

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MWIA



Update

No.84 December 2020

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

Facebook group

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

yMWIA facebook group

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

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II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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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



This December update is an opportunity for me to commemorate my first year in office for which I am grateful to God. Looking back, it has been a very interesting year of learning, successes and challenges, not least the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This quarter has been a very busy one for me in my role as President, and it is my pleasure to share some exciting highlights.

On the 1st of October, following advocacy by MWIA through MWAN Abia State, the Governor of my home state signed the Violence Against Person Prohibition Act into law. This is evidence of the power of advocacy.

<https://dailytrust.com/abia-passes-anti-violence-law-redefines-rape-for-males>

On the 2nd of October, it was a delight to share the stage with Women leaders who came together to condemn violence against women and girls under the auspices of Global Rights for Women, an NGO that works with leaders around the world to advance women and girls' human right to live free from violence through legal reform and institutional and social change.

Hilary Clinton, former US Secretary of State, renewed the call to end violence against women and girls.



Judge Rosemarie Aquilina who presided over the gymnastics sexual abuse case and secured a sentence for 175 years jail term for Larry Nassar, said allowing people to tell their stories moves healing forward”.

Ruthie Cecelia Foster an American singer-songwriter of blues and folk music gave a beautiful song rendition of Phenomenal Woman a poem by Maya Angelou.

The gratitude video can be watched on <https://youtu.be/jLvIBUVyH60>

Thank you to all who joined me in cervical prevention activities on the 5th of October .

I was invited to give the welcome address for Medical Women’s International Association (MWIA) Western Pacific Region (WPR) and the Korean Medical Women’s Association (KMWA), the Western Pacific Scientific Symposium of MWIA October 10, 2020 in lieu of the planned Western Pacific Regional Conference which was planned for October 8-10, 2020 but has now been postponed to August 19-21, 2021. Bravo to all the organisers.

On the 20th of October 2020 there was a sad shooting of #endSARS peaceful protesters in Nigeria . I issued a statement which featured on trending.com.

<https://trendingng.com/statement-on-the-special-anti-robbery-squad-in-nigeria-and-the-brutal-killing-of-protesters-and-civilians/>

To mark the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR 1325) on Women, Peace and Security, I sent out a banner to our members around the globe



In a high-level event organized by the Joint UN Programme on Women, Natural Resources, Climate and Peace (UNEP, UN Women, UNDP, and PBSO/DPPA) and Sponsored by the Governments of Canada, Germany, Nauru, on November 10th, I was a panellist on Climate and Security: An Emerging Context of a New Era for Women, Peace and Security. Others in attendance were Ms. Åsa Regnér, Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Executive Director of UN Women; H.E. Mr. Bob Rae, Permanent Representative of Canada to the UN, Chair of the Group of Friends on Women, Peace and Security; H.E. Mr. Christoph Heusgen, Permanent Representative of Germany to the UN, Co-Chair of the Group of Friends on Climate and Security ;Mr. Henk-Jan Brinkman, Chief of Peacebuilding Strategy and Partnerships, World Bank

On the 17th of November I joined in the launch of a National situation room and data dashboard to end violence against women with the United Nations Deputy Secretary General in attendance. The picture shows us in a COVID - compliant elbow greeting.



I flagged -off of the 2020 16 days of activism on the 25th of November with the Federation of Medical Women of Canada (FMWC). Thank you to Dr. Charissa Patricelli, Dr Nahid Azad, Karen Breeck and FMWC members for the courtesy granted to me to pose some questions to Canada's first ever Ambassador of WPS - Jacqueline O'Neill.

On the 26th of November, I was part of a delegation of eminent women of Nigeria who paid a courtesy call to President Buhari. The advocacy visit was momentous as he announced a commitment for a treaty to end violence against women and girls thus “ In addition, at the global level, we will show our firm commitment to bring an end to the exponential rise of violence against women and girls, by supporting the Chair of the African Union President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa in his call for a treaty to end violence against women and girls at the African Union summit in February 2021 “. The press link can be found here <https://dr-eleanornwadinobi.com/media-links/>

On 28th November, I was special guest of honour and made opening remarks at the MWAN CSW 64 event with the theme, “Empowering Women, Adolescent Girls against Violent Practices, Stigma and Stereotypes”. It was a well-attended with truly enlightening contributions. Hearty congratulations to MWAN President Dr Minnie Oseji and her team.

On the 2nd of December, in a Webinar organised by MWIA Committee on Strategy and Advocacy hosted by Association of Medical Women in India, I gave the Chief Guest's address and speech on “The Role of Advocacy in the Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic”. I applaud the leadership of Dr Usha Saraiya and her team, and thank all the expert faculty, MWIA executive and members who attended from around the globe.

The Social Media Committee is doing a great job with the MWIA Visibility tracker and recently Dr Bev Johnson provided, preliminary data with early signs already showing that MWIA is increasing its visibility outside our Organisation. We are currently refining the process to ensure that we follow digital marketing principles.



On the 15th December, I have been invited to be a panelist Global Women 4 Wellbeing (GW4W) Heart to Heart conversation on Women, Leadership and Global Peace Building. connecting to create positive change by empowering more healthy female leadership at all levels for a more sustainable world. I invite you to sign up here: <https://www.gw4w.org/event/heart-to-heart-women-leadership-and-global-peacebuilding/>

It is with great pleasure that I announce the that our new MWIA website is live now and can be found under the link: <https://mwia.net>. I applaud the hard work of the MWIA webteam led by Prof Dr Dr Pleiderer and Dr Marissa Daniels.

As we come to the end of 2020, let me use this opportunity to wish you all Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays as we pray for a better Year in 2021!
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 since the past 9 months of confinement, confusion due to the COVID 19 catastrophe.

Like all of you it has been challenging working remotely and trying to balance work and personal life and stay safe. I have had the privilege of representing AMWA and MWIA at various webinars.

On November 20th I had the privilege of moderating a panel organized by the United Nations Department of Global Communication titled *Break the Chains* which focused on the horrific practice of shackling people with mental challenges. I have shared the u tube link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRj88qoR7ls&feature=youtu.be>

I have been recently elected as chair of the International health Section of the American Public Health Association which is one of the largest public health organizations in the world. I had the privilege of moderating a high level and well attended panel at the annual meeting of APHA in November which had various NGO representatives and members of academia including Dr Bettina Pfliegerer past president MWIA who discussed “Development of online training platform on domestic violence for police, health care and social sector “with a focus on Europe

I have been privileged to deliver remarks at the virtual CSW parallel event organized By MWAN on November 28th. On December 2nd I had the honor of moderating an excellent panel with members of MWIA the able leadership of Dr Usha Saraiya chair of MWIA Strategy and Advocacy committee and Dr Mandakini Megh VP Central Asia. In spite of the COVID restrictions its great that we continue to be connected virtually through technology even though most of us are suffering from zoom fatigue.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Drs Bettina Pfliegerer and Marissa Daniels for their commitment and dedication and herculean efforts which has resulted in MWIA’s new website www.mwia.net.

I would also like to inform you that we have introduced on our new webpage the opportunity to subscribe for our newsletter now <https://mwia.net/newsletter/> Starting in 2021 MWIA plans to send out short newsletters of 1-2 pages to inform members about new statements, MWIA activities and webinars.

I am excited to share my new book titled technology and Global Public health has just been



published and has contributors from 10 different countries.

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.

On a personal note, as we enter into a new decade I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to our long standing members Dr Satty Keswani, Dr Usha Saraiya, Dr Shelley Ross, Dr Flo Manguyu, Dr Kung Ah Park and Dr Christiane Pouliart for their mentorship and guidance to me and so many of us throughout the years.

Seasons Greetings, Best Wishes and Happy Holidays
Have a Healthy, Peaceful and Safe New Year!

Padmini Murthy MD, MPH
Secretary General MWIA.



Photograph: Courtesy Diane Bondareff/AP Images for Tishman Speyer

The famous NY Rockefeller X mas tree 2020

4.Contact information for MWIA:

Website: www.mwia.net

Email: secretariatmwia@gmail.com secretariat@mwia.net

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

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**

Treasurer piece for the December MWIA update by Dr Helen Goodyear



I have updated my photo to show even longer COVID hair!
As I write this, I have been in quarantine for the last 6 days having returned to the UK from over a month abroad. First of all 15 nights in Bermuda where it was just the right temperature with lots of walking and swims in the sea before being able to get to Denver in the USA to see my first grandchild.

You are not allowed into the USA unless you have spent 14 days out of Europe. All worked to plan, and we arrived on the day my grandson was born. It is very special belonging to the grandparent club and thank goodness for technology to keep in touch.

The MWIA
financial
statements for the
year 1st July 2019 to 30th June 2020 were signed off on the 19th October 2020.

Thank you to all associations and individual members who have paid dues. It is much appreciated. Please let the Secretary General and myself know when sending monies including for how many members as this can be difficult to work out due to bank charges being deducted. If there are reasons why it is difficult to pay let us know. Some countries and members have been in touch with me which is really helpful, and I have enjoyed corresponding with colleagues around the world.

A recent highlight was the webinar organised by the MWIA committee on strategy and advocacy and hosted by the Association of Medical Women in India. Many congratulations to Usha Saraiya and her team. It was an inspiring session and included a keynote address on Strategies for Advancement of Medical Women by Professor Dame Leslie Regan (UK). A panel discussion moderated by Mini, our Secretary General was highly informative. Excellent meetings have also been organised by ANWA and FMWC which I have benefitted from attending and is an advantage of virtual meetings, although times can be a challenge when living in different time zones.

I have had the privilege of being a judge marking the essays for the West Midlands (UK) regional compassion prize for foundation year one (first year of training) doctors. It has emphasised to me the need to support our trainees more than usual in these difficult times as their accounts of COVID 19 cases make emotive reading but at the same time show the resilience and care our newly qualified doctors give to patients in difficult circumstances and in a way that can take a number of years to develop prior to this pandemic.

We all have our hopes on the COVID vaccine to bring some normality to 2021. So far because of my trip abroad I have had 7 COVID tests over the last 6 weeks all of which I am pleased to say

are negative. I wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year and hope that you all have time off. Please contact me on helengoodyear@btconnect.com for any financial issues.



6. Message from MWIA Past President

Prof. Dr. Dr. Bettina Pfeiderer- Germany



Message of Past MWIA president Prof. Dr. Dr. Bettina Pfeiderer

The holidays season is approaching fast and an incredibly challenging year 2020 is coming to an end. We are all hoping that 2021 will be a different year, since there are several vaccines being developed and some of them are already emergency-approved. Currently, still many countries are in some form of lockdown or just came out of it and therefore most of our activities have been or are being conducted online and I attended - as everyone else, many meetings and webinars on behalf of MWIA. One of the main topics that surfaced - in addition to COVID-related challenges- was digitalization from various angles.

Doctors going digital....

At November 20,2020, I attended as MWIA's CPME representative, the joint conference of the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) and the German Medical Association entitled ***"Doctors going digital: How to future-proof skills?"*** Questions discussed were for example: How can we use new tools in digitalization such e.g., artificial intelligence to serve patients better? How does this relate to the treatment of patients? How do we train medical students to become digital competent and how can we ensure that the tools developed will serve the needs of practitioners and patients alike?

It was discussed that in addition to top-down measures, a strong bottom-up approach will be needed as well. Medical students are the drivers of change in digital health and need to be involved to use their innovative potential. National best practice and successful initiatives should be linked to global approaches "take the best of all worlds!" as driving force. Mandatory courses at medical schools including ethical questions related to digital health need to be implemented to combine knowledge of "different levels of competences".

There was also a broad agreement that one cannot stop at the institutional level; one needs to talk to those doing the day-to-day clinical work. For example, during the current pandemic, physicians had to adapt to a new strategy - from 100 % face-to-face meetings to 100 % digital visits in most cases; from basically seeing your physicians as patient to waiting as patient for your physician to call you or have a skype meeting!

During the pandemics, it became obvious that talking at the phone only or conducting online visits will not identify patients reliably which need to go to the hospital because important information about vital parameters such as blood oxygen levels, pulse rate and fever are not available. In addition, touch is of major importance in medical examinations and for developing a good patient-physician relationship. Therefore, best Apps or digital consultations cannot replace face-to-face patient contact. Best practices in the future will thus most likely include

hybrid models. Another challenge is how medicine can ensure that patients continue to trust their digital treating physician and don't lose confidence in the recommendations of their primary care physicians for example.

MWIA as global network of female physicians and female medical students must be in my opinion part of these discussions on digital health and should be spearheading best practices. We should not let other develop tools and draft guidelines without our input.

Development and launch of new MWIA webpage

Since our previous MWIA was outdated and dysfunctional, the MWIA executive decided to overhaul MWIA's webpage completely. MWIA's webmistress Dr. Marissa Daniels from Australia and I were tasked with this project as web-team. After months of hard work and several challenges, Marissa and I are thrilled that our new webpage finally went online on the 1st of

2020

under



December
and can be
accessed
https:

www.mwia.net. Please visit our new webpage and let us know how you like it!

Screenshot of the homepage our the new MWIA webpage (<https://www.mwia.net>)

Blog on cervical cancer

MWIA's SG Dr. Padmini Murthy and I co-drafted a joint blog on ***cervical cancer- a human rights violation***. Cervical cancer is a gendered disease. According to a report released by the World Health Organization in 2018, there were an estimated 570 000 women diagnosed with cervical cancer and 311,000 related deaths. More than 90% of cervical cancer mortality is in low- and mid-income countries.

The blog has been published at the "The Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)" website. UICC unites and supports the cancer community to reduce the global cancer burden, to promote greater equity, and to ensure that cancer control continues to be a priority in the world health and development agenda."

The link to entire blog post can be found here: <https://www.uicc.org/blog/cervical-cancer-violation-human-rights-women?fbclid=IwAR3Jl4xmyGSRwmTGX6sXIItutviovd7nsgsU2QlLGSUVGaqYJLZiWpnVnQ>

Last, but not least, I wish you all a happy holiday season with best wishes for a peaceful and prosperous New Year 2021. Please stay safe and healthy.

Thank you for supporting MWIA!

Reports from Regions

A. Central European Region

Dr Edith Schratzberger-Vecsei VP MWIA Central Europe

Central Europe is currently heavily affected by the second wave of the Covid-pandemic. In Austria, we have the worldwide highest numbers of new infections/day, Germany and Switzerland are doing a bit better. Many people are tired of the lockdown and with Christmas ahead, there seems to be no way to effectively fight the high numbers. For the medical system this means we are getting to our limits. The pandemic is affecting the work of our national associations and of all our members. There is not much time and energy for anything at the moment...

We do, however, have plans for a meeting in 2021. Germany, Switzerland and Austria are about to organize a joint conference which will also be the regional meeting of our MWIA region for this triennial. The topic is going to be 'borderline situations', - a pandemic and it's consequences. The idea is to take a closer look under a broader perspective, like the gender perspective, the perspective of sociology and of course under a medical perspective. Even if we are optimistic and hope for a vaccination soon, we cannot be sure at the moment, if our conference, which we scheduled from May 28th to May 30th will be possible. Still, the plannings bring back a bit of normality... For the upcoming conference our German colleagues took over the organization and planning, we agreed on a rotating responsibility for these conferences which we want to happen every second year.

Russia

Please find enclosed a report shared our Russian colleagues shared by Dr. Olga Goncharova — President of RMWA.

1. the Russian Association of women doctors pays great attention to the development of remote projects for doctors and for the population, which is relevant in the context of the pandemic. All projects are free for doctors and the public – this is our main approach to public work. Projects were created with our personal money, and only then the company began to help us a little, providing one-time assistance for support. Here is information about projects in English – we have already provided a link in the reports <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F8ufMDmLr0E>

2. we are developing a Remote School for parents on portals baby-inform.ru and baby-inform.com (now we are preparing a high-quality translation into English for the portal baby-inform.com). <http://baby-inform.ru/>

- On behalf of the Russian Association of women doctors, I held a meeting in the city Administration in the Novosibirsk region, where we recommended that the children's polyclinic

use the portal for the population, since it reflects all professional recommendations for parents about children's health. My speech was published in the Newspapers.

3. Also we created a remote project to assess the development of children <http://baby-inform.ru/parents/child-development-assessment-project/>, which allows parents to evaluate the child's development remotely using a special questionnaire created by us in the film "child Development" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2Kgum5ON0o&t=1126s> and on my lecture for parents about methods of rehabilitation of children <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5hLfnIj8So&t=73s>. This project to assess the development of children has been launched in Russia for one subject only, since it is necessary to process questionnaires – this is what my assistant does for his dissertation – so we are developing the project.

And the film and lecture are publicly available to everyone.

4. we, together with the regional branches of the Union of women doctors of Russia, held a remote conference with a Spanish clinic on new technologies for prevention and treatment of the population, dedicated to the International children's day on June 1, 2020, and recorded its video version, which is posted on our video channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulg00sWhZ20&t=1527s>.

5. we continue to improve the Remote project on medical and social programs of the Far East-together with the offices of the "Union of women doctors of Russia" in the far East <http://regions-inform.ru/>

6. Create remote project on systems of prevention in health care of Asia and Africa.

The project is being filled in with materials http://rmwa.ru/o-soyuze/project_goverment/mezhdunarodnaya-model-obmena-luchshimi-praktikami-v-oblasti-profilaktiki-i-reabilitatsii-naseleniya/

The idea of creating this project was born after my training at a 2-week seminar in Taiwan in 2019.

Given that the next Congress of the world Association of women doctors will be held in Taiwan, we will be able to develop this project for the Congress as a contribution of the Russian Association of women doctors to the Congress.

So far, we are only making it from authors who participated in the Workshop in Taiwan, but we can also make it as a joint project and the Central European region together with countries in Asia and Africa – authors who want to participate can participate.

In other words, the project still involves individual authors who participated in the Seminar in Taiwan.

B. Northern Europe

Dr Elizabeth Lichtenstein VP MWIA Northern Europe

Finland

We are still working on the Northern **Europe May 7-9, 2021 meeting** plans. We must, however, adjust the plan in accordance with the actual covid -19 situation. The final decision about the conference will be made in January 2021 at the latest. The option of having a virtual conference is under consideration. The promising news about the availability of new covid vaccines don't justify any detailed confirmation of the meeting at this moment.

A second wave pandemic of Covid -19 has arrived in Finland. The number of reported cases is increasing very rapidly (over 22.000) while tested samples total over 1 800 000 (Nov 23, 2020).

In many parts of the country, it is impossible to trace the cases anymore.

In November 2020, the government and the local authorities have announced new, more restrictive safety measures. The public places will be closed for three weeks and schools will adopt distance education except for school and daycare for the youngest children. The hospital capacity seems sufficient so far, but the situation is getting worse day by day. In addition, the treatment of other diseases is suffering from delays and relocation of the medical and nursing staff needed in covid care. In addition, the downsizing of preventive actions eg. in dental care give cause for concern. This "treatment debt" may cause increasing amount of health problems later on. As compared with some other European countries, the situation in Finland is still relatively good. The BBC recently highlighted the success of Finland's female leadership in dealing with the coronavirus crisis.

The fall meeting of Finnish Association of Medical Women was held on Nov 25, 2020 In Helsinki. A live lecture was provided for a limited amount of participants and a distant connection was provided. The guest speaker was Dr. Kukka-Maaria Aranko with "Balint method in clinical supervision" as her topic. The meeting was warmly welcomed by our members.

Tuula Saarela
NC



In this picture: FMWA Board members Dr. Ulla Aarnio, Dr. Marja Silvasti-Lundell, Dr. Eva Ahonen, Dr. Eeva Leppävuori, Dr. Leena Penttinen, The FMWA President Dr. Paula Pihlaja and our Guest Speaker, Dr. Kukka-Maaria Aranko.

Sweden

Covid is still hovering over us and the situation has worsened during the last few weeks. This means that in Sweden gatherings over 8 people are prohibited. Even before this recommendation most meetings and social events were cancelled. Due to this the Swedish Medical Women's Association held their autumnal meeting on-line and the one-day seminar about trans-gender was also an on-line event. This meeting was highly informative and everybody who participated got new insights how to handle trans gender patients. All board meetings have also deferred to on-line meetings.

The Swedish National Medical Association had their AGM on-line and we had sent in three propositions. The first one was about the gender pay-gap which is still evident. The response to this was that they are working on it. The second one about making the employers explain why they pay male doctors more than women doctors; this proposition was declined. The third was about including a gender perspective in the curriculum at all the medical schools in Sweden. This proposition was first rejected but after discussion we all agreed upon the wording saying that the Swedish Medical Association would work towards emphasizing gender in the curriculum. These are small steps, but we are moving forward. The chair of the Swedish medical association Heidi Stensmyren resigned due to her new position as president of the World Medical Association. The Swedish Medical Women's Association congratulate Heidi Stensmyren on her new post.

Hopefully, the situation will resolve during the spring and we can meet again. It is unsure at this moment if we will be able to host the Regional meeting of Northern Europe other than as a virtual event. Maybe some of us will be back to normal but I doubt that we all will be. We have learned to be on-line a lot this year and personally I believe that we will continue on-line and maybe mix with local IRL-meetings in the future.

Best regards from Sweden,

Elizabeth Lichtenstein VP Northern



December rose in Sweden, "The times they are a-changin"

D. Report from North America

C. Southern Europe

Italy

In this Italian autumn there have been many initiatives of the National AIDM and of various sections.

From October 11th to the 13th in the splendid city of Salerno, with excursions to Pompei and the Amalfi Coast, the National Congress, entitled "Autoimmune Diseases and Gender Differences" was held with over 150 participants, from all of the Italian regions, 40 abstracts, collected in the abstract book and 30 scientific reports. (www.donnemedico.org)



AIDM adhered to the "Relation for the periodic universal revision of Human Rights in Italy: Women's Rights", presented to the NU at the end of October. In March the recommendations suggested that this report will be discussed at the NU.

On November 8th and 9th the Regional Meeting of Emilia Romagna and Sicily were held, the first dedicated to the gender differences in Multiple Sclerosis and the second to the updating in Rheumatological Diseases also in the gender optics; while on November 16th in Sanremo the Regional Meeting of Liguria will be held on gender medicine in the evolutive age.

On November 30th The Meeting of Northern Italy entitled "Thrombosis and Thrombophilia in Gender Medicine" was held.

The month of November, and particularly on the 25th, is the month dedicated to contrast gender violence: numerous sections, Crema, Ferrara Lecce, Matera, Napoli, Palermo and Ragusa, have organized initiatives both formative types and in collaboration with Institutions and other associations to contrast gender violence and in particular against doctors and other health professionals.

Collaboration with the online magazine, pazienti.it, continues; the last articles published regarded gender differences in diabetes.

D. North America

Dr. Vivien Brown VP North America

Canada

Federation of Medical Women of Canada

On October 3, members of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada gathered virtually from coast to coast to hold its first virtual Annual General Meeting. At the meeting, members approved a new slate for the Board of Directors and Executive. We welcomed Dr. Charissa Patricelli as our new President and Dr. Gigi Osler as our new President-Elect. We thanked Dr. Clover Hemans for her tireless service over the past year as she served as President and are glad to be able to count on her wisdom as Past-President.

In addition to the routine proceedings of the annual general meeting, the Federation held its awards ceremony as part of the afternoon's festivities. This year's award winners were:

- Dr. Cheryl Levitt, Margaret Owen-Wates Scholarship
- Dr. Shahin Jaffer, the Enid Johnson McLeod Award
- Ms. Victoria Januskiwitz, Student Leadership Award
- Dr. Angel Foster, Honorary Member Award
- Dr. Karen Breeck, May Cohen Award

Beginning October 5th, the FMWC, along with its partners the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and Merck Pharmaceuticals, held Canada's fourth annual HPV Prevention Week. This year, the partners launched a national media campaign that saw our HPV Prevention Week committee chair, Dr. Vivien Brown, featured in a public service announcement, co-authored an Op-Ed in the National Post, and conducted several television and radio interviews across Canada. In addition to the national media campaign, the FMWC presented a series of "Lunch and Learn" style webinars from Canada's leading experts in HPV Prevention: Dr. Vivien Brown, Dr. Shelley McNeil, Dr. Gina Ogilvie, Ms. Abigail Burrows, Dr. Chloe Rozon, Dr. Unjali Malhotra, and Dr. Monique Bertrand.

The FMWC Women, Peace, And Security Committee presented "Women, Peace, and Security: A Conversation with Jacqueline O'Neill, Canada's Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security." This event brought together members of the Federation with their peers from the United States, the United Kingdom, and Nigeria. Moderated by Dr. Karen Breeck, Ambassador O'Neill answered questions submitted by the attendees in advance. We were honored the Secretary General of the MWIA, Dr. Padmini Murthy was able to attend, also representing AMWA, our North American partner in MWIA. This event was greatly enhanced by the participation of the MWIA President, Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi. After the formal question and answer period, the Dr. Patricelli, FMWC President, moderated a discussion on how women medical professionals and students could work toward supporting the Women, Peace, and Security agenda.

Under the direction of Drs. Vivien Brown and Christine Palmay, the FMWC is creating a series of newsletters on HPV Prevention. Entitled Cancer Won't Wait, the newsletters are directed at those at the frontline of HPV prevention to encourage HPV screening and vaccination despite the pandemic. The newsletters are followed up with a webinar from one of Canada's leaders in the movement to end HPV-related cancers.

Our student members continue to support our older members and their communities at large. Our student branches have organized item drives for women's shelters, PPE drives for under-resourced clinics, and volunteers to support frontline workers.

For additional details on the above and videos from our events are available on our website, www.fmwc.ca

United States of America

American Medical Women's Association

Events:

AMWA partnered with The Permanente Journal on a special Women in Medicine issue in honor of September, Women in Medicine Month. AMWA is grateful for the leadership of Senior Editor H Nicole Tran, MD, in this effort. Many AMWA leaders and members contributed to original research articles and commentaries. You can access the full on-line version of this issue at <https://www.thepermanentejournal.org/issues/2020/women-in-medicine.html>. Cover art is by Kathryn Ko, MD, AMWA Artist in Residence 2015-2016.

AMWA continues the Racism in Medicine Series. Dr. Vanessa Al Rashida and Dr. Oneeka Williams hosted a discussion of Harriet A. Washington's book *Medical Apartheid* beginning with Part I in September 2020. Presentations on Racism in Medicine held monthly.

An AMWA Members-Only program on the subject of "Training in Antiracism and Anti-Oppression" with Taharee A. Jackson, Ph.D., a nationally recognized expert, was held on Sunday, September 27, 2020.

AMWA sponsored a 50for50 campaign where members could use the code "LBHF" to get \$50 off on new physician membership and donate that \$50 to the Lorna Breen Foundation. AMWA works to de-stigmatize mental illness & reframe Mental Health and licensure questions: <http://bit.ly/amwahbh>. This effort recognizes World Mental Health Day & the importance of physician Mental Health.

AMWA's Physicians Against the Trafficking of Humans (PATH) held a free virtual training with CME to help providers learn to identify & fight trafficking, LIFT, of humans in October 2020. The coaching by Dr. Kanani Titchen included topics of labor, sex, and child exploitation. PATH has also developed a study, in partnership with MD Anderson, to understand the limitations of treating patients at-risk of trafficking.

The American Medical Women's Association joined with the Federation of Medical Women of Canada to host a panel discussion about bringing the menopause conversation back into the patient visit, October 2020. Women deserve a heads up. AMWA and FMWC invited Caroline Harris, editor of *M-Boldened Menopause Conversations We All Need to Have*, to address the value of anticipating possible symptoms long-term effects of estrogen withdrawal. Hence, there are no surprises or adverse health effects.

Through various presentations, AMWA will build a case for a new initiative under development to bring the menopause conversation back into the patient visit. The American Medical Women's Association is championing clinicians' need to regularly communicate with female patients, to meet individual needs and concerns.

AMWA sponsored a webinar on Healthcare for Women Vets on Veteran's Day to learn what's needed to provide better care to our women veterans. Presenter Dr. Panagiota Caralis, Women Veterans Medical Director in Miami, FL.

AMWA prepares for the 2021 National Meeting, AMWA LEADS, with the Program Committee's biweekly webinar meetings.

AMWA supported the 15th Annual Cardiometabolic Health Congress (October 2020) to disseminate the latest and most valuable scientific knowledge and late-breaking updates available through an actionable format. The Congress was planned and developed directly to the real-world clinical needs of active cardiovascular and metabolic practitioners. The Cardiometabolic Health Congress serves as the primary resource for medical professionals seeking to effectively lead at the forefront of the fight against cardiometabolic disease. For decades, research statistics have illustrated a troubling trend within modern healthcare: by and large, individuals throughout the globe die from cardiovascular and metabolic diseases more than any other cause. Further, one-third of the population is vulnerable to at least one cardiometabolic risk factor. Cardiometabolic illness is a public health crisis— and one which must be dealt with head-on by medical professionals of all backgrounds from across the globe.

AMWA was a sponsor of the multi-institutional CME Virtual #WIMSummit - Women in Medicine: An Evolution of Empowerment in October 2020

AWMA partnered in a Medical Hackathon, an inaugural OHSU healthcare innovation event— MIT Hacking Medicine —a virtual health care hackathon, October 2020. Open to the world, the event convened hundreds of innovation enthusiasts. These ranged from thought leaders to students – in health care, engineering, research, business, and design to build impactful **medtech** and digital health solutions to pressing challenges in Surgical Care, Early Disease Detection, Rural Health, Management of Chronic Conditions, and Health Equity. During the

Invent-a-thon, participants chose a specific problem within their track and worked virtually within interdisciplinary teams to brainstorm and build a solution to this problem. Groups received expert guidance from mentors and sponsors as they developed their solutions. At the end of the Invent-a-thon, teams pitched solutions to a panel of judges for \$40,000 in prizes. Groups emerging from the Invent-a-thon will have a chance to receive continuing mentorship and access to support and resources to realize their solution and create real-world impact.

In honor of AMWA's 105th anniversary year, AMWA has initiated a **105 Strong Campaign** to support AMWA's Vision, to ensure implementation of a dynamic agenda committed to advancing women in medicine and advocating for equity ensuring excellence in healthcare. Donations of \$105, or any amount, help AMWA address the critical issues impacting women physicians and address the leadership gender gap in medicine.

AMWA sponsored a [Mentorship Discussion with Dr. Lawton](#), a Johns Hopkins Cardiothoracic Surgeon.

Actions and Initiatives:

As part of our ongoing effort to match the need for PPE with vulnerable groups, AMWA recognizes the generosity of partners, the Tzu Chi Foundation and Operation Pegasus, in [donating 80,000 face masks to the Navajo Nation](#) with support from the hardware company, PLPC.

AMWA, along with the other members of a hundred NGOs related to the United Nations, joined [CoNGO](#) — the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations — in [a statement reaffirming the importance of NGO access to and at the United Nations](#) even during the pandemic.

Transgender Day of Remembrance memorializes those killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. On this national day of remembrance, November 20, 2020, AMWA joined with [GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality](#) to honor the lives of the 350 transgender individuals worldwide who lost their lives this year due to anti-transgender violence. AMWA urges healthcare providers to advocate for policies, education, and institutional changes that support the health, well-being, and lives of trans people. AMWA urges we never forget the trans people who have lost their lives while we commit to fighting for trans health and experiences every day.

AMWA acted quickly to raise concerns about allegations of unneeded gynecologic procedures at ICE facilities. AMWA believes a full review of women detainees' treatment at the Irwin County Detention Center in Ocilla, GA, is necessary. There are concerns that ICDC may have capitalized on an unfamiliarity with the US health system and on language barriers further to dispossess these women of their rights to medical self-determination. As such, AMWA supports an investigation into the claims levied against the ICDC and endorses the passage of the Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act to affirm that anyone held against their will within these United States is treated with common decency and gets appropriate medical care. Recognizing the value of raising our voice as part of a collective of professional organizations, the American Medical Women's Association has also signed on to a statement on reports of hysterectomies performed without consent organized by the American College Obstetricians and Gynecologists. The information is at

<https://www.acog.org/news/news-releases/2020/09/joint-statement-on-reports-of-hysterectomies-performed-without-consent>.

AMWA joins the call for US Governors to enforce safety protections for health care workers. Find the letter at <https://phr.org/our-work/resources/health-professionals-groups-urge-u-s-governors-to-enact-and-enforce-safety-protections-for-workers-in-health-care-settings/>. AMWA urges its members to use their social media voice to enact emergency workplace standards.

AMWA supports signing the petition <http://bit.ly/hertimeisnowpetition...>: which objective is to dismantle organizational gender bias & structural racism in healthcare. AMWA encouraged members to tweet photos with your [#HerTimeIsNow](#) mask & honor URiM women. See <http://bit.ly/hertimeisnow>. This is part of the AMWA initiative of [SheLeadsHealthcare](#).

AMWA is a member of the Medical Society Consortium on Climate & Health. Every day, we are seeing the health impacts of climate change on our patients. Stories illustrating these impacts are at [#HealthVoicesforClimateAction](#) <http://bit.ly/health-voices-for-climate...@docsforclimate>

AMWA supports the NAMS Genitourinary Syndrome of Menopause position statement, including the latest information for educating & treating symptomatic women. AMWA encourages more research, knowing there are insufficient data for some treatments.

AMWA thanked the American Medical Association for siding with all the individuals making incredible sacrifices to save patients every day!

AMWA spoke up and stated, "Let's be clear; physicians are not inflating the number of #COVID19 patients." <http://spr.ly/6008G7ex0>

As the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh comes to a close, AMWA expresses concern about the Humanitarian Crisis caused by this war & reflect on the long-lasting effects of war on Public Health. We stand with our Armenian members & community. Read our statement: <http://bit.ly/3lmUwOn>.

Literary AMWA has a Call for Creative Writing Submissions on Anti-racism and Advocacy, Intersectionality, & Experiences of Race and Culture in Healthcare. They also solicit submissions for Woman-to-Woman Medicine, currently collecting memoirs from women medical students and their physician mentors. These stories should explore how mentorships have impacted women's journeys through medicine. They also encourage submissions to The University of Washington School of Medicine Medical Humanities and Narrative Medicine Interest Group, which showcases physician artwork and stories on their platform, Openhearted.

Medical Humanities Communities in music and arts collaborated to produce an [Ode to Get Your Mammogram](#).

AWS Facebook Fundraiser -- \$582 raised for Clinic Nepal and \$420 for YemenAid.

AMWA's Social and Diversity Inclusion committee continues the AMWA Diversity Dialogues Podcast. This interdisciplinary program promotes diversity of thought through unfiltered and honest conversations about all topics related to diversity and inclusion that highlight the disparities and inequities in medicine and population health and what actions we can take.

AMWA announces a call for proposals for AMWA Linda Brodsky Memorial Grant. The Dr. Linda Brodsky Memorial Fund honors Dr. Brodsky's memory by endorsing her passions for gender equity, medical student success, clinical research, and women physicians' advancement. The grant uses Funds to support the Brodsky Memorial Scholarship and related initiatives promoting gender equity in medicine, including but not limited to medical student projects, relevant research, and quality of care.

The program provides funding up to \$10,000 to members who submit a project that addresses these initiatives, including orientation to research, education, political advocacy, or a medical endeavor that speaks to the mission of the Linda Brodsky Fund.

Other News:

AMWA Past President, Mary Guinan Ph.D., MD, was honored by the Mary Guinan Room in a newly opened building that houses the UNLV School of Public Health. Dr. Guinan is professor emeritus and founding dean of the University of Nevada at Las Vegas (UNLV) School of Public Health.

AMWA extends congratulations to Dr. Magda Anitescu on being elected as a director-at-large at the International Neuromodulation Society!

AMWA members Anne Walling, Kari Nilsen, and Kimberly J. Templeton had their paper published in Women's Health Reports: "The Only Woman in the Room: Oral Histories of Senior [#WomenPhysicians](#) in a Midwestern City." You may read it here: <http://bit.ly/33HEfx8> <http://doi.org/10.1089/whr.2020.0041>

AMWA President Dr. Nicole Sandhu to speak with Dr. Nathalie Johnson at Nova SE Univ Inaugural Excellence in Health Care & Medicine Clinical Symposia (LEAP): Breast Cancer Disparities in Screening, Diagnosis, & Treatment. <https://amwa-doc.org/event/excellence-in-health-care-medicine-clinical-symposia-leap/>

In honor of September's "Women in Medicine" month, the AMWA chapter at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University in Brooklyn, N.Y., organized several events to celebrate with the student body. A part of this month's spirit was an essay contest, where students in the College of Medicine wrote a short piece about a female physician who has been a role model for their careers and represents medicine's ideals. Student AMWA member, Fradah Gold, won the competition.

AMWA Leader Vivian Pinn, MD, received the Alma Dea Morani Award. The New York Academy of Medicine, in partnership with [The Women in Medicine Legacy Foundation](#), presented this [premier award](#) and dynamic remarks, "Women in Academic Medicine: Leadership and Intersectionality Matter."

The podcast Nocturnists: [Black Voices in Healthcare](#) was co-produced by medical student division president-elect Lawren Wooten.

Carolina Vogel (MS 4) and [Theresa Rohr-Kirchgraber](#), MD, co-authored Gender Harassment Persists in Medicine Training, published in [Women's Health Reports](#).

[Dr. Padmini Murthy](https://www.dotmed.com/news/story/53124?s=newslog) is a featured guest on the podcast *Five minutes in healthcare*, discussing her current book, "Technology & Global Public Health" <https://www.dotmed.com/news/story/53124?s=newslog>

AMWA past-president Connie Newman, MD, chaired the writing committee of the publication of the [first-ever guideline](#) to focus on lipid management in patients with endocrine disorders published by the Endocrine Society.

SKY NEWS interviewed Saralyn Mark, MD, AMWA's COVID19 leader.

<https://vimeo.com/user109923882/review/480029965/3da77dd140>.

Saralyn Mark, MD, also has a feature article: I Was a NASA Doctor and [Here's How You Avoid COVID](#), which appears in Yahoo Style.

Mary Rorro, DO presented the AMWA Medicine Humanities production of the "Physicians Healers, Healthcare Heroes" video at the Rutgers Women's Health Institute at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Dr. Rorro also was the featured guest on the podcast [Doctors Unbound](#).

Kim Templeton, MD, quoted in AAMC News & Insights article "How COVID-19 threatens the careers of women in medicine."

<https://vimeo.com/user109923882/review/480029965/3da77dd140>

AMWA's own Dr. Beth Garner is the speaker at Elevate's Winter Series-Part 1: Black Women's Reproductive Health on Thursday, November 19. Elevate is "theater for health," a theater company making art that investigates health themes. Their mission is to provide audiences and artists the space to explore health and well-being through the art of storytelling. The program starts with a play, followed by a discussion with healthcare professionals. <https://elevatetheatrecompany.com/elevate-winter-series-part-1-black-womens-reproductive-health>

AMWA member Alyson McGregor, MD, is quoted in *The American Independent*: "[Frontline workers are being forced to fight COVID—and Trump's 'reckless' lies](#)." October 2020.

AMWA leaders Dr. Kanani Titchen (editor), Dr. Liz Berdan, Sarah Hofer, Dr. Michelle Lyman, Dr. Julia Geynisman-Tan, Dr. Mollie Gordon, Dr. Kristina Borham, and Dr. Brittany Jackson are contributing authors/editor of the new textbook, [Medical Perspectives on Human Trafficking in Adolescents](#).

AMWA Member Sandra Miller, MD, publishes a new book (fiction), [Where Light Comes and Goes](#). It features protagonist Dr. Abby Wilmore, a young family physician.

AMWA Leader, Jessica Zitter, MD, is the producer and director of "CAREGIVER: A LOVE STORY." This film highlights an essential yet mostly unseen workforce—the family caregivers of America. 2017 was the first time in over a hundred years that more people died at home than in a hospital. But in bringing the dying home, 44 million non-professional caregivers are now working double-time and for free in jobs that they are utterly untrained for.

An Op-Ed by AMWA member Emily Wagner, MD, was published in the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*--[Consent for Health Care of Detainees Needs Full Investigation](#).

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Poirier-Brode, MD; CM, AMWA National Coordinator for MWIA, Chair Studio AMWA Committee, and Physician Co-Chair AMWA Social Media Committee.
@LadydocOB

Follow AMWA @AMWADoctors on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.

F. Near and East Africa

Dr. Christine Sadia VP

Nigeria

Report sent by Dr Minni Oseij President MWAN

PREAMBLE MWAN has been very active with programs that positively impact women and children. It has also seen the older population being appreciated and those in politics achieving their aims nationwide.

On Friday 28th August, 2020 Dr. Vivien Otu of Cross Rivers was kidnapped, the National President was informed in the early hours of Saturday 27th August, 2020 and all members were informed and took out time to pray as a group. MWAN CRS President Dr. B. Nakanda also communicated a press conference requesting necessary assistance for her release. Dr. Vivien Otu was released after 5 days in captivity.

The **MWAN National Executive Council (NEC) meeting** took place virtually and face to face at Jades Hotels, Abuja on 14th and 15th September, 2020 with 28 virtual participants and 25 States physically present on day one, while on day two 23 States were present at the beginning of the session and members gradually increased as the meeting progressed. On 14th September, 2020 we incorporated into the NEC meeting an outreach which took place at Wuse market on use of face masks. It was coordinated by the National Treasurer, Dr. E. Ummuerri. Two 5-point CMEs on the topics Social mobilization for Health (14th September, 2020) and Health Data management (15th September, 2020) were held. Two new States namely Yobe and Jigawa were given affiliate status; and winners of the MWAN Woman of the Year 2020 Award was presented to the co-winners of the first award this Biennium – Dr. Uzoma Maryrose Ugwu of Ebonyi State (South-East zone) and Dr. Ngozi Euphemia Ali of Delta State (South-South zone). On the 17th of July 2020 the first Newsletter for the biennium was produced and circulated as a soft copy, but during the NEC meeting hard copies were circulated to all States present. We also had copies of the Book of Proceedings of the 2019 Biennial Conference circulated to all States present. The Association's one year in office took place during the NEC meeting on the 14th September, 2020.



HEALTH SENSITIZATION - The National Secretariat embarked on a sensitization of the public from 20th July to 3rd August, 2020 on the use of the face mask in Oshimili South, Oshimili North and Sapele LGAs of Delta State which had the highest number of COVID -19 cases in Delta State, Nigeria. Volunteers were called for and responded. At least 400 people were reached and 1,000 fliers were circulated through church leaders, market leaders and street shops in affected areas and to women that attended the immunization clinics.

Since 24th November, 2020 till date the National secretariat embarked on a distribution of 350 fliers and health education of the eleven PHCs in Oshimili South Local Government Area on Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM) and Peripartum Cardiomyopathy (PPCM) to increase awareness of these two conditions. This is a positive outcome of two the programmes the National President, Dr. Oseji was invited to. The sensitization is ongoing.

MWIA PROGRAMS

SIGNATURES FOR GLOBAL TREATY – On July 26th, 2020 the MWIA International President, Dr. E. Nwadinobi (Founding Co-Chair of Steering Committee of Every Woman Treaty) presented a letter from physicians and health care experts to all global policy makers and the United Nation member States calling for a global treaty to End Violence against Women and Girls. Dr. Minnie Oseji, the MWAN National President requested members to sign this letter electronically, so that up to 500 signatures could be achieved by 15th August, 2020 and end violence against women and girls. As at 13th September, 2020 we achieved 379 signatures with 344 coming from MWAN.

MWIA NEAR C (NEAR EAST AND AFRICA CONFERENCE) - A pre-congress event was organized by the Conference planning Committee of NEAR Conference on Gender and COVID-19 on the 19th September, 2020. Members and all registered participants were sent invites to be part of it. The MWIA NEAR Conference will take place from 24th to 27th March, 2021 at the International Conference Center, Abuja. Both physical and virtual sessions are planned. The registration remains \$150 and abstracts are accepted till December 30, 2020.

END SARS - From 20th to 25th October, 2020 the End SARS peaceful protests in Nigeria took another turn and lives, property were lost it also resulted in the halting of MWAN State programs. The MWIA International President, Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi posted an address on 21st October,

2020 and the MWAN National President, Dr. M. Oseji made a statement on behalf of the Association on October 24th, 2020.

COMMITTEES AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS – On 21st October, 2020 the MWIA Secretary, Dr. M. Murthy-Padmi requested for MWAN volunteers for MWIA Committees and Special Interest Groups. The request was distributed via email and WhatsApp and deadline was 30th November, 2020. 13 States made up of 53 MWAN members responded and submitted applications for the MWIA call to serve in Committees and Special interest groups through the National Coordinator to the National President for onward submission to the Vice-President MWIA NEAR, Dr. C. Sadia.

MWAN MALE CHAMPIONS – additional 6 male Champions have been identified each fulfilling the requirements for becoming MWAN Male Champions:

On 23rd August, 2020 the 5th Male Champion was decorated in the person of Dr. Omo Ekeneam the Immediate Past Chairman, NMA Delta

6th Male Champion is from Zamfara - Dr. Musa Kabiru Shinkafi then NMA Zamfara Chairman.

7th Male Champion is from Akwa-Ibom – His Excellency, Gov. Udom Gabriel Emmanuel.

8th is from Benue - Dr. Peteru S. Inunduh, MD, FMC, Markurdi, Benue State decorated on 29/9/2020.

9th is Honorable Justice Samuel Oseji, Honorable Justice Supreme Court of Nigeria decorated on 8/11/2020.



10th is Dr. Mohammed Kawu, Acting Honourable Secretary for Health and Human Services, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja decorated on 3/12/2020.

WORTH AND CANCER AWARENESS ACTIVITIES –

On 19th October, 2020 the National President, Dr. M. Oseji, presented a summary of the National WORTH Project on Breast Cancer awareness from October, 2019 to September, 2020 (11 months). It showed that through 16 States and 21 facilities, the grand total of individuals reached (facilities and outreaches) was 12,078 with 3,552 fliers distributed. Breast masses reported 927; confirmed cancer cases 347. Best performing sponsored state was Kaduna, while best performing non-sponsored State was Kwara.

In preparation for celebration of Cancer Awareness Month the National President requested State Presidents to provide information on the presence of a cancer screening center, cryotherapy unit, functioning State Health Insurance Scheme in their States. From the information data is being used to guide our Cancer screening, treatment and training activities for the association.

A committee of 11 volunteers, the Pink Donor Team was coordinated by the National President to prepare for the Commemoration of the Cancer week which was celebrated by a webinar and fundraising to launch the WORTH project on Cervical cancer screening, treatment and advocacy on 19th October 2020 at 12 noon. The Pink Donor Team produced 4 jingles, various fliers for the program, as well as promotional items such as t-shirts, caps, wrist bands and facemasks. The program was graced by the presence of Dr. Amina Abubakar Bello First Lady Niger State (Chairperson First Ladies Against Cancer, FLAC) and Dr. Zainab Bagudu First Lady Kebbi State (CEO Medicaid) along with many dignitaries. Speakers included Dr. Z. Bagudu (First Lady Kebbi State and CEO Medicaid); Dr. Minnie Oseji (MWAN National President and PS Delta State Min of Health); Dr. Christie Akwaowo (Consultant Public Health and Community Physician, University of Uyo Teaching Hospital, Uyo & Immediate Past President, MWAN Akwa Ibom State); Dr. Tonia Onyeka (Consultant Physician Anaesthetist, Pain and Palliative Medicine doctor and Associate Professor College of Medicine, University of Nigeria); Dr. Idiese Lucy (Consultant Radiation Oncologist and Head Radiotherapy Department, University of Benin Teaching Hospital & Immediate Past President MWAN Edo State). A total of N1,613,000 (US\$3,400) has been donated to the project. The account for donations is Medical Women's Association of Nigeria Naira Account: Ecobank 2972025895; Euro Account: Ecobank 2972025754; Dollar Account: Ecobank 5462017578. All consenting donors' names are in the MWAN Pink Donors Book. Guidelines for National support of positive cases is available and assistance has been given two breast cancer cases and one cervical cancer case.

ADVOCACY –

The Ag. Director National Orientation Agency (NOA), Delta State, Mr. C Anyabuine and team paid a courtesy/advocacy visit on the National Executives MWAN on July 15th, 2020 with National President, Dr. M. Oseji and Dr. B. Agbonle being present. The visit centered on reducing the spread of COVID-19 through Community engagement, as well as reducing Violence against women and girls, and rape. They also promised to take our message to the NOA in Abuja and also collaborate with MWAN.

The National President was represented by Dr. Maureen Umemmuo (MWAN FCT, Secretary) on 27th October, 2020 at the Opening Ceremony of the 2020 Annual International Cancer Week and presented her Goodwill message. As a result our advocacy on Cancer Control has gotten to the Honorable Minister of Health and other major stakeholders.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH COLLABORATIONS-

On the 12th October, 2020 the National President represented MWAN as a member of the Nigeria Reproductive Maternal Newborn, Child, Adolescent, and the Elderly Health Plus Nutrition (RMNCAEH+N) Multi-stakeholder Partnership Coordination Platform which was launched by the Honorable Minister for Health, Dr. Osagie Ehanire. At least three other Medical Women are also part of the platform namely Dr. Edugie Abebe, Dr. Betta Edu, and Dr. Salma Anas-Kolo.

ADOPTED FACILITIES

Adopted health facilities are now operational in 8 (eight) states – Delta, Oyo, Kaduna, Cross Rivers, Kwara, Benue, Niger, and Zamfara States. These centres are for MWAN to get specific data on Tetanus toxoid immunization, maternal and neonatal tetanus, delivery rates, advocacy, food demonstrations, maternal and neonatal death rates amongst others and the States have been submitting data to the National Coordinator, Dr. B. Agbonle. Kaduna State performed its first

food demonstration and also made a video of the kurulac/kwashipap/Tom Brown hygienic wholesome meal preparation on the 23rd October, 2020. The following States were able to adopt facilities Akwa-Ibom (PHC, Ikot Adaidem); Sokoto (Women and Children Welfare Hospital, Sokoto); Rivers (Model PHC, Woji); Imo (FMC, Owerri); and Lagos (Ebute Metta Health center). Kano is proposing Kabuga Health Center and Gombe is proposing the Women and Children Hospital, Gombe.

WORLD HEALTH DAYS -

The National Secretariat commemorated the World Population Day (11th July, 2020); World Breast Feeding Week (1st To 8th August, 2020); World Heart Day (29th September, 2020); UN Older Persons day (1st October, 2020); World Mental Health Day (10th October, 2020); the International Day of the Girl Child (11th October, 2020); World Arthritis Day (October 12th); Global Handwashing Day (15 Oct, 2020); World Stroke Day (28th October, 2020); World Diabetes day (14th November, 2020); 16 Days of Activism (25th Nov – 10th Dec, 2020); International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3rd December 2020).

NIGERIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION - In August, 2020 members contested for positions in various State NMA elections and 37 won different posts.

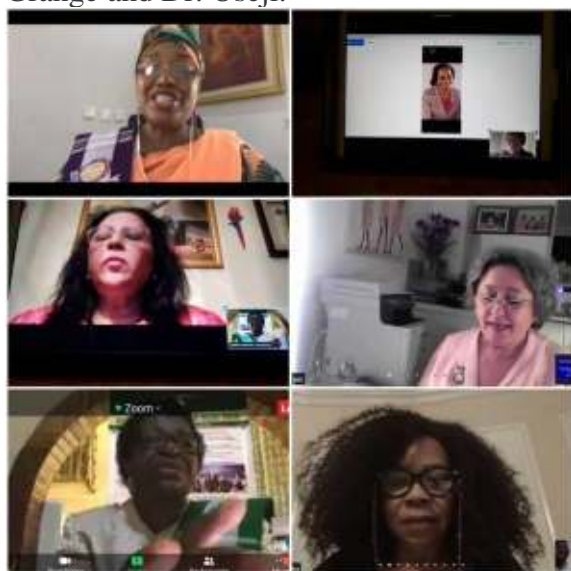
Then in the months of November and October, 2020 a total of 17 MWAN members honored with appointments as chairmen and members of various NMA committees by Prof. IAO Ujah (NMA President).

CONTINUOUS MEDICAL EDUCATION AND WEBINARS:

The association has organized CMEs in various topics and has also been part of virtual meetings worldwide. Our CME series has been attended by members and non-members with enthusiasm. Menopause Matters a discussion coordinated by American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) held on 24/10/2020 and it was well attended by members.

UN CSW SIDE EVENT

MWAN organised our virtual UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) Side Event on Saturday 28th November 2020 with over 150 attendees. Special Guests of Honour included Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi, Prof. Padmini Murthy and Prof. Gabrielle Casper. Speakers included Prof. Grange and Dr. Oseji.



NIGERIAN GOVERNORS WIVES AGAINST GBV

The National President, Dr. Minnie Oseji was opportune to attend the Interactive Forum with Governors and First Ladies on GBV in Abuja on 2nd December courtesy of First Lady of Delta State, Dame Edith Okowa. The event was organised by the Nigerian Governors Wives Against GBV (NGWA-GBV) with 19 First Ladies and 5 Governors attending. It was a display of high level of political commitment to end GBV in Nigeria.



Dr. Bobola Agbonle
National Coordinator



G. Central Asia



Dr Mandakini Megh
Vice President, MWIA
Central Asia

Report From Vice President, MWIA, Central Asia

Dear MWIA Friends,

Wish You All Seasons Greetings and Merry Christmas!

Hope this Newsletter will bring a very joyous and optimistic news of Vaccine of Corona Virus.

We hope that the scientists working on the development of a vaccine and a treatment for COVID-19 have success to end the nightmare COVID and can lead fearless life.

With the initiation of Dr Mandakini Megh, Vice President, MWIA Central Asia and Chair of by

And Communication Committee, MWIA has organized A very interesting and special programme on **“Deep Insight On Need And Ways Of Social Media Facebook, Instagram, Twitter And Youtube”** on 3rd October in presence of Dr Bev Johnson, Co Chair and Dr Khatuna Kaladze Vice Chair of Social Media And Communication Committee, MWIA. The Speaker was an esteem Dr Jayanta Jana, DM Oncology, VP Medical Affairs Pharmed Ltd.

Dr Mandakini Megh, Vice President MWIA, has organized a training program for the doctors on **“Prevention, Examination & Treatment of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Cases”** on October 8,9,10th. MWIA office bearers Dr Padmini Murthy Secretary General, MWIA and Dr Bettina Pfleiderer, Past President, MWIA were invited as Faculty and Guests of Honour for this prestigious

Recently Dr Mandakini Megh, Vice President MWIA, has organized 3 days **Online Certificate Course and lecture series on Post partum Hemorrhage** for doctors on 26,27,28 November.

Members of MWIA PPH Project group Dr Sheela Mane, Dr Yamini Alsi, Dr Rajshri Katke, Dr Kshma Kedar and Dr Lydia has deliberated informative talk on PPH



Report of AMWI , INDIA



President Dr Yamini Alsi

Under the guidance of Dr Yamini Alsi, President a Program “**UNSUNG STARS** “A outstanding and out of the box; was organized a webinar on 28-10-2020

Dr Usha Saraiya praised for conceptualizing this idea. She has appreciated the noble women doctors, values of their time, intellect, scientific material producing and sharing by many women doctors and passing these to newer generations. Through such programs we honor these values. She talked about the future of past, an incredibly beautiful concept.

The Chairpersons for this program were Dr.MrudulChande, President, AMWI; Dr Geetha Balsarkar, President, AMWI Mumbai, Dr Baijayanti Baur. Senior Executive member of West Bengal AMWI.

Many Drs spoke about the UNSUNG STARS of our country. Dr Sindhu Bhute talked about late **Prof. Dr V. D. Shastrakar**, who was welknown for disciplinary academic work and her skilled procedure of VVF repair and Carcinoma Cervix.

Dr Chaya Chaurasiya talked about **Dr Kamaltai Joshi**, who had dedicated her life to the MatruSewa Sangh, a charitable institute, providing maternity services to the women

Dr Bulbul Raichaudhuri talked about **Dr Chaitali Mukherjee**, a wellknown woman doctor from Kolkata. This talented doctor dedicated her life providing her medical services to rural areas in West Bengal, Bankura.

Dr Sarita Bhalerao talked about **Late Dr Maya Lulla**, who had worked for Cancer Prevention, detection and treatment of poor women in CAMA hospital Mumbai. She was very much involved in colposcopy workshops held at CAMA hospital, Mumbai training many doctors in colposcopy. Also she used to arrange awareness camps for cancer cervix for general people.

Dr Kamal Hazari talked about **Dr Geethanjali Amin**, who is working in Cancer cervix prevention and treatment through the Charitable Hospital at Mumbai serving the poor women patients.

Vote of thanks were given by Dr Nalini Kurve, Secretary AMWI. The program was well attended and praised by all.

AMWI along with Indian Society Of anaesthesiologist Nagpur City Branch organised webinar on “**Mission Restart Heart**”.

The idea was to revise and stress the Basics of Resuscitation, which everyone should know.

Dr Yamini Alsi, President AMWI welcomed all and talked about the importance of deciding this topic “Mission Restart Heart”.

Dr Vandana Walvekar, Past President AMWI was the Chief guest of the program. Dr Kiran Vyawahare talked on Basic Life Support. She stressed on the CAB protocol to be followed and demonstrated with the help of video clip.

Dr Gauri Arora, Anesthesiologist elaborated ON Life support in Special situations. She explained in detail about how one must deal in a little different way while giving life support in special situations like drowning, fire, pregnant women and children.

Dr Anjali Kolhe, Dr Bakhtawar Vazifdar and Dr Amna Goswami were chairpersons.

Dr Devyani Buche moderated the program very efficiently, being herself the criticare care physician. Participants actively participated in interactive session question Answer session.

Report of AMWN youth, India

Association of Medical Women in Nagpur's (AMWN) Youth wing & Academy of Pediatrics (AOP), Nagpur hosted a webinar for parents as a part of World Breastfeeding week 2020 Celebrations on Tuesday, 4th August 2020

Topic: **Nutrition for your child's body and mind** (Babies to teens)

Speakers were Dr Shubhada Khirwadkar, Consultant Pediatrician, President, AOP, Nagpur, Dr Yamini Kale, Consultant Gynaecologist & Laproscopic surgeon, Nagpur, Dr Abha Bang Soni, Consultant Psychiatrist, President, AMWN youth wing

Attended by around 50 participants on the Google meet for the program.

AMWN youth wing & Psychiatry Society, Nagpur presented an interactive session for young adults about the common pressures of social media use and how to tackle them, titled ***Managing "Reel" life stress***, on 9th October. Deliberated valuable talk by Dr. Neha Bhavé Salankar, Consultant Psychiatrist, Nagpur, Dr. Anagha Sinha Saoji, Consultant Psychiatrist, Nagpur, Dr. Abha Bang Soni, Consultant Psychiatrist, President, AMWN youth wing

As part of **the World Mental health week 2020 and the IAP National**

Obesity Day 2020 the AMWN youth wing, Academy of Pediatrics, Nagpur & Psychiatry Society, Nagpur held a panel discussion and interaction on **"The Mind-body connect of fighting Obesity"**

Panelists are esteemed Doctors Dr. Nikhil Pande, Consultant Psychiatrist, Dr. Kavita Gupta, Consultant Nutritionist & Diabetes Educator, Dr. Pankhuri Khemani, Consultant Physiotherapist & Pregnancy wellness expert, Mr. Nachiket Deoghare, Final year student, IIT, Kanpur, Youth representative. Moderators are Dr. Shubhada Khirwadkar, Consultant Pediatrician, President, AOP, Nagpur & Dr. Abha Bang Soni, Consultant Psychiatrist, President, AMWN youth wing. All are highly successful programs



Report of Kolkata branch, India



Dr Bulbul Raichoudhuri

AMWI Kolkata branch run a 25 bedded charitable Hospital for Women and Children but due to Corona Pandemic Hospital remains closed from October we are running paediatric outdoor with vaccination clinic. Vaccination of children done for all the vaccines as per the Govt.schedule.

Many virtual programs were held, and our members have participated in different virtual programmes.

A programme on 'Unsung Star' of AMWI – was held on 28th October, Dr. Bulbul Raichaudhuri presented Dr. Chaitali Mukherjee – one of our life members – as an Unsung Star for lifelong dedication to voluntary Medical services for rural West Bengal, India, specially for the Tribal people, with health awareness programme, vocational training to improve their socio-economic status as also impromptu services during cyclones & other calamities. She is 70 + years old & doing such work for last 30 years almost single handed. She is continuing her work through one NGO formed by her and the name is Nivedita Anusarani.

Virtual public awareness programme by BOGS was held at Brabourn College for girls at Kolkata, West Bengal on 6.11.20. Dr. Bulbul Raichaudhuri, Dr. Saktirupa Chakravorty, Dr. Bipasa Sen were participated in the event.

This was an interactive programme for girls of the age between 18 to 22 years. Various aspects of health specially that of women including prevention of genital cancer by vaccine was emphasized.

Dr. Saktirupa Chakravorty our Gynaecologist spoke on a virtual programme held on 29.11.20 on Vitamin D3

Dr. Vandana Kanojia our paediatrician spoke on a virtual platform on cancer cervix vaccination. Specially to children of 9-14 years.

Dr. Bulbul Raichaudhuri spoke on a virtual platform on sources of VitD3 - specially in Indian diet with special mention on common fishes of Bengal/ India- which are rich sources of VitD3

Dr. Gita Ganguly Mukherjee- One of our esteem members conducted a virtual programme on various subjects of medicine on where many of our members participated.

Report of the Webinar of Strategy and Advocacy Committee of MWIA

Hosted by Association of Medical Women in India-02/12/2020

This Committee was formed in 2016, in the last triennium of the Centennial. The Committee did remarkable work. Firstly, they had an Online Survey to ask our Members, what was their experience as Medical Women, what were their difficulties & what were their aspirations? And secondly what did they expect from MWIA, what sort of assistance would they like?

The Survey revealed interesting findings. Some were very satisfied, & some thought it was an “uphill” task. But most of them felt they lacked leadership and needed Mentorship. What was apparent was that they did not feel they could develop to their full potential but would like to.

The other point made clear was that we must work in partnership with other medical organization & that MWIA could not alone do much work.

So, this has given us a Roadmap to form policies for the coming years. However, before we could get started, the Pandemic was upon us & things were at a standstill for some time. We could only meet virtually so we planned this meeting.

Since COVID-19 is very much with us & constantly on our mind, our first talk was by our own President, Dr. Eleanor. She gave us an insight into how different countries are coping with the crisis. Her quote “Every crisis is an opportunity for Innovation and Hope” was appreciated by all.

Next issue our Members were concerned about is how to reach their full potential? Women doctors have done very well. Many are heading important organizations & are in decision making posts. They have also entered different fields of Medicine like Space Medicines. But still many of us agreed that it does not apply to the majority. Prof. Dame Lesley Regan is a very well respected & ICONIC figure and gave the keynote address. Prof. Regan shared her personal experience with us which had tremendous emotional appeal. She also mentioned the important role that some of her teachers, colleagues, and research workers had in inspiring her. Before you contemplate taking on additional responsibilities, “please assess your own Stamina, Skills and Support:” were her golden words which will stay etched in our minds.

MWIA has strategic partnership with WHO, United Nations, European Women’s lobby & many others. Reports are regularly received from our Representatives.

WHO has launched in a big way & with much fanfare “Elimination of Cervical Cancer by 2030” campaign? Almost all countries have agreed to join this campaign.

We had our own Vice President and an Expert Dr. Vivien Brown in this field to brief us. She emphasized that Women doctors were in key position to campaign for this cause. For vaccination concentrate on the daughters and all women above 30 must get screening for cervical and breast cancer. Creating awareness and education about cancer must be an integral part of this campaign.

Finally, United Nations has celebrated its 75 years. The UN is overly concerned about Women; in fact, it has a Section called ‘United Nations Women’ with its own woman Director. But our woman at UN is Dr Padmini Murthy. She & Dr Satty Keswani have steadily worked & made MWIA proud. Many of us have participated in UN Conferences, and UN has participated in our Centennial Conference.

Dr. Padmini Murthy SG moderated a learned panel consisting of Presidents Past Presidents and Vice President’s Dr Yamini Asli, Dr Vandana Walvekar, Dr Bettina Pfleiderer, Dr Eliza Chin ,

Dr Bong Ok Kim and Dr Desiree Yap, to discuss SDG Goal 3 and the most important health issues affecting our women. She asked 3 Questions:

- a) As women physicians, please indicate briefly how the targets of SDG 3 i.e., Health for all at all ages are being promoted by advocacy efforts in your regions?
- b) Outline briefly what are the health challenges faced by women in your regions, what is the role of women physicians specially to address and include gender harmony and equity.
- c) Please share any examples of best practices or success stories in your country which have been implemented by the national organizations in promoting women's health and human right?

Everyone gave succinct and clear answers. We hope to publish the text of the panel discussion for everyone to study shortly.

This activity is conducted with one single concept of ours, that is.

Enhancing Healthcare for all Humanity

Vice-chair of this committee, Dr. Neena Modi was unable to join this webinar due to her professional activities. Some members of the committee did join the discussions. Total attendance at the seminar was 102.

We are grateful to EMCURE Pharma's Division IVA for their Academic support. Their representatives Dr. Amit Borse and Mr. Shailendra Singh made significant contribution to the webinar. We welcome suggestions, recommendations and views from all MWIA members and will be happy to set up a dialogue.

Before I end, I would like to acknowledge the help and support that I received from Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi, President MWIA and Dr. Padmini Murthy, SG MWIA as also from Dr. Yamini Als, President AMWI and Dr. Nalini Kurvey Secretary AMWI. Sincere thanks also to all the faculty and participants.

Dr. Usha Saraiya
Chair-Committee
Dec 2020



MWIA Committee on Strategy and Advocacy

Hosted by Association of Medical Women in India



Wednesday, 2nd December 2020

17:00 Hrs to 19:30 Hrs (India time)

11:30 am to 3:00 pm (London time)

11:30 am to 2:00 pm (GMT)

6:30 am to 9:00 am (New York time)

22:30 to 1:00 am (Sydney time)

HOSTS FOR Session I	
Welcome : (3mins)	Dr. Sarita Bhalerao Dr. Geetha Balsarkar
Welcome & Introduction of President of MWIA	Dr. Usha Saraiya Committee Chair
Chief Guest's address and speech: " Role of Advocacy in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic"	Dr. Yamini Aisi, President of AMWI
Session 1 Chairperson: Dr. Helen Goodyear & Dr. Mandakini Megh	
"Strategies for Advancement of Medical Women"	Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi, President MWIA (20 mins)
"Global Strategy for Elimination of Cervical Cancer"	Prof. Dame Lesley Regan Keynote address : (20 mins)
Comments : (5 mins)	Dr. Vivien Brown Guest Lecture : (15 mins)
Session II Host : Dr. Abha Bang, Soni Panel Discussion on Global Needs for Advocacy and Strategy	
Moderator: Dr. Padmini Murthy, S.G, MWIA	
Panelists : Bettina Pfleiderer, Desiree Yap, Bong-Ok Kim, Yamini Aisi, Eliza Chin, Vandana Walvekar	
Vote of thanks : Dr. Nalini Kurvey, Secretary, AMWI	

NATIONAL FACULTY



INTERNATIONAL FACULTY



HOSTS



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After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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Thailand

Report from Thai Medical Women's Association (TMWA)

The 2020 year will be celebrated of the 60th Anniversary of Thai Medical Women Association. The TMWA activities in conjunction with this celebration are:

A. The Annual General Meeting of Thai Medical Women Association. On October 11, 2020 TMWA hosted the Annual General Meeting with 50-60 attendances in according to social distancing and hygiene care practice during COVID-19 situation.

Encouraging news this year; TMWA congratulated the Idol Medical Women awards to Professor Emeritus Dr. Chaweewan Bunnag and Dr. Chareong Chandrakamol and the Out-Standing Medical Women awards to Associate Professor Dr. Yuware Sittichanbuncha (Administration), Associate Professor Dr. Supinda Koonme (Academic) and Dr. Permsiri Lermanuworarat (Service and Health) with 23 Medical Women who granted awards or recognition from institutions.

The TMWA Scholarship for Female Medical Students: Started from the joint effort between friends in Thailand and overseas, which was born from their love and appreciation for Thailand, has grown over the past 15 years through the dedication of the TMWA members, and this scholarship program is making a major contribution to improving public health care delivery in remote areas of Thailand. There are 22 new medical students from different parts of Thailand receiving annual and monthly scholarships from TMWA medical students' scholarship program.

The TMWA Scholarship for Female Medical Students is a monetary grant that does not require repayment – however recipients are expected to make a wholehearted promise that they will commit themselves to practicing medicine in their rural hometowns or any other regional area in Thailand. Congratulations to the 22 medical students!

The Plenary session- Khun Pierra Vejjabul Lecture Topic “Guideline to Reform and Develop Human Resource in Education and Health Promotion after COVID-19 situation” by Professor Emeritus Udom Kachintorn.

B. The Roaming Conference and Environmental Conservation Activities of Thai Medical Women Association in collaboration with The Queen Sirikit Naval Hospital during 13-14 November 2020 at Queen Sirikit Naval hospital, Chonburi province.

The Workshop of Creativity Bootcamp by Design Thinking by Associate Professor

Dr. Warunee Punpanich Vandepitte and Luncheon lecture: Obstructive Apnea - A Silent Killer in Women by Associate Professor Dr. Naricha Chirakalwasan.



**I am very Optimistic that We Will Soon Meet In Person.
‘Wish you all a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.’**



H. Western Pacific

VP WPR Dr Desiree Yap MWIA Update April 2020

The MWIA western Pacific Region has been highly active this quarter. We have held our Annual Business Meeting and held a very successful Western Pacific Regional COVID-19 Scientific Symposium hosted by the Korean Medical Women's Association on October 10 2020 in lieu of our cancelled Regional meeting (now rescheduled to August 2021). The Philippines Medical Women's Association hosted a fascinating webinar on December 7 themed 'An Afternoon with the Philippine Medical Women's Association'. Both webinars will be available to the MWIA membership.

I was involved as a panel member at the Webinar organized by MWIA Committee on Strategy and Advocacy hosted by Central Asia on Wednesday 2nd December

Australia

Current representatives:

AFMW President: Dr Magdalena Simonis

AFMW Vice President: Dr Lydia Pitcher

AFMW Secretary: Dr Anne Stanaway

AFMW Treasurer: Dr Kathryn Mainstone

AFMW Immed. Past president: Dr Deborah Colville

Annual General Meeting: November 7th, 2020

Scientific meeting was postponed

November 7th triennial AFMW Council Meeting

November 23rd AFMW **Strategic Planning Meeting:** key initiative: Medical women and Technology in health innovation – an introduction to the industry and opportunity to develop skills through AFMW partnerships with industry

News of members:

No recent reported deaths:

Membership activities:

Weekly open forum – format being revised to improve member access / state participation to sessions

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.

Open Forum run by yAFMW: An Introduction to "Young AFMW"

Job share initiative Victoria, being discussed at National level: opportunity for expansion, ongoing

Climate Change: ongoing advocacy

Articles by members:

Dr Elysia Robb VP, Victorian Medical Women's Society (VMWS) on part time internship.

<https://vicdoc.partica.online/vicdoc/vicdoc-november-2020/features/reflections-of-part-time-internship>

National Advocacy Priorities:

Gender equity in medical leadership: increase medical women

Stamp out sexual harassment in the workplace

Improved working conditions for breastfeeding women and medical women.

Improved training opportunities such as part-time training in medicine

Reconciliation Action Plan.

Climate Crisis action through advocacy and Doctors for the Environment

National Projects and Research:

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.

National association MWIA activities:

promotion of MWIA nationally

yAFMW Coordinated yWPMWIA meetings –will continue with ongoing engagement.

and Research Committee survey to members, Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) member survey of COVID-19 experiences as healthcare providers. Currently awaiting responses from Alfred /Monash Research Ethics committee

Mentoring: MWIA Mentoring – Buddying Programme (MWIA- MBP): Mentoring- Leadership – to be redesigned based upon recent advice from MWIA Exco.

VAWG/ Domestic and Family Violence:

Dr Magdalena Simonis, President AFMW, provides a summary of her presentation to Royal Australian College of General Practitioners on **Domestic and Family Violence: dealing with Violence Against Parents in primary care.**

See below:

Addressing adolescents who are violent against their parents:

Dr Magdalena Simonis

MBBS FRACGP DRANZCOG MHHS

Violence Against Parents (VAP) is underreported and under researched.

Therefore, there are few actual recommendations we can make, based on the paucity of evidence-based research. However, some key things to address in such consultations are as follows:

1. **Start with the usual HEADSS & Health/Sexual health (STI) screening** as we do when practising good preventative medicine and 'buying some time' whilst getting to know the adolescent better.

It tells the person that we're not 'just' interested in the 'problem' but we want to get to know them better.

It's a good starting point.

HEADSS refresher: <https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/article/headss-review-systems-adolescents/2005-03>

H - home

E – education, ask about school life

A – activities/ employment

D – drugs (and alcohol)

S – suicidality

S – sex

2. Ask open ended questions:

What or who made you come here today?

Have you talked about this before? With whom? How did that make you feel? Was it helpful?
(we can get a baseline of what does and doesn't work for them in a therapeutic relationship.

Helps us decide how to approach them too)

3. Thank them for coming - deciding to seek help is a big first step.

4. More open questions: (about level of risk)

What is the worst thing that has happened?

What is the worst thing you've done?

How did that make you feel?

What do you think made you behave this way?

Did you want to hurt or kill them? - assessing intention to harm is very important.

What happened before you 'lost the plot'?

5. State that violence is unacceptable and clearly outline the different spectrum of violence

6. If a parent is presenting, let the parent know that it is more common than reported.

Acknowledge that the embarrassment people feel, prevents them from talking about this under-reported problem that occurs in the community.

7. Manage the risk: Think LIVES (WHO).

If the parent is telling you about the young person's violence, assess their level of risk (sharp knives in the kitchen, guns/tools in the shed - remove/ lock these away) and help the parent make a safety plan, just as we do with women who experience DV.

8. Risk of self-harm/ harm to others:

If the young person is telling you about this, ask same questions as listed above.

Do they ever feel suicidal?

Do they want to harm others and if so, to what extent?

Do they have a plan?

9. Mentors, heroines/heroes: Find out what/who the young person likes.

Do they have a hero/heroine?

Do they have a teacher they get along with?

Do they have friends? Do their friends know about this?

Who do they talk to or trust? (friends that break their trust can be a source of distress/hurt).

10. Build rapport:

Find out what the young person likes doing.

Talk about this to build rapport and maybe look for ways of working this into their 'reward' for good behaviour.

11. Increase contact time with GP/primary care nurse/counsellor:

Encourage GP to use Telehealth (TH) between face-to-face

(FTF) visits for more regularity and convenience.

Set a regular TH session time - create the expectation that you are teaming to help them get through this over time.

This also demonstrates your investment in them/their problem.

13. Patience and hope – incorporate these in the discussion:

It all takes time:

Acknowledge that sorting out behavioural and relationship problems/issues, takes patience, understanding and time.

Ask the adolescent, what matters most to them at this point in time.

This will not go away with one visit and we need to work together to help them in this journey.

13. Feelings matter:

Ask them how they feel about other referrals to psychologists that work with families/psychiatrists.

Let them know that if you do refer them you will try with someone experienced in this area.

Explore available community services they can access. Make appropriate initial inquiries and explain to the adolescent why these can help and how they can make a difference if accessed.

14: About the journey:

Let them know what to expect from you over time.

Map this out and be constructive

Give them 1-2 tips for change after ascertaining what matters most at this point in time to them.

Book next appointment/s.

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

AFMW attended CSW parallel event with Medical Women's Association of Nigeria. Gabrielle Casper presentation on domestic violence as a public health issue and this is **possibly because she is Chair of MWIA SIG on VAWG**

National Plans for WHO:

None announced to date

Photos:

From the National Day of the Girl. Encompasses all we should be protecting and aspiring to achieve in our communities.



One of the Vic State AFMW Zoom sessions hosted.





China

National members:

Number of Current Representatives: 49,421

Number of National/provincial Sub-societies: 48

Number of National Research Centre: 2

News of members/ membership activities:

Annual Conference of Gastroenterology Society, CMWA

- 14 November 2020, the first annual conference of Gastroenterology Society of CMWA was held in Beijing, which is the first annual scientific conference since the society established in July 2020.
- The annual meeting, with the theme of "Stay United, Promote with Care", was held by online and offline presentations and seminars.
- The total number of audiences online was more than 17,000, with 120 invited speakers and delegates attended the conference in person.

Next annual national meeting: 11-12 September, 2021

National Advocacy Priorities:

1. Continuously foster branch societies by focusing on learning and innovative development approaches.
2. Strengthen the dedication and creativity of female medical workers, to provide better protection to people's health and quality of life.
3. Broadcasting CMWA official accounts on leading social media i.e. WeChat, Weibo and etc.

National Projects and Research:

- **National project: ‘ Mothers Health Express’ National Tour, 17th Oct. 2020, Guizhou.**
 - CMWA and China Women's Development Foundation, successively co-organised and implemented the ‘Mothers Health Express’ National Tour in October in Guizhou Province.
 - This initiative has been rolled out in 30 provinces across the country, particularly in the remote and developing areas in China.
 - In October, 189 ‘Mothers Health Express’ vans have been donated to Guizhou, providing financial aids to 19,654 low-income women suffering from cancers.
 - Along with the tour, CMWA senior members proactively supported local hospitals and healthcare professionals to improve the diagnosis and treatment levels. Meanwhile, the health education seminars also enhanced local women awareness of self-healthcare.

National Photographs:

Pictures of Annual Conference of Gastroenterology Society, CMWA, 14th Nov. 2020, Beijing

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11kQtZNPfrsv5OH0IVIFFcAyg9GNA03XIFvPMu5rE68/edit?usp=sharing>





Hong Kong MWIA

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 was invited to visit the temporary air-inflated laboratory for COVID-19 at Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Sports Centre on 19 September 2020. The temporary laboratory supported the Government's large-scale community testing programme for Hong Kong People. HKWDA members volunteer to work for COVID-19 mass screening.

The 14th Annual General Meeting of the Hong Kong Women Doctors Association was successfully held on 23 October 2020 via Zoom and in physical meeting.

Student Members of HKWDA were invited to join the Sun Yat Sen University online classes with medical students in the Greater Bay Area in November 2020. The programme was organized by the Sun Yat Sen University Zhongshan School of Medicine.

National Projects and Research:

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

National association MWIA activities:

The MWIA Western Pacific Region Scientific Symposium was held on 10 October 2020. Dr Cecilia Fan, JP of Department of Health was invited to represent Hong Kong to speak on our COVID experience during this meeting. The topic is 'COVID-19 Quarantine Care Experience Sharing'.

National Photographs:



Temporary Air-inflated Laboratory



Group Photo for the Visit to Temporary Air-inflated Laboratory

Japan

Japan Medical Women's Association

Current representatives: Tomoko Otani M.D

News of members/ membership activities:

A Gender Equality Symposium

JMWA held the 13th gender equality symposium entitled "Democracy to think with female newspaper reporters." on October 3rd and recorded it. This is our first web symposium which released on YouTube on October 22nd. (picture1)

The speaker of the special lecture was Ms. Isoko Mochizuki, a reporter from the Social Affairs Department of the Tokyo Shimbun (newspaper). Her book "Newspaper Reporter" is a social suspense fiction that depicts the confrontation and conflict between a young female newspaper reporter and a young elite bureaucrat based on her own experience. It was made into a movie last year and won the 43rd Japan Academy Prize for Best Picture Award.

She says she conducts investigative journalism based on the belief that it is the press that reveals information that powers do not want to disclose. Listening to her lecture, I strongly felt that we needed to be broadly antennae and watch political developments as to whether Japan's democracy was being protected.

A Virtual Symposium in the MWIA western pacific region

The Western Pacific region virtual symposium "COVID-19 EXPERIENCE" was held on October 10th, sponsored by the Korean Women's Medical Association. 97 MWIA members participated, and NC of JMWA Yoshiko Maeda presented "The Current Situation in Japan Where Gender Inequality Became Clearer in COVID-19" at the Scientific symposium. She recommended the following three as "Recommendations for improving gender inequality in Japan".

There is an urgent need to include a gender perspective in making various policy decisions. Especially in Japan, it is important to eliminate" the Gender role sharing consciousness". For that purpose, I think it is beneficial to introduce a Quota system.

2020 NGO Japan Conference on Women

The International Women's Year Liaison Group (IWYLG) is a gathering of NGOs involved in the issue of women's empowerment, triggered by the establishment of the International Women's Year by the United Nations in 1975. Based on this, it is an organization that has developed various activities to realize it. Currently, 34 organizations are members, and the Japan Women's Medical Association is also active as a member organization. Yoshiko Maeda (NC) has been the manager of this organization since this year.

IWYLG has held the Japan Conference on Women every five years since 1975 in response to the United Nations World Conference on Women. We held 2020NGO Japan Conference on Women "We will not shut up, women's rights to international standards!" on Sunday, November 8th. The conference was held both online and at the venue, with nearly 400 participants and was a success. (Picture2, 3)

The issue of refusal to appoint the Science Council of Japan

The Science Council of Japan (SCJ) makes policy recommendations, promotes scientific literacy and international cooperation, and represents the interests of more than 800,000 scholars in virtually all academic disciplines. Although the council is nominally under the jurisdiction of the prime minister, its general assembly members are traditionally appointed in a pro forma step by

the prime minister after being recommended by an SCJ selection committee. But this year, Japan's new prime minister, Yoshihide Suga, withheld his blessing from six academics, from a list of 105 put forward, who work in the social sciences, law, and the humanities. Suga did not give a reason for his veto, which became apparent when the list of approved members became public on 1 October. A spokesperson for his office told local media the prime minister is not obligated to appoint the recommended people. But all six of the scholars had criticized legislation adopted by the previous administration, during which Suga was chief cabinet secretary. 870 groups in Japan have issued protest statements, and the JMWA has also submitted the following protest statements.

“We, JMWA are overly concerned that the government's intervention in the SCJ is contrary to the purpose of establishing the SCJ. We strongly request that you express your protest here and clearly explain the reason why the six members are not appointed.”

Next annual national meeting:

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

National Photographs:

Picture1

Gender equality symposium on October 3rd: From left to right, Wakako Hanaoka (Vice President), Tomoko Otani (President), Minori Kitahara (Writer), Masami Aoki (Board of Director), Isoko Mochizuki (Tokyo Shimbun reporter), Yoshiko Maeda (Past President, NC), Akiko Isogai (Board of Director)



Picture2

2020 NGO Japan Conference on Women on November 8th: Performers and executive committee members



Picture3

Panel discussion of 2020NGO Japan Conference on Women on November 8th: From the far left, coordinator Yoshiko Maeda (NC), Yoko Hayashi (former chairman of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, lawyer), Minori Kitahara (writer), Sakura Uchikoshi (member of the House of Councilors, lawyer), Haruo Asai (honorary of Rikkyo University Professor



Republic of Korea

Current representatives:

Suk Wan	Yoon	President
Soon Won	Hong	National -Coordinator
Ki-Nam	Shim	National –Coordinator

News of members/ membership activities:

1) The KMWA (Chairman Seok-wan Yoon) and the Korean Girl Scouts Federation signed a business agreement to promote “health promotion projects for the correct sexual values of female youth”.

On July 22, 2020, the signing ceremony held at the Korea Girl Scout Federation Hall was attended by major officials from both organizations.

The main contents of the MOU are: ① Survey on sexual values and attitudes of female youth ② Develop health promotion programs for the correct gender values of female youth ③ Develop health-related issues programs for female youth ④ Joint development of career education programs to foster female medical scientists ⑤ Cooperation It includes medical service support at events. (Fig.1)

2) Korea Medical Women’s Association (KMWA) (President, Suk Wan Yoon) hosted ‘2020 MWIA WPR Scientific Symposium’ online on last October 10th. Dr. Desiree Yap of Australia and Dr. Hyun Wook Baik (Chief of the Organizing Committee) co-chaired the symposium and discussed the current situation of COVID-19 in each country and how they have been dealing with it. The symposium, whose main theme was ‘COVID-19 EXPERIENCE’, was held as a webinar with professor Seok Kyung Hong and Dr. Bong Ok Kim (Ex-president of KMWA) sharing their experience of treating COVID-19 patients, followed by reports from Australia, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, and the Philippines. (Fig.2)

In the business meeting prior to the symposium at 1:30 pm, Dr. Bong Ok Kim was elected unanimously as the next vice president-elect of MWIA (WPR). The new vice president-elect Dr. Bong Ok Kim will serve three years from 2022 to 2025.

The international academic meeting of MWIA WPR, which was to be held in last October but postponed due to COVID-19, will take place on August 20th to 21st, 2021, in Millennium Hilton, Seoul, Korea.

3) The 15th National Meeting of Korea Medical Women’s Regional Representatives and Academic Symposium was held on Saturday, October 31st at Hotel Koreana

The main theme of the academic symposium was ‘COVID-19 and Obesity’. After the symposium, the representatives introduced their regional branches and activities, shared future plans and action plans against COVID-19, and discussed ways to attract new members. We plan to emphasize meetings based on regional branches rather than alumni or college faculties. (Fig.3)

4) Monthly Meeting organized by Youth Committee was held on November 10th at Hotel Koreana. Lectures on ‘Artificial Intelligence for Chest & Breast Imaging’ and ‘User Experience in the Era of Untact’ were given. The lectures will contribute to helping young women doctors to adapt to the era of artificial intelligence and untact that has already begun.

Next annual national meeting:

- 1) KMWA will hold the '13th Health Symposium for Women' and the 'Year-End Celebration in Dec. 2020
- 2) The 65th Annual Meeting of the KMWA will be held in April 2021
- 3) The annual meeting of 'the national convention of medical women's representatives' will be held (for interconnecting the regional associations, alumni, and faculties of women professors).

National Advocacy Priorities:

- 1) Health promotion projects for the correct sexual values of female youth
- 2) Educational program for 30 children who are raised by grandparents under the title of 'My healthy body and diet'. The program was a part of 'the Dreamers Camp (Pfizer campaign to help a family that grandparents and grandchildren without parents)'.
- 3) Response guideline for sexual violence in medical settings
- 4) Human Rights Center for Women Medical Doctors
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".
- 5) The medical service for foreign workers by the Seoul Medical Association

National Projects and Research:

We produced active women doctors as members of the National Assembly, the Minister of Health and Welfare, and the head of the Centers for Disease Control

National association MWIA activities:

Korean women doctors have participated in the MWIA Annual Meeting

National Photographs:



Fig.1 Signed a business agreement for promoting 'Health Promotion Project for Proper Sexual Values for female



you
Fig.2 Program of ‘2020 MWIA WPR Scientific Symposium’ online on last October

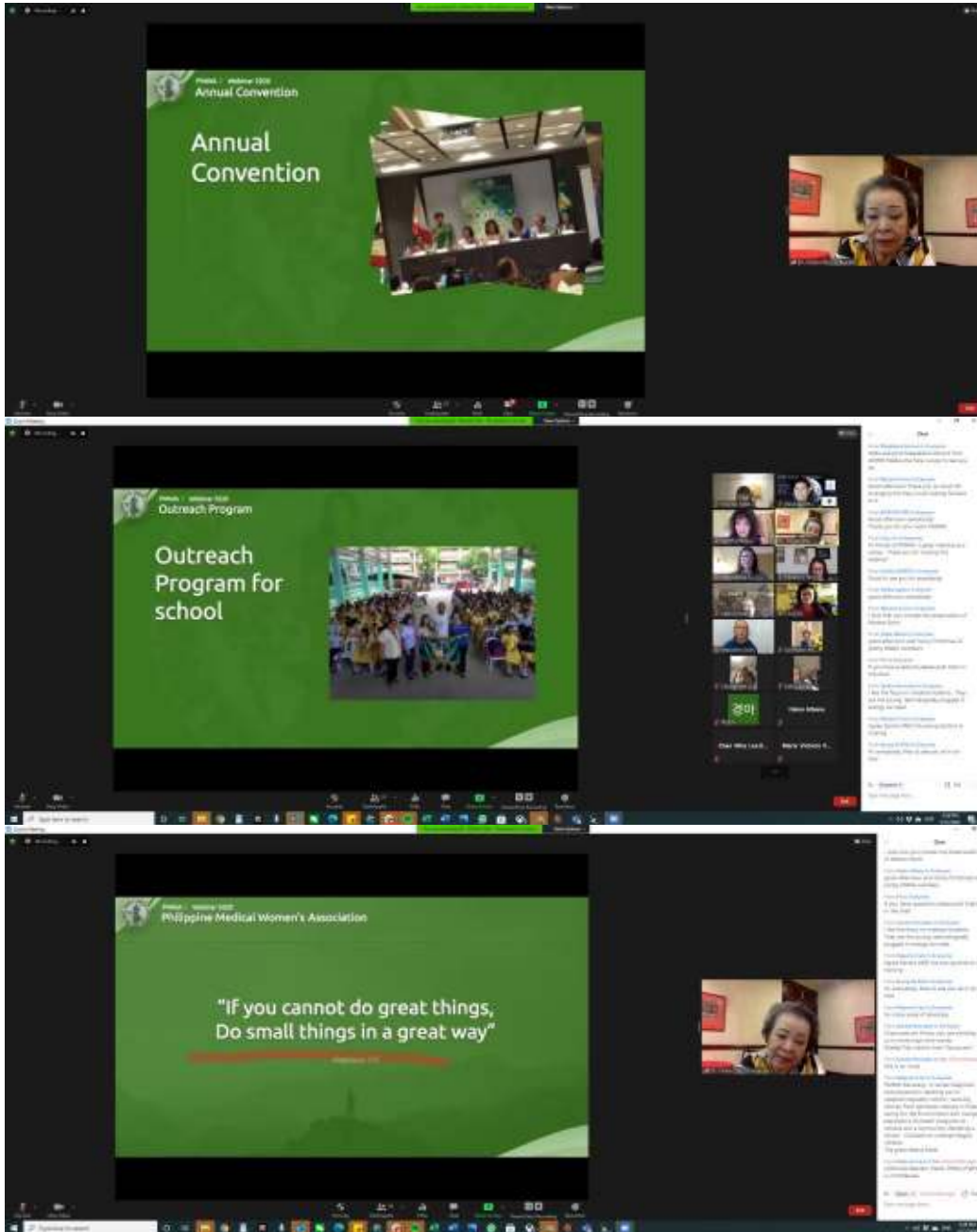


10th.
Fig.3 The 15th National Meeting of Korea Medical Women’s Regional Representatives and Academic Symposium was held on Saturday, October 31st at Hotel Koreana

Mongolia
No news for December Update 2020

Philippines

PMWA hosted a successful webinar to the MWIA Western Pacific Region on Saturday December 5 2020. The presentation outlines the history of PMWA and the range of PMWA's activities and advocacy work. This webinar was recorded and will be made available to MWIA members.



Taiwan

TMWA 2020 annual meeting was held on 20201205. We have elected a new board. It would be operational next year. The contact list has not changed now. If we had a new one, we would mail to you.

We have 56 new members this year. We had a lot of activity as follows this year though under the crisis of Covid-19.

1. TMWA 2020 annual meeting was held on 20201205
2. Board meeting 3 times
3. Liv Iron Girl triathlon in Sep
4. Rotary anti-drug running on Nov.1, 2020
5. Report on MWIA WPR congress by Dr. Shu-Ti CHiou
6. Project for child drug abuse (NPS), cooperated with Rotary
7. Medical model reward for Dr Shur-fen Gau
8. LOC of 2022 MWIA Congress

National Photographs:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xLJTB81z1W31eLbZt0PEOru6wsgWZkpW/view?usp=sharing>

Individual members:

No updates

8. REPORT FROM MWIA 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.



UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres remarks on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Please see link posted below

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

Statement by Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director, on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Please see link posted below

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/11/statement-ed-phumzile-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-violence-against-women>

9. CALENDER OF MEETINGS

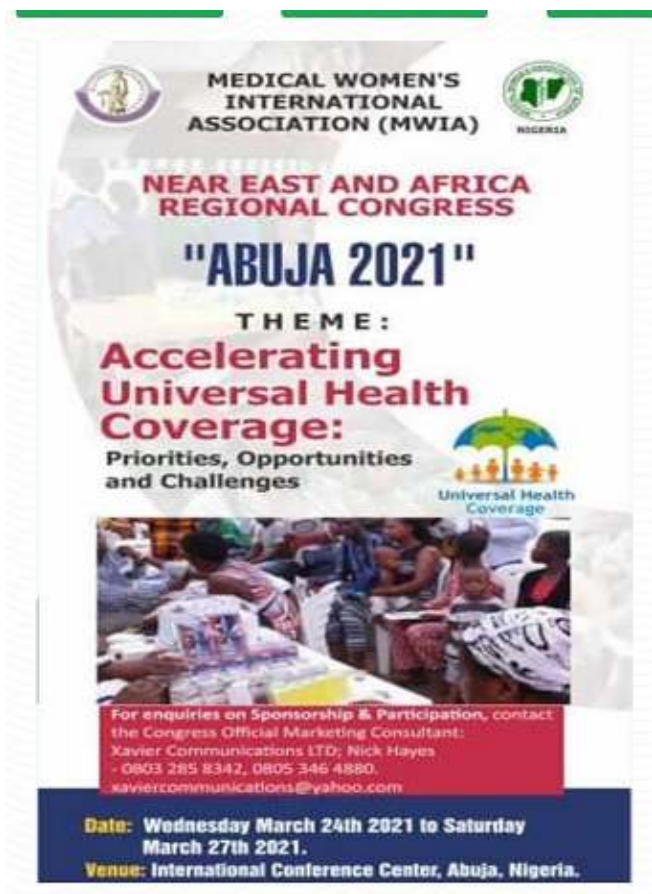
2010-2021*

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

2021

Near East and Africa

Due to the COVID Pandemic the Near East and African Regional Congress has been moved to March 2021. Abstracts on COVID 19 are allowed till December 2020



North America

American Medical Women's Association
Virtual meeting March 25- 28. Registration open
<https://www.amwa-doc.org/amwaleads2021/>



<https://www.amwa-doc.org/amwaleads2021/>

Northern Europe

The new date for the Northern Europe regional meeting will be announced shortly

Central Asia

Mumbai

The Central Asia Regional conference dates will be announced shortly

Western Pacific

Western Pacific Regional Conference 2021 of the Medical Women's International Association

August 19-21, 2021 | Millennium Hilton Seoul, Seoul, Korea



Korean Medical Women's Association



Medical Women's International Association

The Role of Medical Women in the Future



10. Publications / News Updates

1. <https://www.unescobiochair.org/>
2. https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/prevaling-against-pandemics_en.pdf
3. https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/health-financing-1/global-spending-on-health-2020.pdf?sfvrsn=5feb1e6b_21&download=true
4. <https://www.unicef.org/media/86881/file/Averting-a-lost-covid-generation-world-childrens-day-data-and-advocacy-brief-2020.pdf>

II. Announcements

Felicitations and Awards

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