

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MWIA



Update

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MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

I. MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

1. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Atsuko Heshiki, Japan

“Leadership, Achievement and Accomplishment”

The highlight of this past three months was my attendance at the Central Asia Regional Conference, held January 30-31, 2010, at the Mayfair Rooms, Worli, Mumbai. The theme of the conference was “Heath for the Future.” Many thanks go to the Organizing Committee Chairs, Drs Deepti Dongaonkar, Usha Saraiya and Vandana Walvekar, along with immediate past president Dr. Mandakiki Megh, Past President Dr. Jyoti Taskar and organizing secretary, Dr. Geetha Balsarkar, for making the congress such a success.

Highlights were the guest lecture by Dr. Shajia Khan, a past president of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada, and the public forum on health issues.

It was my great pleasure and privilege to have been the chief guest and deliver the Dr. Jhirad Oration during opening ceremony. The oration honours Dr. Jerusha Jhirad (1891-1984), who had many firsts, including: is a lady who has **Many Firsts**

- 1st Woman Doctor from Bene Israeli Community
- 1st Women Doctor from India to get MD in London (1919)
- 1st Indian Superintendent of Cama & Albles Hospital
- 1st Editor of Journal of Obst. & Gyn. Of India (1950)
- 1st President of FOGSI (1950)

The 28th International Congress of MWIA is rapidly approaching and I look forward to seeing members from all of our national organizations as well as many individual members. Please visit the congress website at www.mwia2010.net and register now.

I plan to make history when I attend the conference of Mainland China Medical Women in Beijing in April.

2. REQUESTS FROM THE SECRETARY- GENERAL

Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada

Please mark your calendars for **MWIA 28th International Congress in Munster, Germany**, being held July 27-31, 2010. Please register on the website at www.mwia2010.net. It is not too early to take advantage of the seat sales and book your flight. I look forward to meeting many colleagues from all the national organizations as they attend with their national coordinator and national president. **Please complete the information requested in the Second Special Update and return it to the Secretariat as soon as possible.** If anyone needs a letter in order to obtain a visa, please contact: Mrs. Kerstin Drach whose e-mail is k.drach@kelcon.de.

Congratulations to the **Association of Medical Women in India** on their successful meeting in Mumbai in January. Unfortunately, the **Southern European Regional Meeting** scheduled in Paris has been postponed until November, 2010.

Thank you to Dr. Satty Gill Keswani and Dr. Padmini Murthy for organizing a parallel event at the **Commission on the Status of Women** at the United Nations in New York in March. The event was entitled, “Beijing Plus 15—What do the next 15 years hold for women?”

MWIA was invited by **Reuters UK** to post a comment on its International Women’s Day website and participate in the blog.

The **World Health Assembly** of the World Health Organization is scheduled for May 16-21, 2010. Please let the Secretariat know if you wish to attend, so you can be registered.

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 dues were due July 1st.

MWIA extended condolences through the Georgian Medical Women’s Association to the family of Nodar Kumaritashvili, the Georgian luger who lost his life in the Vancouver Olympics. MWIA sends condolences to the peoples of Haiti and Chile.

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3. NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

Dr. Gail Beck, Canada

By the time you read this, a number of members and National delegations will have begun their preparations to attend the International Congress in Munster. With this in mind, I would like to remind members and National Coordinators that only members or National Associations with their dues completely paid up for the past triennium will be eligible to vote in Munster. As well, the number of votes available to any National

Association will be based on the amount of members paid for in dues. For National Associations, the dues are set at 8 Swiss francs, 8 US dollars or 8 Canadian dollars. Individual members who have no National Association pay 25 Swiss francs, 25 US dollars or 25 Canadian dollars.

Dr. Ross and I will both be available prior to voting at the Congress to assist members and National Associations in determining the dues they have paid during the 2007-2010 triennium so that we begin the Congress with up-to-date lists and accurate voting information.

International Congresses are always rewarding experiences for those who attend and the host National Associations always go out of their way to ensure a positive experience for delegates and guests. I am looking forward to seeing many of you in July. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there are any questions regarding your own or your National Association's dues.

4. NEWS FROM THE VPs AND THEIR REGIONS

Northern Europe

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

Dr. Olof Sigurdardottir, Vice President for Northern Europe, Iceland

Iceland

Iceland is fast becoming a world-leader in feminism. A country with a tiny population of 320,000, it is on the brink of closing down its sex industry. In the last year, there has been a law passed against the purchase of sex was passed, an action plan on trafficking of women has been introduced, and now the strip clubs have been shut down. The Nordic countries are leading the way on women's equality, recognizing women as equal citizens rather than commodities for sale.

United Kingdom

Mad, Bad & Dangerous to Know - is the topic to be discussed at the MWF Spring meeting in Nottingham, May 2010. This meeting will be hosted by the East Midland Local Group. Subjects to be discussed include Women offenders and mental health & the Psychological effects of terrorism. It will be followed by the AGM and the Presidential Address on the following evening and on Saturday MWF Council will meet. The International Committee will also meet to discuss the agenda for the 28th MWIA General Assembly in Munster. We are encouraging our members to attend the Congress but the

timing is not good for MWF members with children as it is the start of the summer holidays.

Medical Student Essay

The Katherine Branson Essay Competition for Medical Students has been advertised and the winner will be asked to present their paper at Council and the will also be awarded a small prize and 1 year's membership subscription to MWF The topics for this year are :-
1) How to manage your finances as a medical student OR 2) Do graduate entry students make better doctors?

Congratulations have been sent to a MWF member - Prof Dame Valerie Beral. She is Professor of Epidemiology, and Director of the Cancer Research UK Epidemiology Unit and has been recognised by the Queen in the New Year Honours. 2009, She has been awarded a DBE (Dame of the British Empire) for services to science.

“Violence Against Women and Girls”- a conference in London will provide the opportunity to learn more about the main objectives of the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, and the key role the government sees for local authorities in supporting the strategy. Delegates will have an opportunity to discover in more detail what councils can do to reduce violence against women.

Dr. Dorothy Ward wrote about **International Women's Day**.

I was invited to attend the 100th Anniversary of Women's Day in Edinburgh, Scotland as a representative of medical women (MWF & MWIA) by the Scottish Government who hosted this event in the Scottish Parliament building at Holyrood on Saturday, March 6th. Over 400 women attended, including many African, Mainland European, Chinese, Malaysian and from the Pacific Islands –all dressed in their colourful costumes.

Coaches brought women from all over Scotland to enjoy a buffet lunch followed by a session on “why Women Should Vote.” Speakers included the Deputy First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon, who spoke passionately on the subject and Annabel Goldie, another political leader, who pleaded with women to vote. The historian, Elspeth King, described the hard fought battle for the right of women to vote from 1910-1928 when the suffragettes finally won this battle. Four other Members of the Scottish Parliament spoke on the same subject and finally a bright young refugee from Africa, who was now studying at Glasgow University, urged women, especially the young to cast their vote at the next British election and to realize what a privilege this was. It was a meeting free of politics but stressing the failure of women in Scotland not only to exercise their right to vote but also failure to register to vote.

There was ample time for NGO's to network. The day ended with a reception and more food by invitation of Edinburgh traders.

Central Europe

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

Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus, Vice President Central Europe, Germany

As always I have contacted the Individual Members and the National Associations belonging to my region regularly, have forwarded relevant information and have learnt about their activities, questions and special problems. As always I have also tried to win new Individual Members for MWIA or to encourage members to found a National Medical Women's Association. There are some glimmers of hope but also some clear signals of success. So we will probably be able to welcome Russia again, after the first affiliation of Russia in 1999 had failed. Besides several countries have let me know they will participate in the congress in Muenster and I think we all look forward to meeting as many of us as possible at this "world- congress".

My traveling activities were not as much as before when I was SG, but nevertheless I participated in the Central European congress in Vienna, represented MWIA at the German Medical Association in Mainz, at the European Medical women's congress in Leipzig, at CIOMS (see report under CIOMS) in Geneva and at the EWL (see report under EWL)in Dublin. Next the participation in the Southern European Regional Congress in Paris is planned.

Altogether I think in eastern countries the National Associations are still in a state of organization and consolidation. In many of these countries the majority of physicians are women. Yet we realize that in almost all European countries there are more and more women in medicine . This together with a growing lack of physicians leads to a big change. Meanwhile women are wanted, desired and necessary, but we must be very careful that this job, becoming a "pink job" doesn't lose influence , doesn't get less payment and can guarantee an acceptable work- life balance.

Georgia

Dr. Nino Zhvania reported that the Georgian Medical Women's Association (GMWA) edited a book entitled, "Women Always Healthy and Young," in the Georgian language. The book is well edited with coloured pages. It includes 40 articles concerning most of women's health problems and their prevention, such as osteoporosis, cancer, health eating, menopause, etc. The book will be released in April.

GMWA continues to establish new branches, the most recent one being in Adjara Batumi. A practical scientific conference was held and the Adjara family doctors were presented with the Pharmacological formulary, edited by WHO.

Russian Federation

Dr. Larisa Skuratovskaya from Moscow writes that although rules do not allow registration of their organization, they have been active with MWIA since 1993. She writes the following.

Women and women's organizations were in the front ranks of those who established and maintained an atmosphere of goodwill and international friendship in various social infrastructure even in the hard years of the cold war.. Today women thought the world

take the initiative in the sphere of medicine and environmental protection. Medical workers in all developed countries realize full well that we all on the verge of an ecological catastrophe which will be incomparable in scale to the Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We understand that it is in our obligations to spread the knowledge about International and domestic Laws for the protection of the Environment, Health and Human Rights. In Russia we start to develop this education unfortunately only after 1989 and process is very slow for different reason. I am a medical doctor, working as a scientific secretary at the Institute of general Pathology and Pathophysiology of the Russian Academy of the Medical Sciences. Also I was study in Columbia University - International Institute of Human Rights. Having this education I am involved in different International Women's Organizations -such International Women's Forum(was a President of Russian Branch), member of Council of International Museum of Women, International organization- "Peace links- women against nuclear war" and few more. Yes, since 1993 I am involved in activity of Medical Women's International Association , when first time we have the delegation of this Organization. In 3 of October 1993 we established the branch of this International Organization. It was a very memorable day for all citizen of Russia ,because of tragedy in White House. ... Our goal - was and is- education of medical profession. Unfortunately the Law for the activity of NGO in Russia was changed rapidly for worse and we cannot register our organization per se. But we continue our activity. I translated and published a few articles and book "Rights to Health as a Human Rights in International Laws"(author Brigitte Toebes). We had a Symposium together with the Commission for Health and Human Rights of Council of Europe. I wrote an article-"The development of Human Rights"(for the 60 Anniversary of UN).Have a few lecture in different Medical organization ,including "Obzhestvenn Palata"(under president of Russia)-" Rights to Health as a Human Rights- what medical professionals need to know in Democratically Society". . Few of my colleagues also working on the field of Education. Since 1993 I am a member of International group for study Climate Change of World Council of Churches and representative the medical professionals. I am trying to develop the gender aspect of adaptation for climate changes as a member of gender-network. Only with a very good International cooperation we are moving forward step by step our principals of Human Rights- Protect. Respect. Remedy.

Southern Europe

Belgium, France, Greece, Israel, Italy

Dr. Gwenaëlle M Vidal-Trécan, Vice President Southern Europe, France

France

The French Medical Women have worked with both the Senate and the French Ministry of Work, Social Relations and Family on women's rights and equality. The French association of Medical Women (AFFM) is a member of the French Federation of Women (Conseil National Des Femmes or CNFF), which has been in existence since 1901. CNFF is a coalition of 40 non-governmental women's organizations such as Zonta, Wiso, Soroptimist, Association Bahaie, University women, European Union of Women, Women 3000, Jurist women, etc.

The Southern European Regional Meeting for May has been cancelled and tentatively moved to November. More details will follow.

North America

Canada, United States of America

Dr. Shirley Hovan, Vice President North America, Canada

Canada

The Federation of Medical Women of Canada has opposed the federal government's statement that birth control does not save lives. **Family planning** needs to be included in the government's maternal health program.

FMWC applauds Health Canada for approving **HPV vaccine for men and boys**.

Dr. Lianne Lacroix will represent MWIA at the Hope for the Nations Conference being held in April. It is organized by the United Nations-Canada NGO Informal Regional Network (IRENE). The purpose is to bring NGO's together to elevate the awareness of the Millennium Development Goals. A paper will be developed that will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council High Level Substantive Session of the UN.

United States

AMWA just completed a very successful meeting in Washington, DC, on March 26th and 27th. **Dr. Vivian Penn** was the guest speaker. Dr. Penn is the physician from the National Institute of Health who authored the Women's Health Initiative that changed the world of hormone replacement therapy.

During the meeting, North American Vice President-elect, **Dr. Claudia Morrissey** was honoured with the Bertha Van Housen award for her leadership and work for AMWA. Dr. Eliza Chin was installed as the new President.

Latin America

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

Dr. Ruth Guillen de Maldonado, Vice President Latin America, Bolivia

Brazil

Dra. Marilene Rezende Melo has recently been elected as President of the Brazilian Medical Women's Association.

Nicaragua

Dr. Cecilia De Trinidad reports that the Nicaraguan Medical Women are celebrating the 17th anniversary of their national organization.

Near East and Africa

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

Dr. Frida Kazembe, Vice President Near East and Africa, Zambia

Zambia

Dr. Kazembe reports that more work needs to be done in Africa regarding the HPV vaccine. Subtypes 16 and 18 which are the major cause of cervical cancer in the developed world are not necessarily the same subtypes responsible for the disease in Africa.

Central Asia

India, Thailand

India

Dr. Manju Mataliya, Vice President Central Asia, India reported on the Central Asia Regional Conference 2010, held in Mumbai, India on 30th & 31st January 2010. The venue was Mayfair Rooms at Worli. The Conference was attended by over 100 delegates out of which 4 were International delegates & over 10 were from other parts of India. The inaugural ceremonies were beautifully conducted & were an elegant affair at which Golden Jubilee Awardees were honored. The President of MWIA, Dr. Atsuko Heshiki was the Chief Guest & she also delivered the prestigious Dr. Jhirad Oration. Dr. Shajia Khan from Canada was the Guest of Honor & she delivered the Dr. Jhirad Guest Lecture.

The theme of the Conference was “Health of Future Generations”. A total of 7 Symposia was conducted with eminent speakers in each field. The topics covered were Preventive Oncology, Lifestyle Diseases, Obesity, Adolescent Health, Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights, Rural Health Care, Sessions on Interesting Cases, Interesting Videos and Modern Technologies were very much appreciated. Many senior members of AMWI were honored with orations & guest lectures.

The highlight of the Conference was presentation of papers by the young Doctors. A total of 21 prizes were awarded for best paper presentation to encourage them.

Social Program included a Conference Dinner & a dinner hosted for visiting International Faculty at the famous Cricket Club of India.

All through the Conference there was a pleasant atmosphere of bonhomie, good cheer & social networking. Many letters of appreciation are pouring in for the members of the Organizing Committee who had worked very hard to make the conference a success.

The long lasting relationships forged & the ideas exchanged will go a long way in promoting goodwill amongst The Association of Medical Women in India and for that matter Women Doctors all over the World.

Western Pacific

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

Dr. Winnie Yang, Vice President Western Pacific, Taiwan (ROC)

Australia

There was a workshop on **Investing in the Health Workforce: Aligning Strategy, Leadership and the Team** held in Sydney on December 19th. The Change Champion website has resources available for download from the workshop.

AFMW congratulates **Dr Hamlin** on receiving The Right Livelihood Award (the Alternate Nobel Prize) "for her fifty years dedicated to treating obstetric fistula patients, thereby restoring the health, hope and dignity of thousands of Africa's poorest women." Dr Hamlin, who is the first Australian woman to receive this prestigious international award, received the award in the Swedish Parliament on December 4, 2009.

Dr Catherine Hamlin was born in Sydney in January 1924. In 1959, she left Australia together with her husband Reginald in response to an advertisement to work as obstetrician/gynecologist at a hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The couple was horrified by the prevalence of obstetric fistula, a condition arising from prolonged obstructed labour that leaves the affected woman incontinent of urine, with 20% suffering bowel incontinence as well. Permanently leaking bodily fluids, they often become social outcasts, without hope, and live in the most miserable conditions. Obstetric fistula, formerly common throughout the world, is now almost non-existent in industrialized countries, thanks to better obstetric care, but is still prevalent in developing countries.

Mainland China

Dr. Atsuko Heshiki has been invited to attend the meeting of the medical women's association of Mainland China in April. Look for a report in the next Update.

5. REPORT FROM NEW YORK UN REPRESENTATIVES

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

The 54th session of the **Commission on the Status of Women** was held at the United Nations in New York March 1-12, 2010.

Dr. Keswani organized a **parallel event**, entitled "Beijing Plus 15—What Does the Next 15 Years Hold for Women?" The keynote speaker was Dr. Padmini Murthy, with other panel members being Dr. Claudia Morrissey, Dr. Shelley Ross, Leslie Martin, Arlene Johnson, the mayor of Livingston, NJ, and Steve Kraus, head of the HIV/AIDS division of UNFPA

The Chair of CSW issued a **declaration** on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women. In the declaration, the five items include:

1. reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and subsequent documents from the tenth anniversary and 23rd special session of the General Assembly

2. welcome the progress made in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, but realize there are challenges that need to be overcome to fully implement the recommendations
3. emphasize that implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is essential to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and stress the need to ensure the integration of a gender perspective
4. recognize that implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfillment of the obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women are mutually reinforcing in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women
5. call upon the UN system, international and regional organizations, civil society including NGO's, as well as women and men to fully commit themselves to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

On March 12th, the Commission on the Status of Women adopted seven resolutions on the following topics:

1. women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS
2. release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts
3. The situation of and assistance to Palestinian women
4. Women's economic empowerment
5. Eliminating maternal mortality and morbidity through the empowerment of women
6. Strengthening institutional arrangement of the UN for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women by consolidating the four existing offices into a composite entity
7. Ending female genital mutilation

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

2010

1. **April 15-17, 2010** –Beijing, China
Congress of Mainland China Medical Women's
cmwc100415@126.com
2. **CANCELLED**
May 14, 15, 16, 2010 – Paris, France
Southern European Regional Meeting
<http://mwia-affm-2010.com>
Look for rescheduling in November, 2010
3. **May 14-15, 2010** - Nottingham, UK

- Medical Women's Federation Spring Meeting
www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk
4. **May 16-21, 2010** Geneva, Switzerland
World Health Assembly
World Health Organization
www.who.int
 5. **May 19-22, 2010** – The Hague, The Netherlands
11th Congress of the European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health
www.contraception-esc.com
 6. **May 19-23, 2010** – Cancun, Mexico
19th World Conference of Family Physicians
www.wonca2010cancun.com
 7. **May 19-22, 2010** – The Hague, Netherlands
19th Congress of the European Society of Contraception
www.contraception-esc.com
 8. **May 23-29, 2010** Sophia, Bulgaria
Sophia Women's World Conference
MDG#3 Gender Equality and Empowerment
www.sophia2010.org
 9. **June 7-9, 2010** Washington, DC, USA
2nd Conference of Women Deliver
www.womendeliver.org
 10. **June 11-13, 2010** Madrid, Spain
General Assembly of the European Women's Lobby
www.womenlobby.org
 11. **July 28-31, 2010** The Residence in Munster, Germany
28th International Congress of MWIA
Globalization in Medicine: Challenges and Opportunities
www.mwia2010.net
 12. **September 25-16, 2010** – Toronto, Canada
The Many Faces of Medical Women
AGM for Federation of Medical Women of Canada
fmwcmain@fmwc.ca
 13. **October 13-16, 2010** Vancouver, Canada
World Medical Association Meeting
www.wma.net

14. **October 27-31, 2010** - Guayaquil, Ecuador
Pan American Medical Women's Association meeting
www.grandhotelguayaquil.com
15. **November 12-13, 2010** - London, UK
Medical Women's Federation Autumn Meeting
www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk
16. **November 30-December 3, 2010** – Tel Aviv, Israel
5th International Conference on Gender Medicine
www.igm2010.com

2011

1. **May 26- 29 , 2011** Tokyo, Japan
Western Pacific Regional Meeting
Keio Plaza Hotel, Tokyo, Japan

7. NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

With the relocation of the Secretariat, this is an excellent time for all the national associations and individual members to update their contact information. Please send to the Secretariat at secretariat@mwia.net the following:

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	vnvemail@vnva.nl
Uganda	http://www.auwmd.org
United Kingdom	http://www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk
United States of America	http://www.amwa-doc.org

8. 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. **Please nominate a young woman under the age of 40 to represent your country at the MWIA International Congress in Munster in July, 2010.**

The committee contacts are through the Secretariat and are:

Chairperson: Dr. Inke Doench, Germany
 Vice chair: Dr. Adjoa Duker, USA
 Secretary: Dr. Jane Mba, Nigeria.

9. 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.

10. 28th MWIA Congress in Munster, Germany July 28 to 31, 2010. Theme is Networking in Changing Times/World

Please mark your calendar for the 28th MWIA International Congress in Munster, Germany from July 28-31, 2010. The website is available for registration at www.mwia2010.net.

The theme is Globalization in Medicine: Challenges and Opportunities.

The **sub themes** are:

nutrition (lifestyle diseases, over- and under- and mal-nutrition)

addiction (drugs, alcohol, etc., internet and gambling addiction, etc.)

epidemic plagues (both communicable eg. AIDS, Malaria, TB, HPV and non-communicable eg diabetes, heart disease)

gender strategies (leadership, gender mainstreaming, empowerment, gender based violence, adolescent sexuality)

primary health care

Social events include the **Get-together evening** at 1800 hours on the 27th of July. It will be in the “Regierungspräsidium”, the regional government of Münster.

The Conference Gala evening will be held in "**Bröker's Speicher No. 10,**" formerly used as a bakery to cater for the German Armed Forces during World War II. This is why the building was not destroyed by the allies and remained in its former glory.

11. Names in the News

Prof Dame Valerie Beral, Professor of Epidemiology, and Director of the Cancer Research UK Epidemiology Unit, has been recognized by the Queen in the New Year Honours. 2009. She has been awarded a DBE (Dame of the British Empire) for services to science.

Dr. Catherine Hamlin received The Right Livelihood Award (the Alternate Nobel Prize) "for her fifty years dedicated to treating obstetric fistula patients in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. She was presented her award in Sweden.

Dr. Robyn Hewland is looking for someone to share a room as she does a pre-Munster congress cruise from Moscow to St. Petersburg. Interested persons should contact the Secretariat.

Dr. Satty Gill Keswani was awarded a lifetime achievement award from her alma mater, the Lady Harding Medical School in New Delhi, for 50 years in medical practice. In addition, she was acknowledged for her work as President of the Lady Harding Alumni Association.

Dr. Claudia Morissey was awarded the Bertha van Housen Award from the American Medical Women's Association for her leadership and work for AMWA.

12.Obituaries

Professor Tatiana Dmitrieva, Chief Psychiatrist and Minister for Public Health of the Russian Federation, and a scientist of worldwide reputation on March 1, 2010

13. Books

Dr. Lucy Candib, an MWIA member from the USA, has edited a book entitled, **Woman-Centered Care in Pregnancy and Childbirth**. Another MWIA member, Dr. Wendy Savage from the UK has provided a foreword. For a 20% discount, follow the link below and put in the code EFSC210 to get the discount. <http://www.radcliffe-oxford.com/books/bookdetail.aspx?ISBN=1846191610>

Kimberly Jensen, a professor of history and gender studies at Western Oregon University, published a book entitled, “Mobilizing Minerva, American Women in the First World War.” She pictures Dr. Esther Pohl Lovejoy on the front cover and speaks of the American Women’s Hospital Services. ISBN 978-0-252-07496-7. Contact mrroux@uillinois.edu to purchase.

Dr. Padmini Murthy of the School of Public Health at NY Medical College in Valhalla, NY, has published her book, **Women’s Global Health and Human Rights**. ISBN number is 978-0-7637-5631-4.

Physicians Health Program of British Columbia, Canada has published “Medicine and Motherhood—Can We Talk?” It can be reproduced from <http://www.physicianhealth.com/medicineandmotherhood>

Dr. Dorothy Ward, former President of MWIA from Scotland has written a book, entitled “History of MWIA.” This long-awaited book will be available for sale at the MWIA Conference in Munster.

WHO in Europe, tells the story of the WHO Regional Office for Europe from its beginnings to 2010. It covers five WHO regional directors for Europe along with the hundreds of programs and policies they helped created and carry out. For more information and to order, visit http://www.euro.who.int/InformationSourcesPublications/Catalogue/20100122_2

II. ORGANIZATIONS

1. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

a. **The Department of Gender Women and Health** conducted an online discussion entitled “Women and Health—How far have we come since Beijing?” between November 23 and January 25th. Dr. Peju Olukoya was the overall coordinator, with Subidita Chatterjee being the moderator and facilitator. For details of the results, visit http://www.un.org/womenwatch/beijing15/WHOOnlineDiscussionReport_280210.pdf

b. **The Department of Gender Women and Health** is field testing its latest modules on gender and clinical practice and gender and working with men in India and MWIA has submitted names of those who could participate.

c. The World Health Organization holds its **Regional Committee Meetings** each fall. Dr. Shafika Nasser represented MWIA at the meeting in Fez, Morocco, on October 6th. She reported that MWIA was able to make comments on agenda item 6b, which was Strategy for cancer control and prevention in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. She reported that MWIA was mainly concerned with women's cancers, particularly breast and cervix. More epidemiological research is needed to identify environmental factors in order to eliminate from the environment chemical, radiological and other agents. She highlighted gender inequality in health care in the region, women being diagnosed at a late stage and therefore diminishing their chances for effective management or cure. She commented on the importance of healthy lifestyle, advocating exercise and reduction of obesity, reduced intake of fat and trans fat, more training of family physicians and nurses for early detection and diagnosis of cancer and improved facilities for diagnosis and treatment.

d. **WHO Patient Safety**

Following the success of their safe surgery checklist, WHO Patient Safety is working on a Safe Childbirth Checklist and a Trauma Checklist.

e. MWIA responded to a questionnaire by *Dr. Q. M. Islam*, Director of the **Department of Making Pregnancy Safer at WHO**, regarding attitudes toward Stillbirths.

2. UNITED NATIONS

a. **UN Non governmental liaison service (UN- NGLS)**

2010 will be a critical year in determining which development pathways our world will pursue. In 2000, UN Member States agreed to the **Millennium Declaration** and committed themselves to **achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015**. Only five years remain to achieve the MDGs, and despite some progress, collectively we are falling short. The consequence of our collective failure is that improvements in the lives of the poorest are slow to be realized – or not at all – and are now being further eroded by the onset of the onset of global crises, including economic, food and climate. However, the MDGs are achievable.

UN Member States will again come together this September in New York for an 'MDG summit' (High-level Plenary Meeting), with the primary objective of accelerating progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, taking into account the progress made towards the internationally agreed development goals. As a part of the process leading to the summit, the General Assembly will also convene **'Hearings' with representatives of civil society and the private sector from 14-15 June**. The outcomes of these hearings will be integrated into

discussions at the summit and the outcome document.

With an aim of keeping interested civil society stakeholders informed on the latest developments related to the summit process, the UN Millennium Campaign and the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS) have launched a **dedicated website**: www.un-ngls.org/mdg2010

This website will report on all the latest developments related to the summit, give voice to perspectives from civil society and provide information on how to be engaged in the summit process.

189 world leaders made an historic promise at the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000 when they signed onto the Millennium Declaration and agreed to meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. This summit offers an opportunity for citizens to let their leaders know that they expect them to deliver on these promises and that they expect them to come to this meeting ready to clearly spell out exactly how they plan to do this.

www.un-ngls.org/mdg2010

b. Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

There are available a series of publications aimed at supporting general human rights education efforts. Please visit:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/PublicationsResources/Pages/TrainingEducation.aspx>

c. DPINGO (Department of Public Information NGO section)

This year, the **63rd Annual DPI/NGO Conference** will be held in Melbourne, Australia, The general theme is Global Health. Dr. Padmini Murthy is on the Planning Committee and along with Dr. Desiree Yap and Dr. Gabrielle Casper will be among those representing MWIA.

3. White Ribbon Alliance

a. A Call for Participation: Stories of Mothers Saved

Stories of Mothers Saved, a joint project by the WRA and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), will collect the stories of women who are living – who did not die needlessly in pregnancy or childbirth – due to a key action taken by herself, her family or community, a health worker, political leaders, or others. Click on the link to download the Instructions for Participation in [English](#) or [French](#). All members are encouraged to participate and all stories are welcome. Materials are due to the Global Secretariat by Friday, 2 April 2010. Please email wra1@whiteribbonalliance.org with any questions or comments about the project.

b. Africa Gender Equality Action Plan Newsletter

The world is unequal and it is most unequal for women and girls. Most of the poorest people in the world are women and part of what makes them poor is the discrimination

they face purely because of their gender. [Click here](#) to learn how the Department for International Development (UK) is making progress in making gender equality a priority across its work. Join their *Gender in Africa* mailing list and read their first edition of the Africa Gender Equality Action Plan Newsletter.

4. **Women Deliver Conference**

Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC on June 7-9, 2010

The Women Deliver global conference will bring together experts and creative thinkers in not only maternal health and mortality but also human rights, gender, HIV and AIDS, education, micro-enterprise, labor, sexual and reproductive health (including family planning), and more. With only five years left before the Millennium Development Goals target date of 2015, now is the time to show the world how to deliver for women. Invest in women – it pays. .

5. **RHO Cervical Cancer** through PATH has developed the **Cervical Cancer Prevention Action Planner**, an interactive tool designed for public health officials seeking guidance and resources related to developing evidence-based **cervical cancer prevention programs** in their countries. The Action Planner includes video mini-lectures and other films, impact models, a vast library of useful information and resources, and the chance to design a personal action plan. The tool is available online at ww.rho.org/actionplanner

6. **European Respiratory Society**

The European Respiratory Society is now offering young practitioners and medical students under the age of 35 free 'Silver' membership thereby helping them connect with the work of top respiratory specialists in the field. The move will help the Society enlarge its geographic scope, bringing in members from overseas, from high, medium and low income countries. For more information, email members@ersnet.org.

The European Respiratory Society (ERS) seeks to raise awareness of lung health and improve prevention, management and treatment of lung disease.

7. **WONCA WOMEN**

For those members who are also active members of the WONCA Women, nominations are being accepted for the new chair. This is the highest office. Please send your nomination to Dr. Cheryl Levitt by April 30th, 2010, at FAX 1 905 527 4440 or email clevitt@mcmaster.ca

The next WONCA meeting is being held in Cancun, Mexico May 17-23, 2010. There are bursaries available for women family physicians who wish to attend, including some set aside for young doctors in practice. **Deadline for application** is April 6th and applications and essays should be sent to Dr. Amanda.barnard@anu.edu.

8. **Institute of Gender in Medicine** (GiM) in Berlin, Charité-Universitätsmedizin, is proud to announce its first Summer School on Gender Medicine to be organized together with all partners of our EUGIM (European cUrriculum Gender In Medicine) project. This includes the universities in Budapest, Innsbruck, Maastricht, Nijmegen, Sassari and

Stockholm. For more information please refer to our website
http://gender.charite.de/en/education/eugim/eugim_summer_school/.

9. **Emergency Contraception**

A revised version of the Cochrane review entitled "Advance provision of emergency contraception for pregnancy prevention" has been released on the Cochrane website and has attracted quite a bit of media coverage. The review looks at all the studies that compared advance provision of EC (in which women are given EC supplies to take home, in advance of need) with "routine provision" (women are able to access EC at clinics and/or pharmacies). The studies were conducted in the US, China, India, and Sweden. The review concludes: "Advance provision of emergency contraception did not reduce pregnancy rates when compared to conventional provision. Results from primary analyses suggest that advance provision does not negatively impact sexual and reproductive health behaviors and outcomes. Women should have easy access to emergency contraception, because it can decrease the chance of pregnancy. However, the interventions tested thus far have not reduced overall pregnancy rates in the populations studied."

10. **World Medical Association**

The World Medical Association will meet in Vancouver in October, 2010, with the president being Dr. Dana Hanson from Canada.

11. **SOPHIA WOMEN'S WORLD CONFERENCE: Women and Wisdom**

The purpose of the conference is to illuminate and implement vital UN Living Documents especially MDG#3 Gender Equality and Empowerment. For more information, please visit the website: www.sophia2010.org

12. **UNIFEM**

UNIFEM's *Say NO – UNiTE: Counting towards Ending Violence against Women* is still underway. Visit saynotoviolence@unifem.org.

13. **Human Development Report**

Since 1990, the Human Development Report has advocated a people-centred approach to development and has aimed to influence the current development discourse and measures of societal progress. The year 2010 marks the 20th anniversary of the annual reports and provides an opportunity to assess the human development concept.

14. **EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY -- Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus**

Of course, Health has been a priority for the EWL and we had our Thematic Seminar in the end of January 2010 on Women's Health in the European Union. The main issue for EWL is to convey the need to create the space for political commitment (including financial) at the EU level to concentrate on women's health. The seminar provided an opportunity for the EWL membership to build their capacity and update their knowledge about the current situation of the health of women and girls. The seminar also helped the EWL to develop an informed political position on different aspects of health policies that affect women. Gender has been acknowledged as a significant determinant of health. The

current EU health policies have not been integrating gender and sex in a systematic way. For 2010 the EWL set up the objective to prepare and adopt a position paper on the topic of women and health and to lobby for a better inclusion of the sex and gender determinants within the health policies.

And here is an extract from the European Women's Lobby Beijing+15 Report on the Activities of the European Union, an Unfinished Journey! Strategic Objectives are:

C.1: Increase women's access through the life cycle to appropriate, affordable and quality health care

C.2: Strengthen preventive programs that promote women's health.

C.3: Undertake gender-sensitive initiatives that address sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health issues.

C.4: Promote research and disseminate information on women's health.

C.5: Increase resources and monitor follow-up for women's health.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Let me take this opportunity to encourage you to attend the 28th Congress in Munster, Germany, in July, 2010. Visit the website at www.mwia2010.net. If you have never attended a MWIA International Congress, you have not experienced the camaraderie that goes beyond usual scientific meetings. Friends are made that will last a lifetime. Please join us!

The next Update will be published in June, 2010.

Please send us your reports, comments or any other interesting information by May 31, 2010 at the latest. We are always interested to put your name and your accomplishments in the Update.

Letters to the editor are always welcome.