

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MWIA



Update

No. 46 June 2011

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MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

THEME OF THE 2010-2013 TRIENNIUM

**“MOVING BEYOND THE RHETORIC—IMPROVING THE HEALTH
OF WOMEN AND GIRLS”**

I. MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

1. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Professor Afua Hesse, Ghana

Greetings in solidarity again to all Medical Women the world over! We continue with our advocacy for women and children's health remembering that we are all committed to moving beyond the rhetoric in all our activities.

At the International level your executive continues to network and move to increase our visibility. We continue to work on links with UNFPA and other agencies.

On a personal level, I am working in a WHO technical committee looking at various aspects of the rollout of male circumcision in developing countries. The innovations are interesting though I am well aware that the controversy and discussions around its usefulness as well as other human rights issues is ongoing.

I would encourage you all to participate actively in a questionnaire we are sending round shortly on mentoring in your various countries and your roles as individuals. This will enable us to collect the background data needed to upscale our interventions on this and link us up to various in country efforts with UNFPA in particular. It will also enable us disseminate what you would have been engaged on at a personal and National level.

There are various e-based fora going on and those of you interested are welcome to sign up to the latest one on Reproductive Health which is examining the status especially in developing countries.

The website link to join the conversation is:

<http://my.ibpinitiative.org/africanagendaforRH>

Enjoy your read!!!

2. REQUESTS FROM THE SECRETARY- GENERAL

Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada

I would like to offer all members an opportunity to visit my beautiful hometown of Vancouver, BC, Canada, by registering for the conference of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada. It is being held in Vancouver the weekend of September 16-18, 2011, and registration information can be found at www.fmwc.ca.

MWIA would like to send wishes for a full recovery to Dr. Dorothy Ward, Past President of MWIA, who suffered a CVA. Dorothy has served in recent years as the National Coordinator for the UK and has always been a strong advocate for women in medicine and MWIA.

I have received the sad news that MWIA's former Secretary-General, Dr. Carolyn Motzel, passed away in Carmel, California, on June 16, 2011. MWIA sends its condolences to her family and remembers and appreciates the dedication she showed to MWIA.

Please answer the survey posted under the Southern European Regional of the newsletter. The French Medical Women would like to know the state of women in medical schools around the world.

The **World Health Assembly** of WHO was held in May 16-20, 2011. The two guest speakers were Bill Gates of Microsoft and Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. Drs Gail Beck, Mercedes Viteri and Shafika Nasser joined me as we met with various departments of WHO.

The MWIA executive met in conjunction with the Northern European Regional Meeting in Breukelen, The Netherlands, in May, 2011. The executive then attended the regional meeting, entitled *Women on the Move*, which was an extremely well organized meeting. Thank you to the Dutch Medical Women for their hospitality. Members of the Northern European Region were able to met and discuss items of business pertinent to the region, including their stand on prostitution.



Picture of the 2011-2013 Executive present in Breukelen

The **Department of Public Information NGO Conference** for 2011 will be held in Bonn, Germany, September 3-5, 2011. The theme is *Sustainable Societies: Responsive Citizens*. Under the direction of Dr. Bettina Pflaiderer, MWIA has submitted a proposal to hold a workshop. In addition to Dr. Pflaiderer, Drs. Waltraud Diekhaus, Birgit Hickey, Ursula Sottong, and member of the Special Interest Group for Young Women Doctors and Medical Students, Ms. Charlotte Rohrborn, will represent MWIA. There are three more spots for practising physicians and one for another medical student available. If you are interested, please contact the secretariat.

The **WHO Regional Meetings** take place in September to October. Please contact the Secretariat if you wish to attend.

The **UN General Assembly** in September will discuss Non Communicable Diseases and MWIA will be represented by Drs. Satty Gill Keswani and Mini Murthy. Mini has also been elected to the executive committee of the NGO CSW Executive Committee. Please keep the Secretariat informed of changes in your national officers and of upcoming meetings and activities in your organizations.

For those who have not paid their annual dues, the Secretariat would like to remind you that yearly dues are needed July 1st each year.

The contact information for the Secretariat is:

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3. NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

The Finance Committee should have representation from all regions. There are vacancies on the Finance Committee from the regions of Central Europe, Southern Europe, Latin America, Central Asia and the Western Pacific. Please inform the Secretariat if you would like to service on this committee.

4. 2010-2013 EXECUTIVE

President	Professor Afua Hesse, Ghana
Past President	Dr. Atsuko Heshiki, Japan
President Elect	Dr. Kyung Ah Park, Korea
Secretary-General	Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada
Treasurer	Dr. Gail Beck, Canada
Vice President Northern Europe	Dr. Cisca Griffioen, The Netherlands
Vice President Central Europe	Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus, Germany
Vice President Southern Europe	Professor Alexandra Kalogeraki, Greece
Vice President North America	Dr. Claudia Morrissey
Vice President Latin America	Dr. Mercedes Viteri, Ecuador
Vice President Near East/Africa	Dr. Petronila Ngiloi, Tanzania
Vice President Central Asia	Dr. Pattariya Jarutat, Thailand
Vice President Western Pacific	Dr. Maria Rosa Nancho, The Philippines
Finance Chair	Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi, Nigeria
Scientific and Research Chair	Dr. Bettina Pflaiderer, Germany
Ethics and Resolutions Chair	Dr. Gabrielle Casper, Australia

UN Representatives

New York	Dr. Satty Gill Keswani, USA
	Dr. Padmini Murthy, USA
Vienna	Dr. Iris Habitzel, Austria
WHO Representatives	
Geneva	Dr. Annette Thommen, Switzerland

5. NEWS FROM THE VPs AND THEIR REGIONS

Northern Europe

Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, The Netherlands, United Kingdom

Vice President Dr. Cisca Griffioen, Vice President Northern Europe, The Netherlands

Iceland

Dr. Lilja Sigrún Jónsdóttir writes that the Medical Women's Association of Iceland is waiting for summer here in Iceland now, still getting some sleet and snow. But the MWAI in Iceland has been busy with a gender medicine session recently at a local CME congress and a historical display of the work of our first female physician educated and working in Iceland.

The Netherlands

Congress Region Northern-Europe 19 -21 May, 2011 in Breukelen

The central theme of this congress was *Women on the Move*, which expresses the continuing change of the situation of women all over the world.

Professor Margriet Sitskoorn delivered the opening lecture: *Greed and the social brain*. She emphasized that the brain is always trying to get a balance between pain and pleasure. Our behaviour is directed to reach that balance.

In the session on *Women's Health, Reproductive Health*, the speakers elucidated the problems of providing safe abortion where it is illegal, the situation on maternal and perinatal mortality in the Netherlands and the current status of HPV-vaccination.

The Friday morning session was devoted to *Gender Specific Medicine*. The key note lecture concerning Gender Medicine in Daily Practice was given by Professor Toine Lagro-Jansen. It was followed by 4 workshops on gynaecocardiology, domestic violence, preconception advice and gender differences in depression, respectively. Each participant could attend to two workshops. The session on Migration and Health was opened by Professor Halleh Ghorashi. Being a refugee herself, she accentuated that refugees are not only victims, but are very eager to start a new life. Health care for illegal people and the integration of refugee doctors in the Dutch health care system were subjects of the other lectures.

Saturday morning professor Emile Aarts paid attention to the technical possibilities in the coming years, summarized as *ambient intelligence*. Very important to make a success of this, is to place people in the centre of the developments and not the apparatus.

Based on a cross-sectional survey of Dutch medical students, residents and doctors, two

medical students could conclude that gender is the most important factor to explain how macho male students and doctors are. They found that gender differences are most obvious among students and residents. In a PhD study it was found that women doctors are not less ambitious than male doctors. The last contribution of the lung specialists Pauline Dekker and Wanda de Kanter on motivational interviewing showed that it is not enough to tell your patients to stop smoking. In a play let they showed how to motivate the patients to think about their smoking behaviour and how to try to stop it. The social program consisted of a get together and a walk to the village of Breukelen on Thursday evening and a canal cruise with dinner in Amsterdam on Friday evening.

Some of the presentations are available on the VNVA website: www.vnva.nl . On your way to the presentations you will have a look on the photo gallery.



Group picture from the Northern European Regional Meeting in Breukelen

CELEBRATION OF 15 YEARS WOMEN STUDIES IN MEDICINE IN NIJMEGEN

26th, 27th and 30th May the 15th Anniversary of the Chair of Women Studies in Medicine in Nijmegen, the Netherlands was celebrated with international invitational conferences.

The chair was founded in 1996 by the Dutch Association of Women Doctors (VNVA). Professor Toine Lagro-Janssen made this chair and the field of gender specific medicine very successful and in 2003 it was taken over by the University of Nijmegen.

Two conferences concerned the introduction of gender into the medical curricula and the education of residents. It is clear that this differs between countries and that a lot of work has to be done. The last day was devoted to Intimate Partner Violence and to strategies to deal with this important problem in daily practice.

Sweden

The Swedish Medical Women are very active in the area of laws around prostitution.

United Kingdom—Drs. Julie Rutter and Susan Overall, National Coordinators

The spring meeting held in Northern Wales on May 6, 2011, was a great success. It was entitled, *Women and Mind Altering States, or Menywod a Cyflwr Newid Meddwl*, with reference to Alice through the Looking Glass. Speakers included Professor Ian Gilmore, President of the Royal College of Physicians, Chris Weaver, Substance Misuse Midwifery Lead BCU, Ruth Marks, Commissioner for Older People Wales, and Dr Nicola Steedman, Consultant HIV Physician, Countess of Chester. With an aging population being a challenge everywhere, Wales is leading the UK in having a Commissioner for Older People.

The winners of the Katherine Branson Student Essay Competition presented their winning entries. Catherine Carver spoke on “Is prostitution acceptable as a means of supporting one’s studies” and Joanna Mathison was the winner for “When is the right time for medics to have a baby?”

The MWF Autumn meeting will be held November 11, 2011, in London. The theme is **Women’s Health**. Sir Michael Marmot, who chaired the WHO Social Determinants of Health Project, is a confirmed speaker and will attend the Conference dinner at the House of Lords.

Central Europe

Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Switzerland

Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus, Vice President Central Europe, Germany

Austria

Dr. Edith Schratzberger-Vécsei writes that the annual scientific conference of the “Austrian Medical Women” held in Vienna on November 19th 2010 was a great success. The motto of the meeting was “Feminisation in Medicine”; it provoked big discussions and was met with approval as it is a raising problem amongst female medical doctors in a world that is still ruled by their male colleagues.

Together with the department of “Gender Medicine” in Innsbruck we will arrange a meeting at University Hospital Innsbruck on September 30, 2011 on a gender topic.

We are proud to inform that we could gain Konrad Paul Lissmann (very popular Austrian philosophic) and Michael Musalek (well known Austrian psychiatrist) for our scientific meeting that will take place on November 12th 2011 in Vienna. This year’s topic will be: “Lust und Sucht” (“Desire and Addiction”). We are looking forward to welcome many colleagues and interested people of any other profession to discuss and enjoy the meeting with us. (further information: www.aerztinnenbund.at)

Germany

Dr. Diekhaus writes that at the 114th German Medical Assembly (Deutscher Ärztetag) I had the privilege to represent MWIA. The meeting took place in Kiel /Schleswig- Holstein from 31 May- 3 June 2011. The German Medical Assembly is the annual meeting of the German Medical Association, the "parliament of the medical profession" in Germany. It has been held every year since 1873 with a few exceptions.

The State Chambers of Physicians send a total of 250 delegates to the German Medical Assembly each of them representing about 145 doctors. The delegates discuss and adopt cross-state professional regulations on, for example, the model professional code (Musterberufsordnung) and the model regulations on specialty training (Musterweiterbildungsordnung) . They also formulate the standpoints of the medical profession on current health-related and socio-political debates.

This year the main topics of discussion were pre-implantation diagnostics, organ donation and palliative care.

It was also the year of election: the President and two Vice- Presidents of the German Medical Association are elected by the Assembly for a term of four years. The new President is Dr. Frank Ulrich Montgomery; one of the two Vice-Presidents is a very capable medical woman, Dr. Martina Wenker, who was at our congress in Muenster last year and is enthusiastic about MWIA.

There were also many foreign guests, among others the President of the Swedish Medical Association, Marie Wedin , the President of the Bosnian Medical Association (Prof. Lazarevic) who was very interested in MWIA, the Minister of Health of the Republic of Kosovo (Ferid Agani) , the first chair of the Russian Medical Chamber (his name only in Russian letters which I cannot read), the VP of the Czech Medical Chamber (MUDr. Mrozek) , the SG of the Russian Medical Society (Mikhaylov). I had talks about MWIA and the possibility of supporting a national women's association with all of them. Furthermore I met Wonchat Subhachaturas as current President of the World Medical Association (2010- 2011) and President Elect of the Medical Association of Thailand. He stressed that he would very much like to participate in our Western Pacific Regional Meeting in Bangkok next year.

Georgia

Dr. Nino Zhanvia writes that Georgia would like to host the Central European Regional Meeting in Batumi during June or July, 2012. This second largest city in Georgia is located on the Black Sea.

Poland

The European Court of Human Rights ruled that Poland violated a woman's human rights when she was repeatedly denied a prenatal genetic examination after a doctor discovered fetal irregularities during a sonogram. This was a groundbreaking decision for women across Europe.

Southern Europe

Belgium, France, Greece, Israel, Italy

Professor Alexandra Kalogeraki, Vice President Southern Europe, Greece

France—Please answer these survey questions and return to:

francine.violette@orange.fr with cc: fnico75@orange.fr ; mdghnassia@free.fr

The French Medical Women would like the input from MWIA members for a study about the organization of the first year in Medicine in different countries. The results will be published in MWIA Update and in HYGIE the AFFM newspaper .

When answering, please indicate your country.

The questions asked are:

1. Number of first year medicine registrations in universities of your country?
2. Who can register, under which criteria: scientific baccalaureate , literary baccalaureate , equivalent diploma?
3. Does university make a preliminary selection on candidate's file for registration?
4. What is the percentage of students graduating from their first year medicine and achieving the second one?
5. What is the repartition between male and female students?
6. Is it an examination on the French model where the government imposes a number of accepted students or an exam where an average graduation is requested?
7. For the students who did not graduate in medicine, do gateways exist to find new professional guidance: bachelor's degrees in sciences, nurse's career, etc.?
8. Do the students have the possibility to repeat their first year medicine and if "yes" how many times?
9. What is the minimum requirement for graduation?

Please send your answers to: francine.violette@orange.fr

cc: fnico75@orange.fr ; mdghnassia@free.fr

Italy

Dr. Barbara Brodbeck announces that a new branch of the Italian Medical Women is being formed in Florence this month.

North America

Canada, United States of America

Dr. Claudia Morrissey, Vice President North America, USA

Canada

The Federation of Medical Women of Canada is holding its annual meeting in Vancouver, at the Marriott Pinnacle in downtown Vancouver from September 16-18, 2011. The theme is *Trailblazers-Catching Our Dreams*. Come and see Vancouver in the autumn when the weather is pleasant. Visit www.fmw.ca.

United States

AMWA's 96th Annual Meeting was held on March 31-April 3, 2011 in Arlington, VA, in conjunction with the 19th Annual Congress on Women's Health. The meeting presented wonderful opportunities to network, mentor and collaborate on women's health issues and the advancement of women in medicine. If you were unable to attend this year's meeting, here are some of the highlights!

The meeting opened with AMWA's Annual Advocacy Day, held in partnership with Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health. The main issue focused on Title X funding, the federal grant program for family planning and reproductive health services for low-income and uninsured patients. In, Attendees participated in a two hour training session where they learned how to advocate on Title X and shared stories from patients prior to meeting with legislators on the Hill.

Meeting attendees also enjoyed high quality CME sessions provided by the Congress, including topics such as reproductive health, cardiovascular health in women, controversies in mammography, obesity management, memory disorders, cervical cancer screening, and osteoporosis management – and a special session with Surgeon General Dr. Regina Benjamin. AMWA distributed 5000 patient education brochures on Vitamin D, which were developed in partnership with the Bone and Joint Decade and Healthy Women, a non-profit organization serving as the nation's leading independent health information source for women. (Take the Healthy Women Survey found later in this issue of *NewsFlash* to help us develop future patient education materials.)

AMWA also held its second annual Networking Alliance meeting, bringing together over twenty professional organizations dedicated to advancing women in medicine. This year's meeting focused on gender equity and featured presentations by AMWA's Gender Equity Co-chair, Dr. Linda Brodsky and renowned speaker, Sara Laschever, author of *Women Don't Ask: Negotiation and the Gender Divide*.

AMWA's signature event is the Awards Gala. This year, AMWA's Presidential Award was presented to two exceptional women who have been integral in bringing women's health issues to the forefront: Regina Benjamin, MD, MBA, Surgeon General, Vice Admiral USPHS and Margaret A. Hamburg, MD, Commissioner of Food and Drugs. Additional women honoured at the Gala included: Valerie Montgomery Rice, MD-Elizabeth Blackwell Award; Katherine Wisner, MD, MS- Women in Science Award; Saralyn Mark, MD-Lila A. Wallis Award; Beatrice Sachs, MD (posthumously)- Bertha Van Hoosen Award; Adrienne Clark- Anne C. Carter Leadership Award; Sarah Hagy-Camille Mermod Award. Dr. Mary Guinan was welcomed as the new President of

AMWA and Dr. Eliza Chin was thanked for her service to the organization throughout her presidency and tenure on the Board. AMWA also welcomed new members of the Board including: Dr. Gayatri Devi, Incoming President, Dr. Ana Maria Lopez, Secretary, Dr.'s Eleni Tousimis, Suzanne Harrison, and Kelli Cohen Fein as Directors and the new National Student President, Adrienne Clark.

AMWA continues to provide members with opportunities to network, develop, collaborate, learn, and gain recognition for their contributions to medicine. For 96 years, AMWA members have lead the charge to promote gender equity in the field of medicine and to promote the unique needs of women's health care.

The Foundation for the History of Women in Medicine is offering the opportunity to tell your story. The project is entitled History is HERstory Too. Recognizing that there are countless stories of women trailblazers in almost all facets of life, the Foundation is seeking to recognize and preserve the significant contributions women have made, over time, to the area of medicine and the medical sciences.

What Can Others Learn from You?

Here is your opportunity to allow our fellows, student scholars, or the FHWIM community to learn from your experiences. Our area of focus for the first round of stories answers the question:

"What were the major obstacles to your career advancement in medicine and how did you overcome them?"

Send your story to fhwim@burkhartgroup.com

Latin America

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru

Dr. Mercedes Viteri, Vice President Latin America, Ecuador

Brazil – Dr. Anna Maria Martits, National Coordinator

Dr Anna Maria Martits writes that the Brazilian Association of Women Doctors are very active with many programs arranged for the second semester of 2011.

Lectures include "Palliative Care: The science and the art of life end care," Viral hepatitis and liver transplant in adults," "Obesity, Women, and Modern Society," "Gender and Health," and "Wine and Longevity."

In other news, August 13th will see the launching of the Site of the ABMM, organized with the big effort of president, Dr Marilene Melo. ABMM has a project: " Prevention of Smoking among Medical Students at the Medicine Faculties," organized by Dr Marilene Melo and Dr Nise Yamamura. Another project is "The house of the old retired doctors."

Mexico

Please mark your calendars for the congress in Guadalajara, Mexico, from October 17-20, 2012. Contact brigidaalvarez@hotmail.com

Panama

Under the direction of their president, Dr. Gyselle Moreno, the Panamanian Medical Women are incorporating the work of MWIA in their activities.

Near East and Africa

Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia

Dr. Petronila Ngiloi, Vice President Near East and Africa, Tanzania

Nigeria

Dr. JO Lawson and Dr. Mma Wokocha write that the Medical Women's Association of Nigeria continues to support professional development and personal well-being of its members. There was a legislative advocacy training organized by IPAS. MWAN has been represented at several meetings including the National Stakeholders Meeting of Medical Interventions for the reduction of maternal mortality under the auspices of the Federal Ministry of Health in collaboration with Pathfinders International and UNFPA. As the chair of The White Ribbon Alliance for safe motherhood, MWAN continues to be actively involved in all their activities.

MWAN is actively involved in the activities of Nigeria Medical Association. As part of our Advocacy Programs, a State Branch had her representatives attend Kuramo Conference 2010 an International Coloquium on Law and Development..

The new website (<http://mwan.org.ng>) became functional in January 2011.

MWAN is passionate about achieving and maintaining health for all women and children with emphasis on Women's Rights to Health Information (**WORTH**).

MWAN is involved in promoting the health of women and children in Nigeria by organizing outreach to women in the communities including market places, prisons, and children in the motherless babies' homes; health awareness campaign and public health education and screening for diabetes, hypertension, cervical and breast cancer of women in the various local government areas as well as sensitization workshops on reproductive health. Members of the National Youth Service Corps and undergraduates are not left out of these campaigns and screening. Training of Trainers on Visual Inspection of the Cervix using Acetic Acid has been carried out both at national and state levels to help in the early detection of cervical cancer.

State branches are working on different aspects of this safe motherhood and reproductive health issues by setting up Family Planning projects, community outreach campaigns, lectures and workshops for women groups as well as post abortion care services. Free blood donation centres have been set up in some states. We have carried out community outreach to include men who are decision makers in family planning issues. The International Women's Day was celebrated with free breast cancer screening for women and health talks in various states. Awareness campaign billboards on Breast cancer have been put up in various states with many of the chapters working on different aspects of cancer research and prevention.

Tanzania

During the month of June, the Medical Women's Association of Tanzania was on Air every Monday, discussing aspects of Maternal Newborn and Child Health. This was a private television with nationwide coverage, which has been working with MEWATA for several years and gives them free air time.

Central Asia

India, Thailand

Dr. Pattariya Jarutat, Vice President Central Asia, Thailand

India

The Mumbai Branch has a new website at:

<http://amwimumbaibranch.com>

Dr. Usha Saraiya is now the president of the central office.

Dr. Nalini Kurvey writes that the national conference will be in Nagpur October 15-16, 2011. There will be a workshop on Wellbeing of Women as a whole, taking into consideration physical, mental, social, spiritual aspects (including Yoga).

Thailand

The Thai Medical Women's Association (TMWA) under the Royal Patronage of Her Majesty the Queen, will be holding the Central Asia Regional Meeting in Changmai in 2012.

Western Pacific

Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, New Zealand, Philippines, Taiwan (ROC)

Dr. Rosa Maria (Rosette) Nancho, Vice President Western Pacific, Philippines

Australia

Associate Professor Jan Coles and Dr. Raie Goodwach shared their experience on gender based violence in Australia with their colleagues in the European Union, by writing an article for the publication through the European Women's Lobby, called European Women's Voice. They are to be commended for their book, entitled *Happy Healthy Women—Not Just Survivors*.

AFMW Report on Happy Healthy Women Not Just Survivors Project for AFMW

By Dr Raie Goodwach, President VMWS/ Associate Professor Jan Coles, Vice President AFMW

The Australian Federation of Medical Women (AFMW) is building on its “Happy Healthy Women Not Just Survivors” project aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of the one in three women in Australia who are survivors of sexual trauma.

In 2010 the first stage of the project delivered three key elements: a comprehensive literature review – which highlighted how little research there was detailing an integrated, holistic understanding of the psychological, physiological and socioeconomic impacts of sexual violence; an audit of medical school and post-graduate curricula – which showed that there was no national curriculum teaching medical students or doctors about the health consequences of sexual violence; and a National Summit at which key stakeholders including doctors, lawyers, police and community groups identified five key areas which need to be addressed to promote health equity (see www.afmw.org.au)

Doctors need to understand the way survivors can be affected over their lifetime to treat them holistically and not inadvertently retraumatise them as part of ordinary medical practice. MWIA members are welcome to contribute to AFFM's Doctor Survey where doctors are asked for their opinions in short 5 minute survey, please copy the following link to your browser to access the survey

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VDDGRPZ>

More research is needed to inform best practice models.

Medical students from around the world can participate in AFFM's medical student survey by giving their opinions in a short 10 minute survey, please copy the following link to your browser to access the medical student survey

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5P37FHH>

6. REPORT FROM NEW YORK UN REPRESENTATIVES

Dr. Satty Gill Keswani and Dr. Padmini Murthy MWIA NGO Reps to the UN

The Department of Public Information, Non Governmental Organization division will hold its 64th annual conference in Bonn, Germany, from September 3-5, 2011. The theme will be Sustainable Societies: Responsive Citizens. Drs. Waltraud Diekhaus and Bettina Pflaiderer will coordinate the MWIA delegation. Please let the Secretariat know if you would like to participate.

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

2011

1. **July 3-7, 2011**, Ottawa-Gatineau, Canada
Women's Worlds 2011, www.womensworlds.ca
2. **September 3-5, 2011**, Bonn, Germany
DPINGO Conference
Contact the MWIA Secretariat if you would like to attend.
3. **September 17-18, 2011**, Vancouver, Canada
Federation of Medical Women of Canada Annual Meeting
Marriott Vancouver Pinnacle Downtown, Vancouver
www.fmwc.ca
4. **October 12-15, 2011**, Montevideo Uruguay
World Medical Association Meeting
www.wma.net
5. **October 15-16, 2011**, Nagpur, India
Association of Medical Women in India National Conference
<http://amwimumbaibranch.com>
6. **November 4-5, 2011**, Berlin, Germany
Sex and Gender in Biomedical Science and Clinical Medicine—Implications in Health Care- organized by Dr. Bettina Pfliederer
is www.gendermedcongress2011.net
7. **November 11, 2011**, London, UK
Medical Women's Federation of the UK November Meeting
Women's Health with WHO's Chair of the Social Determinants of Health,
Sir Michael Marmot, as the dinner speaker
www.mwf.org.uk
8. **November 12, 2011**, Vienna, Austria
Austrian Medical Women's Association Meeting
www.aerztinnenbund.at

2012

1. **April 13-15, 2012**, Miami, Florida, USA
American Medical Women's Association Annual Meeting
www.amwa-doc.org
2. **November, 2012**, Cairo, Egypt
Near East and African Regional Meeting
More information to follow.
3. **October 17-20, 2012**, Guadalajara Mexico
XXXI PAMWA meeting
Contact brigidaalvarez@hotmail.com
4. **October 5-6, 2012**, Chiang Mai, Thailand
Central Asia Regional Meeting
www.mwia.net
5. **Oct 10-13, 2012**, Bangkok Thailand
World Medical Association Meeting
www.wma.net
6. **June or July, 2012**, Tbilisi, Georgia
Central European Regional Meeting
<http://www.gmwa.org.ge>

2013

1. **Summer, 2013**, Seoul, Korea
29th International Congress of MWIA
2. **May 28-30, 2013**, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
3rd Global Conference of Women Deliver.

2014

1. **Northern European Regional meeting in Denmark**

2017

1. **Northern European Regional meeting in UK in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the MWF**

8. NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Please keep the Secretariat up to date with:

1. The name of your President and National Coordinator with mailing and email addresses, phone and fax numbers
2. The website of your national association. You will find below a list of websites for the national associations. Please update the information.

Websites of National Associations

Austria	www.aerztinnenbund.at
Australia	http://www.afmw.org.au
Belgium	http://www.mwab.be
Canada	http://www.fmwca.ca
Denmark	http://www.quindoc.dk
Finland	http://www.suomennaislaakariyhdistys.com
France	http://affm.affinitesante.com
Georgia	http://www.gmwa.org.ge
Germany	http://www.aerztinnenbund.de
Hong Kong	www.hkwda.com
Iceland	http://www.fkli.is
India	http://amwimumbaibranch.com
Italy	http://www.donnemedico.org
Japan	http://www.jade.dti.ne.jp/jmwa
Kenya	kenyamewa@gmail.com
Korea	http://www.kmwa.org or www.kmwa.or.kr
Mongolia	gerontocenter@mongol.net
Nigeria	http://mwan.org.ng
Sweden	www.kvinnligalakare.se
Switzerland	http://www.medicalwomen.ch
Tanzania	www.mewata.org
The Netherlands	www.vnva.nl
Uganda	http://www.auwmd.org
United Kingdom	http://www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk
United States of America	http://www.amwa-doc.org

9. Formation of the Special Interest Group for Young Doctors and Medical Students

The national coordinator for youth forum of the Medical Women's Association of Nigeria, Dr Rosemary Ogu, has been encouraging young female doctors to be actively involved in MWAN activities and has the mandate to increase the visibility of MWAN Youth Forum internationally and in research as well as increase the number of young MWAN members in the various state branches. MWAN Youth Forum is growing and is

succeeding in her quest to increasing the membership of MWAN. We are also working out the modalities for articles to be presented in Korea 2013, as well as an international collaboration with health sciences online. *www.hso.org* and the Ford Foundation.

Nigeria was elected as a member of the new set of officials elected for the youth forum of the MWIA. This committee has been working hard, had an online skype meeting in Feb 2011 and has put together the first newsletter for the Youth Forum of MWIA (abbreviated as yMWIA) in Dec 2010. The December issue had 2 articles from Nigeria. The newsletter will be published twice a year, and we are looking for submissions about research, work experiences, medical school experiences, international rotations, etc.

Dr. Rosemary Ogu has assumed the position of Chair of the yMWIA.

10. Donations and Bequests

In addition to paying your dues on time and in full, please consider MWIA at the time of year when you make charitable donations and when you are updating your will. We have had a number of such donations over the years and are happy to publicly acknowledge your contribution if you wish to make a bequest or donation.

MWIA would like to acknowledge and thank the **estate of Dr. Elizabeth Margaret Rose** from Scotland for their upcoming bequest to MWIA. Dr. Rose was a long time member of both the Medical Women's Federation of the UK and MWIA and was a consulting obstetrician and gynecologist.

11. Names in the News

Catherine Carver and Joanna Mathison won the Katherine Branson Student Essay Competitions at the recent meeting of the Medical Women's Federation of the UK for their essays on "Is prostitution acceptable as a means of supporting one's studies" and "When is the right time for medics to have a baby?"

Dr. Mini Murthy, MWIA's alternate representative to the UN in New York, has been elected as a Member at Large to the Commission on the Status of Women NGO Committee. This committee organizes the NGO component of the Commission on the Status of Women at the UN in New York each spring.

Professor Lis Paice of the UK received the Order of the British Empire from the Queen's Birthday Honour List.

12. Obituaries

Dr. Jayashree Jhaveri, Chair of the Mumbai Branch of the Association of Medical Women of India on May 5, 2011.

Dr. Carolyn Motzel, Secretary-General of MWIA from 1983 to 1998, on June 16, 2011, in Carmel, California.

Dr. Elizabeth Margaret Rose, Consultant obstetrician and gynecologist from Scotland and long time member of MWIA, on April 1, 2011, in Bridge of Allan, UK.

13. Books

Abuse of the Doctor Patient Relationship

Edited by Fiona Subotsky, Susan Bewley and Michael Crowe

Order through www.rcpsych.ac.uk/publications

II. ORGANIZATIONS

1. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

a. **Dr. Shelly Abdoul** of the Department of Gender Women and Health wrote that I have the pleasure of sharing with you the updated GWH web site (<http://www.who.int/gender/en/>) that now includes a dedicated section on capacity building, including tools and strategies across the WHO Gender, Women and Health Network designed to build WHO and Member State capacities to identify, address and reduce gender-based health inequities. The tools and strategies enable WHO to deliver on its commitments to gender and human rights - and contribute to the implementation of the WHO Gender Mainstreaming Strategy (and accompanying WHA Resolution 60.25).

The web site also includes the web-release of two new publications:

1. *Gender mainstreaming for health managers: a practical approach*
2. *Human rights and gender equality in health sector strategies: a tool to assess policy coherence* (developed in collaboration with the Health and Human Rights team in WHO, OHCHR and Sida)

To access the capacity building tools and web pages, click on the bottom link on the front page news story. Alternatively, you can go to the Topics list and select "Capacity Building".

Many of you (**including MWIA**), at some stage or another, have contributed to one - or both - of these tools through various WHO collaborations, meetings and partnerships. Some are former WHO staff (including interns), others are valued partners and collaborators who have worked with GWH over the years. Each of your technical reviews, evaluations and willingness to conduct pilots have greatly contributed to the final products. While it has been quite a journey to develop-pilot-implement-revise-and-

finalize these tools, GWH (past and present) is very pleased to share them with you today.

Kindly circulate the web site to your networks and country focal points for their information and access to the tools - we look forward to seeing them translated into action on the ground!

b. The World Health Assembly was held May 16-20, 2011, in Geneva. Dr. Margaret Chan urged everyone to never forget the people we are here to serve. The guest speakers were Bill Gates and Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

2. UNITED NATIONS

a. Commission on the Status of Women at the UN in New York

MWIA's own Dr. Mini Murthy has been elected to the Executive Committee of the NGO portion of the Commission of the Status of Women for 2011-2012.

Communications Procedure of the Commission on the Status of Women

The Communications Procedure of the Commission on the Status of Women is a unique tool for individuals and organizations to use in order to raise awareness about injustice and discriminatory practices against women in any country in the world. Claims to the Commission on the Status of Women for consideration at its next session (27 February to 9 March 2012) must be submitted by **1 August 2011**.

To learn more click here: <http://www.unwomen.org/csw/communications-procedure>

The report of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women is now available. It includes the agreed conclusions on access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work, the report of the Working Group on Communications concerning the Status of Women and the resolutions adopted by the Commission.

To view the report (in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian or Spanish), visit: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/55sess.htm> .

b. DPINGO (Department of Public Information NGO section)

The 64th Annual DPINGO Conference will be held in Bonn, Germany, from September 3-5, 2011. The theme will be Sustainable Societies: Responsive Citizens. It is partnering with the UN Volunteers Program to mark the Year of the Volunteer + 10. Drs. Bettina Pfeleiderer, Waltraud Diekhaus, Ursula Sottong, Birgit Hickey and medical student, Charlotte Rohrborn will represent MWIA.

3. WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The World Medical Association is meeting in Montevideo, Uruguay, in October. MWIA shall be in attendance in the person of Dra. Mercedes Viteri.

4. **HEALTH SCIENCES ONLINE.** MWIA, FIGO and WHO will collaborate on the development of a perinatal module.

5. **PARTNERSHIP FOR MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH** The PMNCH Board met for its 10th Board meeting, approving a new 2012-15 PMNCH Strategic Framework and electing as Co-Chair Ms Purnima Mane, Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA which will join Co-Chair Dr Vinod Paul. Another major decision was the addition of a new private sector constituency, formalizing the current engagement, particularly in the context of the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health. Several new Board members, announced in March 2011, also attended their first PMNCH Board meeting. [Link to the 2012-2015 Strategic Framework Document pdf, 619kb](#), to [all PMNCH Board documents](#) and the [list of all PMNCH Board members](#) .

6. **THE EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY** by Edith Schratzberger-Vécsei, Austria

From the 18th to the 19th of June the EWL meeting and general assembly took place in Brussels. I had the opportunity to join the meeting as the alternate of Waltraud Diekhaus who currently is the MWIA delegate in the EWL and who is apparently doing a wonderful job in the EWL which was mentioned by everybody I met there whenever I said whose alternate I was. It was my first EWL meeting and I had the chance to meet many dedicated women working in the various fields of women's organizations. Main topic of the EWL in the year 2011 is violence against women. There were not only very good discussions and round tables concerning that issue but it was also presented what the EWL has already done or is going to do regarding concrete actions – for all those who are interested in the work of the EWL in particular please see the homepage:

www.womenlobby.org

Other important issues in Brussels were the so called 'emergency motions' for the next year: One is called 'Justice for Women – Olympic Games London 2012', another one 'The role of women in the democratic transformation of their societies in the Middle East' and the third one is 'EWL to counter forces trying to undermine gender equality and women's rights' So it was a broad spectrum of themes and issues that was discussed in Brussels and it was interesting as well as instructive for me to join that meeting.

On June 17th, EWL had a big launch of the project for **Stopping Violence Against Women.**

7. **FOURTH GENEVA CONFERENCE ON PERSON CENTERED MEDICINE**

was held at the Geneva University Hospital and WHO Headquarters on May 2-4, 2011. MWIA was proud to add their name in non-financial support to this conference.

www.personcenteredmedicine.org

8. **MUSKOKA INITIATIVE** Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper held a press release from Deauville, announcing support for new health initiatives to help save the lives of mothers and children in Africa and Asia as part of the Canadian-led Muskoka Initiative launched at the G-8 Summit in June 2010.

Targeting the leading causes of mortality in mothers and children in countries such as Sudan, Tanzania, Nigeria, Mali and Afghanistan, the new initiatives will support comprehensive and integrated approaches to provide the necessary health services for mothers and children.

New health initiatives include:

- Establishing 24-hour emergency obstetrical and neonatal care hospitals in Southern Sudan;
- Helping to immunize 24 million children and pregnant women against preventable diseases, helping to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and providing antenatal and delivery care to four million women in Tanzania;
- Supporting additional antenatal care visits, increasing the availability of skilled birth attendants, and increasing access to contraceptives, post-delivery checkups, bed nets, as well as the number of infants fed with breast milk in Nigeria;
- Strengthening the referral and evacuation system for pregnant women, reducing the rate of malnutrition in children, and pregnant and nursing women, as well as providing women with better access to the health services they need in Mali;
- Training community health practitioners and increasing the access and use of health services for women and children in underserved areas of Afghanistan. day window from pregnancy to age two;
- Helping to reduce child hunger and undernutrition in children and pregnant women in select developing countries, including Africa and Asia, by targeting the 1,000-day window from pregnancy to age two.

9. GAVI

Donations from around the world have exceeded by \$600 million the call by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization for \$3.7 billion to immunize 250 million of the world's poorest children by 2015

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Let me take this opportunity to encourage you to attend the various regional meetings this triennium and to mark your calendars for the 29th Congress in Seoul, Korea, in 2013.

The next Update will be published in September, 2011.

Please send us your reports, comments or any other interesting information by August 31, 2011, at the latest. We are always interested to put your name and your accomplishments in the Update.

Letters to the editor are always welcome.