

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MWIA



Update

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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

These are troubling times we live in. A commentator made a remark that it would appear that the spiritual consciousness of people in various countries around the world have been awakened to rise up against forms of governance that are not seen as democratic, resulting in the loss of lives we have all been privy to here in our living rooms through the medium of television, internet and other forms of electronic communications.

As Medical women, we are well aware that in all of these, it is women and children who bear the brunt of the difficult aftermath of these conflicts. We all held our breath to hear from our Egyptian colleagues, who, in the middle of planning a regional Congress for 2012, suddenly found themselves in the middle of internal conflicts. Thankfully we have heard from them and they are well. We are grateful for the speedy resolution though as elsewhere, we deplore the loss of lives and encourage them to continue the planning of what will no doubt be a very successful Regional Congress. I urge you all to put the dates on your calendars in solidarity with our Egyptian colleagues.

Congratulations to our many members in various parts of the world who are being recognized and receiving honours for their various contribution to the advancement of health in their countries and internationally. We applaud their efforts and encourage everyone to send in the record of their achievements.

Let us not forget that our call for this triennium is "Moving beyond the rhetoric to action-Improving the health of women and children." This is a call in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), whose deadline of 2015 is just around the corner. There never is enough time but National Associations should heed this call and MWIA asks that they keep the Secretariat well informed of their activities as they plan and execute programs.

The United Nations on Thursday 24th February, 2010, launched the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, known as UN Women under the aegis of the Secretary- General of the UN himself, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, who worked so hard to see this dream become a reality. This was on the occasion of the 55th session of the Commission on the Status of Women which was held at the UN in New York. It was a time of renewed commitment to addressing issues of women and girls through a joint effort of the UN agencies that were hitherto separate, namely Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI), and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) under one canopy with Dr. Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile as the new Executive Director. This is an effort to open up the spaces for women in all spheres and to engage these collective voices so as to impact in a real and sustained manner an improvement in the collective lives and livelihoods of women and families,

harnessing the multiple talents of women. Some members of your Executive, who attended the CSW, had the privilege of meeting her in person as she held a private meeting with us arranged through the efforts of your hardworking Vice-President for South America, Dr Mercedes Viteri (see attached photograph). They were, Prof. Afua Hesse, Dr. Shelley Ross, Dr. Claudia Morrissey, Dr Satty Keswani, Dr Padmini Murthy and Dr Eleanor Nwadinobi.



Dr Bachelet identified very keenly with us as Medical women and indeed it was obvious that her viewpoint is progressive precisely because she is a medical woman. She spoke of her aim of bringing synergies and coordination and that the UN women would not usurp the role of any one of the individual organizations in their areas of expertise. She reminded us that globally, the emphasis on reproductive health although necessary, had led to a loss of emphasis in addressing issues of women's health. She would work in the area of advocacy mainstreaming and championing women's health as a whole. She re-echoed the call to action rather than words and identified strongly with the MWIA triennial call of moving beyond the rhetoric into action. She emphasized the need to document success stories especially in South to South cooperation, paying attention to specific cultural touches and biases and suggesting that approaching women's health issues from the point of view of opportunity costs of not intervening might get the required attention and funding commitments of governments.

The Executive members also took the opportunity to meet up with the new Executive Director of the UNFPA who is Dr Babatunde Oshotimehin, who had previously been in charge of Nigeria's HIV program as well as served as the Minister for Health of Nigeria. This was through the efforts and hard work of the MWIA UN representatives in New

York, Drs Satty Keswani and Padmini Murthy and we do appreciate their dedication. Dr Eleanor Nwadinobi, Chair of Finance, and I had worked with Dr. Oshotimehin in other previous capacities.



MWIA has collaborated with the UNFPA in the past and we were seeking to renew that commitment. This was a very successful meeting and I believe further pages in the chapter of collaboration with UNFPA will be opening shortly. Several issues were raised among which is the key most issue of mentoring which we can and should easily promote. I believe we can all work on this and MWIA will be in touch with your National Associations through your Vice-Presidents to stimulate us on this through an initial situational analysis on this and other topics.

MWIA held a well attended parallel event at the Commission on the Status of Women, which was very well organized by our UN representatives, Drs. Keswani and Murthy. The theme was “Medicine- the Pink Collar Profession” and was addressed by a panel of both your executive who were in New York and other members of MWIA from the American Medical Women’s Association (AMWA) as well as Mary Singletary from the American National Council of Women. The panel included Dr Gail Beck and Dr Mercedes Viteri who were unavoidably unable to attend the other meetings.

Recent WHO publications which are available on the internet include:

1. Women, gender and the tobacco epidemic
2. Working to overcome the global impact of neglected tropical diseases- 1st WHO global report on neglected global diseases. This looks at diseases such as dengue, rabies, dracunculiasis or Guinea worm disease, lymphatic filariasis, and Buruli ulcer.

I trust you will all contribute. Enjoy your read!!!

2. PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Atsuko Heshiki, Japan

2007-2010 Theme: "Leadership, Achievement and Accomplishment"

When I first wrote this article for the update, I commented that recent major natural disasters in the world were frightening. That was before the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. The scale of the disaster in Japan is beyond my imagination. All members of the Japanese Medical Women are accounted for. I hope all the members in other areas of the world hit by natural disasters are safe and well.

I am pleased to know the current executive members are functioning actively through e-mail and Skype conferences.

I have been promoting my theme of "professionalism and leadership" in the medical schools and physicians' association, mainly in Japan.

Before the Japan disaster, the 28th General Assembly of Japan Medical Congress was to be held in Tokyo in April. I was to participate in the symposium with women surgeons to empower their careers.

I accepted the offer from Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and will be an Alternate Representative of Government of Japan to the 65th General Assembly of the United Nations in New York from October 1st, 2011 to November 30th, 2011. This is my second opportunity to be with the UN. I hope to work also for the visibility of MWIA.

The Japan Medical Women's Association was to host the 10th MWIA Western Pacific Regional Congress in Tokyo, May 26th through May 29th, 2011, but this has been cancelled due to the natural disaster.

3. REQUESTS FROM THE SECRETARY- GENERAL

Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada

On behalf of the MWIA executive, the Secretariat wishes to express to acknowledge our members who have been in areas of natural disasters and civil unrest. You are in our thoughts and our hearts go out to you during these trying times. We consider you our MWIA sisters and wish you all peace and safety in your daily lives.

The Commission on the Status of Women was held at the UN in New York from February 22 to March 4, 2011. Many thanks go to our United Nations representatives in New York, Dr. Satty Gill Keswani and Dr. Mini Murthy for their excellent organization. MWIA held a parallel event during the CSW, entitled ***Medicine: The Pink Collar Profession***. Satty Keswani and Mini Murthy moderated and the panelists included Afua Hesse, Gail Beck, Eliza Chin, Eleanor Nwadinobi, Kimberly Templeton, Claudia Morrissey, Mercedes Viteri, Mary Singletary and Shelley Ross.

MWIA attendees had the great opportunity to have a private meeting with Dr. Michelle Bachelet, the head of the new UN agency for women entitled UN Women. She has offered MWIA the opportunity to sit on her NGO advisory boards.

MWIA also met with Dr. Babatunde Oshotimehin, the new head of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and opportunities are available for MWIA to work with their country UNFPA offices. **Please let the Secretariat know if your organization is interested in working with UNFPA, particularly in the area of mentoring.**

Dr. Waltraud will be representing us at the **WHO Global Forum 2011: Addressing the Challenges of Noncommunicable Diseases**, being held in Moscow, 27 April 2011.

The **World Health Assembly** of WHO will be held in May 16-20, 2011. Please let the Secretariat know if you wish to attend.

The **Department of Public Information NGO Conference** for 2011 will be held in Bonn, Germany, September 3-5, 2011. Please let the Secretariat know if you wish to attend.

The **Northern European Regional Meeting** is being held in Breukelen, The Netherlands, May 19-21, 2011. The theme is ***Women on the Move***. Visit www.vnva.net for registration information.

The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) is looking for nominations for its board. Please contact the Secretariat if you are interested in serving on behalf of MWIA.

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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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
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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

United Kingdom—Dr. Dorothy Ward, National Coordinator

The Medical Women's Federation Spring meeting will be held May 6, 2011, in North Wales. The theme is "**Alice Through the Looking Glass: Women and Mind Altering States.**" Speakers will include 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. At each meeting, there is the Katherine Branson Student Essay Competition for the medical students. The two topics upcoming are: "What is the right time for a medic to have a baby?" and "Is prostitution acceptable as a means of supporting one's studies?"

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.

Dr Ward warns of two threats to Medicine, on which MWF needs to take the lead. One is the elimination of maternity/paternity leave and the other is to ensure that general practice does not continue to become a pink collar profession.

The Netherlands

The Dutch Medical Women's Association is hosting the Northern European Regional Meeting in Breukelen from 19-21 May, 2011. The theme is *Women on the Move*. For registration information, visit the website of the VNVA: www.vnva.nl

Central Europe

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

Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus, Vice President Central Europe, Germany

Dr. Diekhaus writes that there is not always very new and important news. Nevertheless, there are lots of activities going on among the European members of "my" region and me. Mostly I get questions about addresses and possible contacts or I am asked to visit a country in order to support or strengthen the local organisation. Regularly I am informing "my" Europeans on MWIA news and EWL news. Or I am forwarding questionnaires, inquiries etc. I am also in constant contact with our hard-working and

very competent Secretary- General. In my opinion the communication in our association is working well, the visibility is increasing and we can be happy that we are moving forward.

There is an initiative in Germany called “**Stop Mutilation**”, where all women in Germany can get advice and/or help via telephone. Wouldn't this be a good idea for every country? Visit the website: www.kutairi.de.

Dr. Diekhaus is sure that the following article does not apply to any members of MWIA!?

Whose job?

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Russia

Larisa Skuratovskaya from Moscow writes that the gender movement has arrived in Russia, perhaps not as fast as it could be, but present nevertheless.

Southern Europe

Belgium, France, Greece, Israel, Italy

Professor Alexandra Kalogeraki, Vice President Southern Europe, Greece

Dr. Kalogeraki plans to hold a meeting in either Crete or Athens before the end of the triennium.

France

The French Medical Women has a new national coordinator, who is Dr. Francoise Nico. Congratulations also to Dr. Francine Violette, who is the new Vice President of the French Medical Women.

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 17-19, 2011. The theme is *Trailblazers-Catching Our Dreams*.

United States

AMWA just completed its annual meeting in Washington, DC, March 31-April 3 in conjunction with the 19th Annual Women's Health Congress.

Plans are underway to hold the North American Regional Meeting with the next annual AMWA meeting in Washington DC next spring.

AMWA supports the American Women's Hospitals Service, which is still providing aid in clinics in the USA and around the world.

Latin America

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

Dr. Mercedes Viteri, Vice President Latin America, Ecuador

Thank you to Dr. Viteri for producing a wonderful calendar for MWIA.

Dr. Viteri reports that she has been in contact and is working with both the Andean branch of the new UN Women and also with UNFPA.

Thanks to Dr. Viteri, the University Hospital of the city of Guayaquil is very interested in the Kangaroo Mother Care. The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dr. Maitta, congratulated MWIA on this novel idea.

Brazil – Dr. Anna Maria Martits, National Coordinator

Dr. Anna Maria Martits wrote that she and the Brazilian President, Dr. Marilene Melo, had an article published in the Sao Paulo State Medical Association Journal about Gender and Health. This article was seen by all doctors, both male and female, in the state of Sao Paulo. The MWIA Secretariat has the original article in Portuguese upon request. The article was influenced by the MWIA Training Manual for Gender Mainstreaming in Health and the presentations on Gender and Health at the MWIA International Congress in Munster this past year.

A new website is being designed and will contain the objectives of MWIA, again in Portuguese.

Dr. Melo and Dr. Martits are planning to review the situation of women doctors in hospitals, first in Sao Paulo and later in all of Brazil.

Many activities are taking place, as listed below.

Scientific meetings:

March 17: "New paradigms in the treatment of cancer" by Prof. Nise Yamaguchi

April 14: "Emotional Intelligence and Leadership" by Dr Elizabeth Cerqueira

May 19: "Clinical Guidelines and Evidence Based Medicine" which is a Guidelines Project of the Brazilian Medical Association with Dr Wanderley M. Bernardo; Director of the Project

June 16: "Sexuality and Self Esteem" by Dr Carmita Abdo psychiatrist , sexologist, Professor of São Paulo University Medical School

Multidisciplinary Project:

" Control of Tabagism in students of the Faculties of Medicine"

The Brazilian Medical Women's Association has been in contact with the following organizations:

AMB: Brazilian Medical Association

CFM: Federal Council of Medicine

All the Societies of Specialties

Academy of Medicine of Brazil

Ecuador

The Ecuador Medical Women's Association is very active.

Dra. Maria del Carmen Santillan Samaniego, Chair of the Scientific Committee lists their recent scientific activities.

- 1 .- Participation as a member of the Network of Violence Prevention at the signing of cooperation for the Reception home run to Victims of Trafficking and Sexual Offences will be dealt a total of 25 adolescents aged 12 to 17 years, the project is to Provincial Government and by the contribution of the MIES / INFA.
- 2 .- Speaker on the theme "Gender Equity" by the Women's Day panel UROCAL forum organized and directed by its members-I of the rural areas of Azuay, Guayas, El Oro
- 3 .- Coordinator training event implants health providers from 10 performing units in the province, trained a total of 70 medical professionals and Obstetrics.
- 4 .- Participation Day parade organized by the Women's Movement Women of El Oro, Commissioner for Women and other social organizations and state institutions.
- 5 .- Provincial Committee convened Accelerated Reduction of Maternal and Neonatal Death and design plan, 2011.
- 6 .- Assist in the research process Acetilconlinesterasa determination of serum of pregnant women who live more than 1 year in fields of banana.
- 7 .- Support Committee Coordinator of Accelerated Reduction of Maternal and Neonatal Death in Public Network shaping CONE.
- 8 .- Participation in the Virtual Debate on Emergency Contraception

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

Kenya

The University of Sydney is working in Kenya to set up a centre to eradicate female genital mutilation and hold a congress on this topic.

Central Asia

India, Thailand

Dr. Pattariya Jarutat, Vice President Central Asia, Thailand

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*.

Korea Dr. Bong Ok Kim, National Coordinator

The Korean Medical Women's Association (KMWA) will have their 55th annual assembly meeting on April 16, 2011 at the Lotte Hotel, Seoul. Three of the founders of KMWA will be invited to be awarded a special present of thanks at the assembly. At the Assembly former KMWA president Dr. Park, Yang-sil will be awarded a HanDok Leadership award for her excellent leadership as a medical woman. Many other awards will be given to the outstanding researchers. Before the assembly KMWA will have the board meeting on April 1, 2011.

With the leadership of President Park, Kyung-Ah, KMWA had a medical services camp with 26 members at Nabotas City in the Philippines on February 2-7, 2011. This was the first overseas medical services camp by KMWA. KMWA published a manual for emergency medical care for the victims of sexual violence in cooperation with the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family with the educational sessions to the members throughout Korea with the strong supports of its branch associations.

KMWA appointed Dr. Kim, Bong Ok who is a National Coordinator as Chairperson of the Local Organizing Committee of the 29th Assembly of MWIA which will be held in Seoul, Korea in 2013.

6. REPORT FROM NEW YORK UN REPRESENTATIVES

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

Drs. Keswani and Murthy are to be congratulated on their excellent organization of the parallel event for the upcoming **55th Commission on the Status of Women**, being held February 22 – March 4, 2011. The parallel event was entitled *Medicine: The Pink Collar Profession*, in keeping with the theme of Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work.

MWIA attendees had the great opportunity to have a private meeting with Dr. Michelle Bachelet, the head of the new UN agency for women entitled UN Women. She has offered MWIA the opportunity to sit on her NGO advisory boards.

MWIA also met with Dr. Babatunde Oshotimehin, the new head of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and opportunities are available for working in partnership, particularly in the area of mentoring.

International Women's Day

March 8, 2011, marked the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day. The day was used to celebrate women's economic, political and social achievements and an opportunity to call for gender equality and women's empowerment.

MWIA had an article on Reuters London at <http://uk.reuters.com>.

MWIA contributed to the WHO website photo essay of selected advances in women's health.

The Women's Information Network organized an extravaganza around the world for celebrating IWD. There was a call for nominees for awards for outstanding women. MWIA had no difficulty submitted several names and we are pleased that one of our nominees, **Dr. Corazon Yabes-Almirante**, a Past President of the Philippine Medical Women was a recipient of one of these awards.

There were many local celebrations. Dr. Diekhaus gathered in the city of Dortmund with other women's organizations in the town hall and spoke of their goals and activities. Dr. Dorothy Ward attended an event at the Scottish Parliament. The Vancouver Branch in Canada went to a talk in the series of "Unique Lives and Experiences" where they heard Irshad Manji speak about changes in the Muslim World.

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 Pfleiderer will coordinate the MWIA delegation. Please let the Secretariat know if you would like to participate.

UN Women

Following the private meeting with UN Women Executive Director, Dr. Michelle Bachelet, MWIA is anticipating a voice on the NGO advisory boards. Congratulations on forming the new UN Women Agency! This should be a great step forward for women.

UNFPA

After the meeting with UNFPA Executive Director, Dr. Osotimehin, MWIA is working on areas of collaboration.

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

2011

1. **May 6-7, 2011**, The Quay Hotel, Deganwy, Conwy, North Wales
Medical Women's Federation Spring Council Meeting
www.mwf.org.uk
2. **May 8-9, 2011**, Lisbon, Portugal
Women against cervical cancer
www.wacc-network.org
3. **May 11-14, 2011**, Vancouver, Canada
Canadian Conference on Physician Leadership
Fairmont Hotel Vancouver
www.cma.ca
4. **May 16-25, 2011**, Geneva, Switzerland
World Health Assembly, WHO
www.who.int
5. **May 19-21, 2011**, Breukelen, The Netherlands
Regional Meeting of the Northern European Region
www.vnva.nl
6. **May 26- 29 , 2011** Tokyo, Japan
Western Pacific Regional Meeting
CANCELLED DUE TO EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI
7. **July 3-7, 2011**, Ottawa-Gatineau, Canada
Women's Worlds 2011, www.womensworlds.ca
8. **September 3-5, 2011**, Bonn, Germany

DPINGO Conference

9. **September 17-18, 2011**, Vancouver, Canada
Federation of Medical Women of Canada Annual Meeting
Marriott Vancouver Pinnacle Downtown, Vancouver
www.fmwc.ca
10. **October 12-15, 2011**, Montevideo Uruguay
World Medical Association Meeting
www.wma.net
11. **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

2012

1. **Spring, 2012**, Washington, DC
North American Regional Meeting
More information to follow
2. **May, 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. **Oct 10-13, 2012**, Bangkok Thailand
World Medical Association Meeting
www.wma.net

2013

1. **Date to be determined**, Seoul, Korea
29th International Congress of MWIA
www.mwia.net

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.fmw.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
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	www.mwannational.org
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

Please remember that MWIA has a Special Interest Group for Young Doctors and Medical Students. The group had special meetings during the Munster Congress to discuss issues of importance to their stage of medical practice. This will continue at the Seoul Congress in 2013, so please remember to keep the young members of your organization involved and think of a representative to nominate for the Seoul Congress in 2013.

The first newsletter can be found on the congress website at www.mwia2010.net and there is now a category for yMWIA on the MWIA website.

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.

11. Names in the News

Dr. Gail Beck, MWIA Treasurer, was honoured with the Order of Ontario for her volunteer work with women and children.

Dr. Gabrielle Casper, Past President of MWIA, has been promoted to Professor and Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of Notre Dame University, Sydney, Australia.

Professor Dame Sally Davies became the first female Chief Medical Officer for England.

Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus, our past Secretary-General celebrated her 75th birthday on February 22nd. Congratulations Waltraud on being forever young and active.

Dr. Bettina Pfeiderer, MWIA Chair of Scientific and Research Committee, was awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, for including gender aspects in medicine and improving the lives of women. The Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany is the only general state decoration of the Federal Republic of Germany (the international equivalent is the Knight's Cross).

Dr. Corazon Yabes-Almirante, Past President of the Philippine Medical Women's Association was the recipient of an International Women's Day Outstanding Service Award, as part of our celebration of the 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day by the Women's Information Network.

13. Books

Australian Federation of Medical Women, under the authorship of Associate Professor Jan Coles and Dr. Raie Goodwach, has written *Happy Healthy Women-Not Just Survivors*. Visit www.afmw.org.au to access the book.

II. ORGANIZATIONS

1. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

- a. MWIA is working with the Department of Reproductive Health of WHO on the m-health project. Dr. Christine Biryabarema and Professor Florence Mirembe of Uganda are MWIA's representatives.
- b. MWIA contributed ideas for the photo essay of advances in women's health for the WHO website for International Women's Day.

2. UNITED NATIONS

a. **UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, known as UN Women.** UN Women is strong off the mark as a dynamic and strong champion for women and girls around the world, providing them with a powerful voice at the global, regional and local levels. UN Women united the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), the office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues (OSAGI), and the UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW). Having met with UN Women Executive Director, Dr. Michelle Bachelet, MWIA looks forward to future collaboration.

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.

c. **UNFPA** has a new Executive Director by the name of Dr. Babatunde Oshotimehin. He was the Minister of Health in Nigeria. Having had a personal meeting with Dr. Oshotimehin, MWIA looks forward to collaboration, particularly in the area of mentoring.

d. **The World's Women 2010** highlights the differences in the status of women and men in eight areas – population and families, health, education, work, power and decision-making, violence against women, environment and poverty. The direct link to the full 284 page report is

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/Worldswomen/WW_full%20report_col_or.pdf

e. **PAHO** is having a national and regional best practices contest. Entries need to be in by May 15, 2011. The area is the Safe Motherhood Initiative. Contact ims@paho.org.

3. **WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

The World Medical Association is meeting in Sydney, Australia, in April and in Montevideo, Uruguay, in October. MWIA shall be in attendance. Dr. Gabrielle Casper will attend in Sydney and Dr. Mercedes Viteri in Uruguay.

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** Dr. Claudia Morrissey of MWIA was nominated for the **Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH)** board.

6. The Institute of Gender in Medicine (GiM) in Berlin, Charité-Universitätsmedizin, is proud to announce its **1st Module on “Gender Medicine – Basic Subjects”** to be organised together with all partners of our EUGIM (European Curriculum Gender In Medicine) project. For more information please refer to the **project website** <http://eugim.charite.de/en/eugim/teaching/>.

7. The **European Women’s Lobby** is pursuing a number of activities, including maternity leave directive, pensions, poverty and social exclusion and EU financial perspectives and a number of aspects of violence against women.

8. **Fourth Geneva Conference on Person Centered Medicine** is being held at the Geneva University Hospital and WHO Headquarters on May 2-4, 2011. MWIA is proud to add their name in non-financial support to this conference.
www.personcenteredmedicine.org

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

On behalf of the executive of MWIA, let me acknowledge our members who have been in areas of natural disasters and civil unrest. You are in our thoughts and our hearts go out to you during these trying times. We consider you our MWIA sisters and wish you all peace and safety in your daily lives.

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 June, 2011.

Please send us your reports, comments or any other interesting information by Maya 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.