8/8/2020, centered on the chairman or NC of each country. 34 people from Australia, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Philippines, New Zealand, Mongolia, Taiwan participated. From Japan, Yoshiko Maeda participated as NC. Introducing countries, benefits of belonging to the Western Pacific region, ways to increase the participation of young members, virtual symposium scheduled to be held on 10/10, holding regular Zoom meetings in the future, International Women's Medical Association on August 22nd We discussed the matters reported at the Zoom conference. I proposed to exchange information and conduct a survey in the Western Pacific region regarding the impact of COVID-19.

3. Virtual conference in commemoration of the MWIA "Beijing + 25": A Zoom conference was held on August 22, 2020 entitled "Female doctors from all over the world: advocating for women's empowerment," and Yoshiko Maeda from Japan joined as NC.

On September 8, 2020, Yoshiko Maeda (NC) interviewed Representative Kenta Izumi of the opposition Democratic Party and expressed his opinion to promote gender equality in the political field and gender equality in Japan. (Picture)

Next annual national meeting:

The 66th Annual General Meeting will be held on May 16th, 2021 in Utsunomiya City, Tochigi Prefecture, Japan

National Photographs:

Yoshiko Maeda (NC) is second from the left, and Kenta Izumi (Parliamentarian) is fourth from the left.



Republic of Korea

We have no special issue in this period.

Mongolia MWIA

Apologies for the silence. No presentation from Mongolia this time. Very busy with the new academic year start. In general, the language barrier is an issue too. Reorganizing the Mongolian MWA is challenging but underway. The current pandemic situation makes things even slower and more uncertain. I will get back to you hopefully with better news.
Dr Nergui G

Philippines

No additional report from last update.

Taiwan

No additional report from last update.

Individual Members New Zealand

No additional report from last update.

8. REPORT FROM MWIA'S REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UN

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

Drs. Keswani and Murthy have been taking part in various Zoom and Microsoft team meetings organized by the various UN agencies and other NGOs as all the meetings have been virtual due to COVID. They have been representing MWIA at these events to ensure the participation from MWIA. The upcoming CSW meeting in 2021 will also be a virtual one. The link to view the proceedings of the 75th UN General Assembly are posted below. These meetings can be accessed on UN web TV

<http://webtv.un.org/live-now/watch/high-level-meeting-to-commemorate-the-seventy-fifth-anniversary-of-the-united-nations-general-assembly-3rd-plenary-meeting-75th-session/5970440811001#.X2jEWSzudhc.facebook>

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

2010-2021*

(*Please note due to COVID Crisis the dates of these meetings can be changed)

2020

North America

1.October 2-4, 2020 AGM and Conference in Vancouver British Columbia "Empowering Justice, Peace and Health 2020. Unfortunately, due to COVID this has been canceled

Near East and Africa

Due to the COVID Pandemic the Near East and African Regional Congress has been moved to March 2021.The abstract submission deadline is moved to July 31, 2020. Abstracts on COVID 19 are allowed till December 2020

Western Pacific



MWIA WESTERN PACIFIC REGION
AND THE KOREAN MEDICAL
WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION INVITE YOU
TO

COVID 19 EXPERIENCE IN THE MWIA WESTERN PACIFIC REGION: A VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM

SAT PM OCT 10, 2020

Register here:

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/
WN_fPFNYlxYRRmjhAbozMboFQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fPFNYlxYRRmjhAbozMboFQ)

HOSTED BY THE KOREAN MEDICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION AND MWIA WPR!

MWIA WPR Member Countries:

Australia	China
Hong Kong	Japan
Mongolia	Korea
Philippines	Taiwan
Individual members (NZ)	

MWIAWPR Annual Business Meeting:

Western Pacific members only - observers welcome! – hear the member nations report their activities and deliberate how MWIA can better support the region: link to follow

MWIA WPR Scientific Symposium:

Two eminent Korean Medical Women then representatives from each member nation will present for 15 minutes on an aspect of COVID 19 and its impact plus a presentation from the y- MWIA WPR membership

MWIA WPR Annual Business meeting:

Auckland 16:30 – 17:30

Australian Eastern Standard Time* 14:30 – 15:30

Seoul, Tokyo 13:30 – 14:30

Beijing, Hong Kong, Manila, Taipei 12:30-13:30

WPR Observers welcome

*NB Some Australians will have Daylight Savings!

Registration details will be circulated separately

MWIA WPR Scientific Symposium:

Auckland 17:30 – 20:00

Australian Eastern Standard Time* 15:30 – 18:00

Seoul, Tokyo 14:30 – 17:00:00

Beijing, Hong Kong, Manila, Taipei 13:30-16:30

*NB Some Australians will have Daylight Savings!

2021

Northern Europe

The new date for the Northern Europe regional meeting is May 7th-9th, 2021

Central Asia

Mumbai

The Central Asia Regional conference will be held on 27TH-28TH March 2021 at Trident Hotel Nariman Point, Mumbai and whether the meeting format is virtual or in person or hybrid meeting will be conveyed later.

Western Pacific



10. Publications / News Updates

1. <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/23-09-2020-covid-19-pandemic-countries-urged-to-take-stronger-action-to-stop-spread-of-harmful-information>
2. <https://www.unfpa.org/swop>
3. <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/conflict-climate-crisis-and-covid-19-pose-great-threats-health-women-and-children>
4. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/feature-covid-19-economic-impacts-on-women>
5. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/in-focus-gender-equality-in-covid-19-response/violence-against-women-during-covid-19>

II. Announcements

Felicitations and Awards

Included under the regional reports Congrats to all the recipients and awardees