

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

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# MWIA



# Update

No. 77 March 2019

E-mail: [secretariat@mwia.net](mailto:secretariat@mwia.net) Website: <http://www.mwia.net>

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Phone +1 604 522-1960

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**MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

**THEME OF THE 2016-2019 TRIENNIUM**

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

## 1. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Professor Dr. Dr. Bettina Pfleiderer, Germany



### CELEBRATE WITH MWIA OUR CENTENNIAL YEAR 2019!

MWIA is celebrating its 100 birthday this year and many of our members are working very hard in our committees, in their national associations and as local host of the centennial meeting to make this an unforgettable and memorable event.

Since the beginning of this year there has been a flurry of MWIA activities to celebrate 100 years of achievements of medical women.

- Six of our nine planned **centennial historical articles** highlighting MWIA's history up to the centennial congress in New York in July 2019 have been published. [https://mwia.net/historical\\_teasers/](https://mwia.net/historical_teasers/)
- Seven **centennial recipes** have been shared with MWIA's membership so far. <https://mwia.net/centennial-recipes/>
- The **MWIA centennial collage initiative** is well under way and we are very impressed by the creativity and beauty of the fabric squares we have received so far. We publish teasers on a regular base about the entries received. <https://mwia.net/centennial-fabric-square/>
- **From vision to reality: the production of our centennial MWIA scarf** based on the design of Associate Professor Marina Di Domenico from Napoli in Italy **has begun**. More information on the design and designer can be found here: [https://mwia.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Teaser\\_scarf\\_Feb.14.19.pdf](https://mwia.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Teaser_scarf_Feb.14.19.pdf). Would you like to buy your own centennial scarf? The cost for a microfiber scarf is 40 USD and the cost for a scarf made of Italian silk is 60 USD.

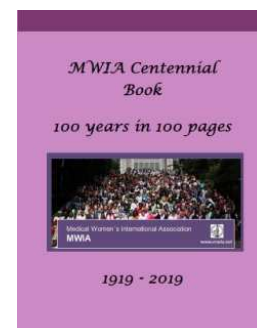


**PLEASE NOTE:** If you would like to **purchase an MWIA centennial scarf, you must order it by March 31**. MWIA will not be able to guarantee scarves after that date, although a limited number will be sold on-site at the meeting. **If you did not purchase a scarf with your registration**, you may purchase centennial scarves, T-shirts, mugs, and the MWIA book '100 Years in 100 Pages' now **through this link:** <https://form.jotform.com/90564903486162>

- Our **MWIA fundraising campaign for the centennial book**, the memory sticks and the fabric collage for MWIA's Centenary celebrations **has been an enormous success**. We raised about \$US 20.000, which is way beyond our expectations, and a wonderful tribute to the generosity of our members. In fact, the list of donors will occupy 11 pages of the centennial book with over 540 individual donors from 33 countries!

**A very big thank you to all of you who donated for our MWIA centennial activities.**

- **"100 years in 100 pages"** is the title of our centennial book, which is now with the publisher for lay-outing prior to printing. Because of the generosity of our members we are able to sell the printed book in hard cover for the very low price of 10 USD in New York. This book will be a wonderful legacy of MWIA's last 100 years, and a wonderful platform from which to launch the next



100 years. If you would like to have **the printed version of the centennial book** in addition to the free pdf document on the memory stick, this is **available now for pre-order via the link above.**

### **How can you participate further?**

All MWIA members are invited to write and send in one lunch or dinner recipe from their home countries. Kindly send in your recipe with your name and country using the template provided with a PDF picture in high resolution. The template can be found here:

[https://mwia.net/wp-](https://mwia.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/MWIA_October_teaser_call_for_Recipes_MWIA.docx)

[content/uploads/2018/10/MWIA\\_October\\_teaser\\_call\\_for\\_Recipes\\_MWIA.docx](https://mwia.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/MWIA_October_teaser_call_for_Recipes_MWIA.docx)

### **Update on the centennial congress**

It is only 4 months to go until our centennial congress in New York at the end of July. Over 520 physicians have signed up to date and we expect to reach an overall attendance of 1000. There are 90 speakers and over 200 poster presenters coming from all over the world. Information and registration forms are available at <https://www.amwa-doc.org/mwia100/>

Last but not least **MWIA will have a 30 minute historic session** directly after the congress opening ceremony co-chaired by President-elect Clarissa Fabre and I entitled “**Celebrating 100 years of MWIA in 30 minutes**”. There will be keynote speeches from three MWIA presidents - Afua Hesse, Kyung Ah Park and Bettina Pfleiderer - in addition to a spectacular slideshow with music, and finally a **photo shoot on stage of all national presidents/individual country members at the Congress to end the session.**

### **Update on the Modernizations of Statutes and By-laws**

The draft set of updated Statutes and Bylaws has been sent out for review by the membership. We have received valuable feedback and a slightly amended version based on this feedback will be sent for re-review to the membership. The revised Statutes and Bylaws will come to the General Assembly in July 2019 for approval.

### **Other activities**

**The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at UN Headquarters in New York City has just ended.** The priority theme was social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women, with the review theme being women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development. MWIA was well represented at CSW with members from Australia, Canada, Japan, Nigeria, Taiwan, UK, and USA. **MWIA's parallel event on Wednesday, March 13th was full to overflowing, giving many members the opportunity to highlight their work under the theme of Medical Women and their role in sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women.** A big thank you goes to Dr. Satty Gill Keswani and Dr. Padmini Murthy, MWIA's permanent reps to the UN, for the work they do all year long at the UN on our behalf.

In response to many global reports on sexual harassment, sexism and bullying of female physicians and female medical students, **MWIA wrote a press release that condemned all forms of sexual harassment, sexism and bullying in medicine.** The reports clearly show that the measures adopted so far have not solved this problem. Medical associations need to play an active part in tackling these human right violations! The press statement in English and Spanish (**MWIA condena todas las formas de acoso sexual, sexismo y bullying en la medicina!**) can be found here: <https://mwia.net/press-releases/>

I had the honor to represent MWIA on many occasions this year. In line with this it is wonderful to see our membership increasing and new national medical women's associations and individuals applying for MWIA membership. **Together we are much stronger to reach our goals!**

I am looking forward to seeing some of you at my last regional meeting as MWIA president in **Tbilisi, Georgia, where the Central European regional meeting** will be held on 18-19th May 2019 <http://eng.gmwa.org.ge/news/8--17-18-2019.html>

## **2. REQUESTS FROM THE SECRETARY- GENERAL**

**Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada**

The **Centennial Congress** is almost here! Thanks to all that have been working so hard to making it a success and particularly to our AMWA hosts. For those of you who like to leave things to the last minute, just a reminder that registration and all other information can be found at [www.amwa-doc.org/mwia100](http://www.amwa-doc.org/mwia100). We are down to the wire if you want to order your **Centennial scarf** or submit a **poster**, as you need to meet the March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. Please see section 4 of this Update for a detailed report from the AMWA Local Organizing Committee.

There is an opportunity to pre-order your **Centennial book**, "100 Years in 100 Pages," as there will not be many extra hard copies for sale at the meeting. The Centennial book will be made available to all registrants on the memory stick but a hard copy makes a lovely present. Thank you to so many of you who donated to make the printing of a hard copy possible and to be able to sell the book for \$10 USD.

Following each congress, a **congress report** is generated. That report will include the statistical and narrative report from each national association—but I need to receive that information from you if I am to include it. Could I please remind you to refer to the Second Special Congress Update that was mailed to all the end of January. In that you will find **requests for all sorts of information** that is due at the Secretariat May 1<sup>st</sup>.

MWIA was well represented at the **63<sup>rd</sup> Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63)** at the United Nations in New York. MWIA's side event was held on Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. See section 5 of the Update for a full report.

Each May the World Health Organization holds its **World Health Assembly** where national states gather to discuss health issues. As an NGO in official relations with WHO, MWIA attends each year and meets with staff to discuss projects. If you would like to attend, please let the Secretariat know at [secretariat@mwia.net](mailto:secretariat@mwia.net), as the invitation arrives in April and registration is required.

Vancouver is the host city for the **Women Deliver Conference** being held June 2-6, 2019. Please let the Secretariat know if you are planning to attend so we can connect.

There is one **remaining regional meeting** planned for 2019. The Central European Regional Meeting is to be held May 17-18, 2019 in Tbilisi, Georgia. Information can be found at [http://www.gmwa.org.ge/index\\_en.html](http://www.gmwa.org.ge/index_en.html)

As a reminder to National Coordinators, it is anticipated that you will circulate this newsletter to your membership. In addition, if you have not accessed the **secure site for NCs** please let the Secretariat know. The Updated **MWIA Flyer** is available in English, Spanish and Portuguese to National Coordinator's on the NC secure site at [www.mwia.net](http://www.mwia.net).

Contact information for MWIA:

Website is [www.mwia.net](http://www.mwia.net)

Email is [secretariat@mwia.net](mailto:secretariat@mwia.net)

Phone is [1-604-522-1960](tel:1-604-522-1960)

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

### 3. **PRESIDENT-ELECT REPORT**

**Dr. Clarissa Fabre, UK**

Our Centennial in New York, which is the start of my triennium as your president, is fast approaching. I have been looking at projects to present to the new 2019-2022 Executive for discussion and ratification, which will give us the opportunity to work closely with many of you. Our objectives are to improve the health and lives of women, girls and their families throughout the world in a practical way, and to improve the lives of women doctors.

Last November, I attended the MWIA Africa and Near East Regional meeting in Nairobi, which emphasized to me the huge importance of **Contraception and Teenage Pregnancy**. Dr Bev Johnson from Canada and I met two young Kenyan doctors working in this area. We have applied for a grant to support African women doctors and medical students to talk to adolescents on **sexual and reproductive health**, to educate health workers, and to educate parents, teachers and community and church leaders. This will be done by working in partnership with local and international groups involved in the same area.

As part of celebrations for International Women's Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March, I attended a Woman of the World ((WOW) festival in London. Founded nine years ago by theatre director, Jude Kelly, this festival has now taken root in 17 countries across six continents, and in towns and cities in the U.K. The speakers included the first woman Prime Minister of Australia and the first woman President of Finland. There were panels with migrant and refugee women, and FGM and forced marriage activists. A 15 year old schoolgirl, Maryam Naasir, recited a poem she had written voicing her hopes for the future of young women. It was a wonderful day.

I also attended the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York in March. Drs Shelley Ross, Mini Murthy and Satty Keswani organized a very successful MWIA parallel event, with a varied range of speakers. These included Dr. Gigi Osler, a surgeon and President of the Canadian Medical Association, Dr Joyce Barber, President of the Medical Women's Association



of Nigeria, who spoke about difficulties and prejudices facing women becoming Heads of Departments ('I haven't left home to come and talk to a woman' said one male doctor), and an inspiring medical student from Canada, Vivian Gu. At the CSW Consultation Day, the 2019 Woman of Distinction Award was won by a 22 year old Afghan woman who is encouraging education and leadership for young women and girls throughout Afghanistan. And finally, there was an excellent Question and Answer session with the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres. He is a true believer in parity for women, and is determined to achieve equal representation for women on all senior committees in the UN.



Dr Mini Murthy with winner of Women of Distinction Award Winner and Chair NGO CSW



Antonio Guterres and Exec Director UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka (far right)

#### 4. CENTENNIAL CONGRESS OF MWIA Update from the Local Organizing Committee

The MWIA Centennial Congress is less than 4 months away and plans are shaping up nicely. Over 520 physicians have signed up to date and we expect to reach an overall attendance of 1000. Please see the updates below.

##### MERCHANDISE UPDATES

- If you would like to purchase an [MWIA centennial scarf](#), you must order it by March 31. MWIA will not be able to guarantee scarves after that date, although a limited number will be sold on-site at the meeting. If you did not purchase during registration, you may purchase centennial scarves, T-shirts, mugs, and the MWIA 100 Years in 100 Pages Book now through this [link](https://form.jotform.com/90564903486162): <https://form.jotform.com/90564903486162>

##### AGENDA UPDATES

- We have over 90 speakers and over 200 poster presenters coming from all over the world.
- Featured keynote includes [Ms. Gloria Steinem](#), internationally renowned feminist leader
- The poster deadline is extended until March 31.
- Leaders from [TIME'S UP Healthcare](#), a new movement to ensure gender equity within healthcare, will be at the MWIA meeting to share information about their groundbreaking movement.
- Special commemoration of women physicians in the military (active duty and veteran) at the MWIA Centennial Gala. We want to specially honor this group of women physicians who are

serving or have served not only their patients but also their country in a uniformed service. Please ask your military physicians to register at [amwa-doc.org/mwia100](http://amwa-doc.org/mwia100) and RSVP [here](#).

<https://goo.gl/forms/W0c5gZ3HeaUshsbC3>

- The MWIA Centennial Gala will feature a sand art performance (thanks to the Korean Medical Women's Association) and a one woman play about Dr. Esther Pohl Lovejoy, founder of MWIA.

## OTHER PROGRAMS

- Story slam, artwork, and film deadlines have also been extended until March 31.
- Free coaching and free CV Review will be held throughout the meeting.
- A special MWIA event is being planned at the United Nations on Thursday, July 25.

## TRAVEL UPDATES

- Discount airfare is now available through United Airlines – Z Code ZGS3, Agreement Code 781964
- Donate Marriott Rewards points to support student and international travel [here](#):  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSex-XfyHW6D43ALSPXL4\\_Mt5FfIM6ZztruLtLQpx5dFmg2Tlg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSex-XfyHW6D43ALSPXL4_Mt5FfIM6ZztruLtLQpx5dFmg2Tlg/viewform)

## ASSOCIATION RSVP'S NEEDED – RSVP [HERE](#) <https://form.jotform.com/80561852984164>

- Most associations still have not yet RSVP'd. We would like to prepare welcome packages for association presidents and ensure recognition during the Congress, so we would like a final count by April 30. Please RSVP to let us know who is coming and if you will be bringing a copy of your association journal, an object that represents your country, and a contribution for the International Teddy Bear Exhibit.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

- We thank all of the associations to date for their support. Planning a Congress is no small feat, and particularly with New York City prices. We have been grateful for all your support and welcome additional contributions, including in-kind donations. All will be recognized in the program. If you know businesses who would be interested in sponsoring a coffee break or breakfast – or in placing a print or digital ad, please share this [sponsor prospectus](#) with them.  
<https://www.amwa-doc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/MWIA-2019-Sponsorship-Prospectus-Final.pdf>

Lastly, we have a “special guest” at the Congress. Dr. Dee Dee Dynamo, super surgeon, AMWA delegate, and the heroine of a children's book series created by Dr. Oneeka Williams.



[amwa-doc.org/mwia100](http://amwa-doc.org/mwia100)



## 5. 63<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)** was held March 10-22, 2019. The priority theme was Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and the review theme was Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session).

MWIA held its parallel event to an overflowing room at the Armenian Convention Centre on Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. The topic was "*How Women Doctors Provide Infrastructure for Gender Equality.*" We had a formidable panel of speakers giving their local perspective. Moderated by Dr. Shelley Ross, the speakers included Dr. Gabrielle Casper, a past president of MWIA from Australia, Dr. Clarissa Fabre, president-elect of MWIA, Dr. Gigi Osler, President of the Canadian Medical Association, Dr. Satty Gill Keswani, MWIA's Main representative to the UN, Dr. Ching-Li Lin, legislator-at-large from Taiwan, Dr. Padmini Murthy, MWIA's alternate representative to the UN, Dr. Joyce Barber, President of the Medical Women's Association of Nigeria, Dr. Deb Colville, President of the Australian Federation of Medical Women, Dr. Nahid Azad, past-president of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada, Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi, chair of the Centennial Public Relations Committee from Nigeria, Dr. Roberta Gebhard, president-elect of the American Medical Women's Association, Dr. Charissa Patricelli, board member of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada, and Ms. Vivian Gu, medical student from the University of British Columbia. Dr. Yoshiko Maeda, President of the Japan Medical Women's Association was scheduled to present but was delayed in Tokyo.



Following the parallel event, many gathered for a networking lunch. Dr. Gabrielle Casper, a past MWIA President from Australia, has brought an entourage of medical students and practicing physicians to CSW to get a first hand experience of Global Health. This year was no exception as she had 28 medical students in the group. At the luncheon, the students presented their research work to those assembled.



The Medical Women’s Association of Nigeria had a parallel event as well that was held on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. The title of their event was *“Social and Economic Consequences of Teenage Pregnancy: Enhancing Our Social and Economic System.”*



As always, a very big thank you goes to Dr. Satty Gill Keswani and Dr. Mini Murthy for all the work they do on behalf of MWIA throughout the year at the United Nations.

## **6. NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGIONS**

### **Brazil**

Scientific sessions continued in October with Sexuality, Gender and Bioethical and Cultural Challenges by Prof Ieda Verreschi, retired professor of endocrinology of Paulista School of Medicine, retired counselor of Regional Council of Medicine, and former President of Brazilian Association of Medical Women – São Paulo Section. In March there will be a speech about Dyslipidemia in Older People.

In December, Prof Magda Carneiro Sampaio, President of ABMM-- São Paulo Section was nominated for Latin America Vice President of MWIA. Her CV is magnificent.

Dr. Irene Abramovich was elected Vice President of Regional Council of Medicine. She is a director of ABMM.

In November, 2018 there was the Second International Meeting of Women in Otorhinolaryngology. ABMM was represented by its president Dr. Fátima Alves who is a specialist in the area. In the January 19<sup>th</sup> issue of the Journal VOX OTORRINO an article was published about the place of women in Otorhinolaryngology. In February, 2019 Dr Marilene Melo, our Vice President, was elected to the new executive of the Medical Academy of São Paulo as first treasurer.

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, there will be a meeting organized by Dr Marilene Melo, at the Medical School of Santa Casa de São Paulo. During this event there will be presentations by Dr Melo and Dr Elizabeth Alexandre, President-elect of ABMM. There will be a donation by Dr Melo to this Medical School of the book *Principles of Gender Medicine* edited by Marianne Legato, MD. This medical School of Santa Casa will be the first who will put in this in the curriculum and follow the law of June 18th, which obligates the teaching of a chapter about diseases that differ between women and men.

Brazil plans to be well represented at the Centennial Congress including President Fátima Alves, Vice Marilene Melo, President- Elect Elizabeth Alexandre, Magda Carneiro Sampaio, President ABMM –SP section and others and Anna Martits, Eternal Director of International Affairs.



On March 7, Marilene Melo, Vice President of ABMM (Brazilian Society of Medical Women) took the oath as the new treasurer of São Paulo Medical Academy



## **Canada**

The Federation of Medical Women of Canada is planning the North American Regional Meeting for the next triennium. It will be a Mediterranean cruise aboard the Celebrity line. The topic will be Women's Health: Aging Well. The dates are August 17-28, 2020. Further information will follow so keep checking the website [www.fmwc.ca](http://www.fmwc.ca).

The Federation has a number of active committees including HPV, Gender Equity and Diversity and Women Peace and Security, all under the auspices of the Federation's President, Dr. Kathee Andrews. Dr. Bev Johnson, a past president of the Federation chairs the Gender Equity and Diversity Committee and included this article in the recent Federation newsletter.

<https://fmwc.ca/perception-and-use-of-contraceptives-among-kenyan-youth/>

Ms. Darby Little, University of Toronto class of 2021, was the first winner of the Gender Equity and Diversity Essay contest. You can read her essay on Locker Room Talk ... [Read more.](#)

## **France**

The French Medical Women's Association (AFFM) is holding a meeting at the Palais du Luxembourg on March 30<sup>th</sup> entitled:

### **Colloque AFFM – 30 MARS 2019 : QUELLE MEDECINE AURONS-NOUS DEMAIN ?**

More information can be found at <https://affm-asso.fr/colloque-annuel-de-laffm-8-xii-2018-avenir-de-la-medecine-au-feminin/>

## **Italy**

Elections were held for the offices of National President of Italian Association of Women Doctors and for the renewal of offices in the National Council. Dr. Antonella Vezzani of Parma is the New President of AIDM and was named as MWIA Southern European Vice-President for a second term. Dr. Concetta Laurentaci was named as National Secretary, Dr. Patrizia Muccioli as National Treasurer and Dr. Debora Romano as MWIA National Coordinator.

The next National Congress, "Autoimmune Diseases and Gender Differences" will be held in Salerno on October 18-20, 2019.

*The Italian Journal of Gender-Specific Medicine* ([www.gendermedjournal.it](http://www.gendermedjournal.it)) is available online to which our members contribute with specialist articles.

The Past President, Dr. Caterina Ermio, as AIDM's representative participates at the national experts' table, instituted by the Ministry of Health for the programming of operative interventions for Gender Health in Italy.

Various scientific meetings of Gender Medicine and prevention of gender violence, organized by different AIDM sections, are visible on the website [www.donnemedico.org](http://www.donnemedico.org).

## New Zealand

New Zealand's RMO's which consist of medical officers, interns and specialist trainees went on a 48 hour strike to protest working conditions, overtime rosters and harassment. The following article outlines the problems faced.

<https://www.smh.com.au/healthcare/kill-myself-or-leave-female-surgeons-reveal-horrifying-conditions-20190208-p50wiy.html>

## Thailand

February 7, 2019: Professor Emeritus Dr. Somsri Pausawasdi is the first woman to be President of the Medical Council of Thailand 2019-2021. She is the first female past president of the Thai Medical Association and has received so many national and international awards such as WHPA Award in Inter-professional Collaborative Practice Against Tobacco in Geneva and Jhirad Oration Award in year 2015.



Professor Emeritus Dr. Somsri (centre) for IWD March 8 2019

We, TMWA, joined the celebration of IWD 2019 with the National Council of Women of Thailand at Impact Muang Thong Thani Convention Center. One topic is about violence against women emphasizing that we should encourage men to get involved too by using slogan “He for She”. Representatives from various Government Sectors (e.g. : Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Department of Local Administration) discussed about Thai laws for women 's rights especially female prisoners which are quite advance. Thai Government also encourages women's education including career training, leadership as well as health and wellbeing streamlined with UN Sustainable Development Goals. Numbers of women leaders both in government and private sectors are rising. Upon closing, recognition awards in various categories are given to outstanding women at local and national levels.



Dr. Jantra Chennavasin , President of TMWA, Dr. Suthisri, Dr. Piyanetr Sukhu (VP Central Asia 2016-2019) with Dr. Wandee Juljareon (center) President of National Council of Women of Thailand

The Thai Medical Women's Association under the Royal Patronage of HM Queen Sirikit of King Rama IX, was delighted to have 3 ophthalmologists from India: Dr. Kakali Sen, Dr. Anushka Sharma, and Dr. Suvidha Mahar visiting our office on Tuesday March 5, 2019.



TMWA collaborated the Heart Foundation of Thailand provided CPR training to 50 medical personnel at RSU Health Center on March 11, 2019. The training includes resuscitation with Manikin, AED. All of the trainees received basic CPR certificate at the end of the 3 hours sessions.



March 15, 2019

TMWA went to Chainart Narinthon Hospital, another activity of TMWA at which our association will arrange with local hospitals in the rural area to provide interactive lectures. The topics are selected upon the request from local hospitals. The topics this time is about "Palliative Care in Children" and "The Art of Conflict: How to Handle"





## United States

In January, AMWA celebrated the HPV Prevention week with a series of on-line webinars hosted by American Medical Women's Association and Global Initiative Against HPV and Cervical cancer, following the lead by the Federation of Medical Women of Canada. The list can be found at [http://www.giahc.org/assets/cms/uploads/UsvsHPV\\_agenda.pdf](http://www.giahc.org/assets/cms/uploads/UsvsHPV_agenda.pdf). The Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) is one of the coalition supporters!

AMWA also hosted a Webinar about Negotiating Physician Employment Agreements.

On February 7<sup>th</sup>, AMWA leaders, Dr. Connie Newman, Dr. Roberta Gebhard, Dr. Kim Templeton and Dr. Eliza Chin met with Surgeon General VADM Jerome Adams to discuss the Surgeon General's work on the opioid epidemic and AMWA's interest in that area with respect to opioid use in women. AMWA will work to disseminate information and educational resources put out by the Surgeon General's office on this public health crisis.

The 2019 Region 5 AMWA conference was held February 15-16 at the University of Alabama in Birmingham.

March 1<sup>st</sup>, marked the official launch of TIME'S UP Healthcare at the New York Academy of Medicine, a program which opened with Dr. Esther Choo's proclamation, "Today, time's up in healthcare." AMWA is a founding member and was represented by AMWA physician and student leaders.



AMWA was well represented along with its other MWIA colleagues at the Commission on the Status of Women in New York. See section 5 in this Update for details. Drs. Satty Gill Keswani and Padmini Murthy received Notre Dame School of Medicine CSW Awards.

The local organizing committee is working full out to provide an exceptional experience at the MWIA Centennial Congress. See section 4 of the Update for details.

## **7. REPORT FROM MWIA'S REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UN** **Dr. Satty Gill Keswani and Dr. Padmini Murthy, USA**

### **January 2019**

Dr Murthy attended the NGOCSW planning committee meetings and represented MWIA as co-chair of the NGOCSW NY Woman of the Distinction Committee. Dr Murthy attended the UN DGC – Department of Global Communications -- briefings at the United Nations. Drs Keswani and Murthy are working with other AMWA local organizing committee members on the upcoming MWIA centenary congress in July 2019.

### **February 2019**

Dr Murthy attended the NGO briefings organized by UN DGC – Department of Global Communications. Drs Keswani and Murthy are working on the proposed UN event along with other missions and UN departments.

### **March 2019**

Dr. Murthy represented MWIA at the International Women's Day event at the United Nations.

Dr Clarissa Fabre, in-coming MWIA President, Dr Padmini Murthy, MWIA NGO Alternate rep to the UN , Dr Deb Colville President Australian Federation of Medical Women, and Dr. Charissa Patricelli attended the NGO CSW consultation day on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

See section 4 of the Update to read details of the CSW event.

Dr Murthy was a panelist and moderator at five events organized by member states and other NGOs during the 63<sup>rd</sup> CSW.

## **8. REPORT FROM MWIA'S REPRESENTATIVE TO WHO** **Dr. Clarissa Fabre, UK**

In May last year, the WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros announced a global call to action towards the **elimination of cervical cancer**. The incidence of this condition is particularly high in low income countries, such as parts of Africa, Latin America and south-east Asia. One of my priorities when I become MWIA president in July this year is to join with the WHO and the UN in preventing cervical cancer, in particular by encouraging worldwide HPV vaccination for both boys and girls. Now that the incidence of HPV-related oropharyngeal cancer is rising steadily, men are becoming more interested, which will be helpful for our campaign. The American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) was involved in an excellent webinar series on HPV vaccination, and screening and treatment of cervical cancer. This can be seen on [www.giahc.org](http://www.giahc.org).

**Prevention of violence against women and girls** is another priority area for both WHO and MWIA. On a recent trip to Kenya I was taken by a government 'Training Consultant' to one of the poorer areas of Nairobi to meet two victims of gang rape. They were involved in a victim support group. Gang rapes are common, and occur on a daily basis in poorer areas. In spite of the poverty and the grim living conditions, the girls were well-dressed, bright-eyed, and articulate. A

school nearby was nearing completion, funded and supervised by an Italian architect and his group. As my guide said, keeping girls in school is the most effective way to protect girls from violence, FGM, early child marriage and teenage pregnancy. Rescue centres should also be supported and equipped to salvage out-of-school girls. MWIA is well-placed to raise awareness, and advocate for change at Government and community levels.



Survivor with her daughter



Dr Fabre with health workers

MWIA has been collaborating with the WHO on the **Safe Childbirth Checklist** for several years. The aim of this checklist is to reduce maternal and infant mortality by improving obstetric practices. After visiting a Health Clinic in one of the poorer areas of Nairobi, I can see that this will be difficult to achieve. Deliveries are done in these clinics by physician’s assistants in very basic conditions; with poor roads, no ambulances, and long distances to well-equipped hospitals should anything go wrong. There is talk of training physician’s assistants to do caesarean sections, an approach which is far from ideal.

**9. EUROPEAN WOMEN’S LOBBY**

**Prof. Dr. Dr. Bettina Pflaiderer and Dr. Antonella Vezzani**

MWIA is a European wide board member of the European’s Women’s Lobby (EWL) and was represented by MWIA president Bettina Pflaiderer at the European Institute for General Equality (EIGE) annual consultation meeting with civil society organizations (30-31<sup>st</sup> of January) and the EWL’s bi-annual Board Meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania (1-2<sup>nd</sup> of February). The consultation meeting had representatives from EWL, Social Platform, Men Engage Europe Network and the European Economic and Social Committee to exchange information with EIGE and explore cooperation on future work. One of the main foci was violence and sexual harassment and Bettina Pflaiderer joined to work groups on this topic.



Following the EIGE meeting, the Board of EWL with 40 members from all over Europe met to discuss important European policies. The Board overwhelmingly voted to welcome the Icelandic Women’s

Rights Association (IRWA) as the National Coordination of EWL in Iceland. The IRWA has been active in the Icelandic women's movement for over 110 years, working to advance women's rights and the equal status of women and men in all areas of society in Iceland. The picture shows the participants of the EWL board meeting.

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

### 2019

1. **April 5-7, 2019**, Sun City Resort, North West Province, South Africa  
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Medical Women's Association of South Africa Conference  
[chantellj@foundation.co.za](mailto:chantellj@foundation.co.za)
2. **May 13-14, 2019**, Tel Aviv, Israel  
World Medical Association Physician 2030: The future is around the corner - be prepared  
[www.wma.net](http://www.wma.net)
3. **May 17, 2019**, Bristol, UK  
Medical Women's Federation Spring Conference 2019  
Celebrating Success and Preparing for the Future  
Bristol Marriot Royal Hotel  
[www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk](http://www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk)
3. **May 17-18, 2019**, Tbilisi, Georgia  
Central Asia Regional Congress of MWIA  
[http://www.gmwa.org.ge/index\\_en.html](http://www.gmwa.org.ge/index_en.html)
4. **May 19-24, 2019**, Geneva Switzerland  
World Health Assembly  
[www.who.int](http://www.who.int)
5. **June 3-6, 2019**, Vancouver, Canada  
Women Deliver Conference  
[wd2019.org](http://wd2019.org)
7. **June 13-14, 2019**, Tokyo, Japan  
World Medical Association Health Professional Meeting (H20) 2019:  
The road to Universal Health Coverage  
[www.wma.net](http://www.wma.net)
8. **July 25-28, 2019**, New York City, USA  
**Centennial Congress of the Medical Women's International Association**  
[www.amwa-doc.org/mwia100/](http://www.amwa-doc.org/mwia100/)

9. **August 26-28, 2019**, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA  
 DPI NGO Conference-68th UN Civil Society Conference  
<https://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/content/68th-united-nations-ngo-conference>
10. **September 20-22, 2019**, Ottawa  
 Federation of Medical Women of Canada  
 Annual General Meeting and Education Session  
[www.fmwc.ca](http://www.fmwc.ca)
11. **November 30, 2019**, Brussels, Belgium  
 Medical Women's Association of Belgium Congress  
 Gender related perception of Pathology  
<http://mwab.be/>

2020

1. **May 15-17, 2020**, cruise from Helsinki to Stockholm and back to Helsinki  
 Northern European Regional Meeting  
**\*\*\*please note that in order to participate in the program reservations must be made through the host organization, not through the cruise line directly\*\*\***  
[secretariat@mwia.net](mailto:secretariat@mwia.net)
3. **August 17-28, 2020**, Mediterranean cruise – Italy, Malta and Greece  
 North American Regional Meeting hosted by the Federation of Medical Women of Canada  
 Theme is Women's Health: Aging Well  
**\*\*\*please note that in order to participate in the program reservations must be made through the host organization, not through the cruise line directly\*\*\***  
[www.fmwc.ca](http://www.fmwc.ca)
3. **November, 2020**, Mumbai, India – details to follow  
 Central Asia Regional Congress of MWIA  
[secretariat@mwia.net](mailto:secretariat@mwia.net)

#### 11. NAMES IN THE NEWS

**Gharsanay IbnulAmeen** is the winner of the 2019 Women of Distinction Award presented by the NGO Committee on the Status of Women. She is a 22-year-old grassroots organizer from Afghanistan recognized for her work in girls' education, leadership and ethnic harmony and co-founder of the Afghan Girls Sustainable Education Project.

**Dr. Sue Packer** of the Australian Federation of Medical women was named Senior Australian of the Year. She is an incredible advocate, paediatrician, and an outstanding role model for the medical profession, and for our future female doctors!

**Dr. Paula Pihlaja** is the new President of the Finnish Medical Women. She is a specialist in general practice and has an interest in medical professionalism.



## 12. OBITUARIES

**Dr. Disa Lidman**, Swedish Medical Women's Association, Plastic Surgeon and Past MWIA Vice President for Northern Europe, on January 10, 2019.

**Dr. Eva Popper**, Australian Federation of Medical Women, mentor and colleague in March, 2019.

**Dr. Peggy Ross**, of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada, on March 10<sup>th</sup>, a true pioneer of women in medicine in Canada and the first Dean of Medicine for Equity at the University of British Columbia.

## 13. PUBLICATIONS

- a. Google has an app that allows men to monitor women and control where they can go. [https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6766019/amp/Google-refuses-remove-Saudi-government-app-lets-men-control-women.html?\\_twitter\\_impression=true](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6766019/amp/Google-refuses-remove-Saudi-government-app-lets-men-control-women.html?_twitter_impression=true)
- b. Barbie has become more inclusive with a new line that includes dolls with wheelchairs and prosthetic limbs. [https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/new-barbie-wheelchair-prosthetic-disabilities/?utm\\_source=iterable&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=US\\_Feb\\_15\\_2019\\_content\\_digest](https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/new-barbie-wheelchair-prosthetic-disabilities/?utm_source=iterable&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=US_Feb_15_2019_content_digest)
- c. Cameroon has a tradition of breast ironing [https://www.vice.com/en\\_au/article/4wbqdi/cameroon-tradition-flattening-chests-876](https://www.vice.com/en_au/article/4wbqdi/cameroon-tradition-flattening-chests-876)
- d. Article on the exploitation of women and girls in India's home-based garment section <http://news.trust.org/item/20190214155948-e26xc/> **Direct Link to Full 60-Page 2019 Report:** [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ixp7QunDHOkOwJstndfaeBpQHBh\\_-Bmq/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ixp7QunDHOkOwJstndfaeBpQHBh_-Bmq/view)
- e. On page 18 of this journal MWIA's Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi speaks of the Peace Club Safe Spaces in the context of the Boko Haram conflict in Nigeria. [https://www.entwicklung.at/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Dokumente/Publikationen/Weltnachrichten/2018/3\\_2018\\_WNR\\_barr.pdf](https://www.entwicklung.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Dokumente/Publikationen/Weltnachrichten/2018/3_2018_WNR_barr.pdf)
- f. This article talks about diagnosing endometriosis with a tampon. <https://www.technologyreview.com/s/612905/what-if-you-could-diagnose-endometriosis-with-a-tampon/?fbclid=IwAR1RVJEBcqGIfbMpVGdRni7oyDuMEaNmLwsbEeSsMMQz4OBvZLIwkv-XMp0>
- g. The Gender Gap Report can be found at: [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GGGR\\_2018.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2018.pdf)
- h. The following is a list of articles in the British Medical Journal talking about women in medicine.

**Unto them a child is born**



BMJ 2018; 363 doi: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.k5029> (Published 12 December 2018) Cite this as: BMJ 2018;363:k5029

### **Physician mothers' experience of workplace discrimination: a qualitative analysis**

BMJ 2018; 363 doi: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.k4926> (Published 12 December 2018) Cite this as: BMJ 2018;363:k4926

### **The trouble with girls: obstacles to women's success in medicine and research—an essay by Laurie Garrett**

BMJ 2018; 363 doi: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.k5232> (Published 13 December 2018) Cite this as: BMJ 2018;363:k5232

## **II. OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

### **1. World Health Organization (WHO)**

The Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health has produced a manual to develop adolescent health strategies and plans. MWIA has had input into reviewing the manual. It will be available soon.

### **2. United Nations**

a. The **63<sup>rd</sup> Commission on the Status of Women** was held at UN Headquarters in New York from March 10-22<sup>nd</sup>. The priority theme was Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and the review theme was Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session). The agreed conclusions can be found at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/outcomes>

b. The United Nations **Department of Safety and Security** (UNDSS) recently launched the UN Road Safety Strategy.

c. The UN General Assembly produced the **Gender Mapping Report 2018** which can be found at: [https://gallery.mailchimp.com/eb520eecfe82a5bf0d814ea1f/files/6799dd5d-f22f-4b95-96aa-599e45a5f10e/Gender\\_Mapping\\_Report\\_2018\\_Draft.pdf?utm\\_source=NGO+CSW%2FNY+Co%2Fstituency&utm\\_campaign=c8e7a02221-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2018\\_10\\_05\\_02\\_01\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_67ac6441ff-c8e7a02221-411763125&mc\\_cid=c8e7a02221&mc\\_eid=f04d2c0250](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/eb520eecfe82a5bf0d814ea1f/files/6799dd5d-f22f-4b95-96aa-599e45a5f10e/Gender_Mapping_Report_2018_Draft.pdf?utm_source=NGO+CSW%2FNY+Co%2Fstituency&utm_campaign=c8e7a02221-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_10_05_02_01_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_67ac6441ff-c8e7a02221-411763125&mc_cid=c8e7a02221&mc_eid=f04d2c0250)

3. **FIGO and the International Consortium on Emergency Contraception** has put out the 4<sup>th</sup> edition on emergency contraceptive pills.

[https://www.cecinfo.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/ICEC-guides\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.cecinfo.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/ICEC-guides_FINAL.pdf)

4. **WONCA Women** state that a recent PNAS study found that high-performing women have one thing in common: they have a tight-knit circle of other women who help them with “gender-specific private information and support. @Refinery29 [ow.ly/jNyK30nIu9F](https://www.refinery29.com/en-us/2018/01/12/10-ways-women-help-each-other) Article source: [ow.ly/3jVe30nIu7j](https://www.refinery29.com/en-us/2018/01/12/10-ways-women-help-each-other)

#### 5. **Introducing Every Woman Treaty, the next step in ending violence against women and girls**

Violence against women and girls is a global crisis that leads to physical, emotional and psychological health issues for the survivor and her children, and it has assumed pandemic proportions. At least 35% of women globally suffer physical, emotional and psychological wounds inflicted simply because they are women. That is 1 in 3 women or 1.3 billion women across the globe. When polio reached 350,000 cases, the world acted to eradicate it.

How do we get nations to respond to violence against women with the same sense of urgency? A global treaty. A treaty would prioritize violence prevention around the world and, for the first time, create an agreement on violence against women that is binding by law and backed by funding. Our president-elect Nominee Eleanor Nwadinobi is a steering committee member for Every Woman Treaty, an NGO advancing the treaty, and says the treaty is “a comprehensive blueprint for eradicating violence against women and girls.” Its strength lies in five, evidence-based interventions, which were developed an expert working group from 128 nations.

The Every Woman Treaty will mandate that nation:

1. Reform national laws, including the elimination of harmful laws and practices, and filling legal gaps.
2. Train police, judges, doctors, nurses, and other responders
3. Hold violence prevention education and campaigns
4. Provide services for survivors
5. Allocate funds

Learn more and join the call for a global treaty at [everywoman.org](https://everywoman.org).

<https://mailchi.mp/everywoman.org/globalleaders?e=d5b0e0a047>

6. The **World Medical Association** speaks out against imprisonment of Turkish physician leaders:

<https://www.wma.net/news-post/wma-expresses-shock-at-turkish-physician-leaders-prison-sentences/>

WMA also denounced the burning down of a hospital in Cameroon.

7. **NextGenU.org**, the world’s first portal to free, accredited, higher education, is pleased to offer two [family planning courses on Medication Abortion and Aspiration Abortion](https://www.nextgenu.org/family-planning-courses). These courses are open to any interested learner. Check out the courses at <http://familyplanning.nextgenu.org> and feel free to circulate to your networks.

### **III. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The last Update for the 2016-2019 Triennium will be published in June, 2019. Please send us your reports, comments or any other interesting information by May 31, 2019, at the latest. We are always interested to put your name and your accomplishments in the Update. We are pleased to post the meeting information for your national association's annual meeting.

Let us close this edition by wishing all of our members safe travels to the MWIA Centennial Congress being held in New York City July 25-28, 2019 ([www.amwa-doc.org/mwia100](http://www.amwa-doc.org/mwia100))!