



American Medical Women's Association
The Vision and Voice of Women in Medicine since 1915

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Fall 2012

President's Message



Dear AMWA Members,

The Power of a Name

The American Medical Women's Association. What's in a name? In our case, quite a bit. AMWA is far more than the sum of her parts. To give you an idea, here is a list of the physicians who will speak pro-bono at our next meeting. It is a veritable Who's Who of women in medicine who are gathering to honor AMWA.

- Nancy Andrews, MD, PhD, Dean, Duke University School of Medicine
- Julie A. Frieschlag, MD, Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery, Johns Hopkins Medical College
- Catherine Scott Manno, MD, Professor and Chair, Department of Pediatrics, New York University School of Medicine
- Vanessa Barnabei, MD, PhD, Professor and Chair, Department of OB/GYN, Medical College of Wisconsin
- Amy Paller, MD, Professor and Chair, Department of Dermatology, Feinberg School of Medicine of Northwestern University
- Marianne Legato, MD, Professor of Medicine, Columbia University; Founder- Partnership for Gender Specific Medicine
- Orli Etingin, MD, Professor of Medicine, Past Vice-Chair, Department of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical College
- Hedvig Hricak, MD, Chair of Radiology, Memorial Sloan Kettering Medical Center
- Joan Bathon, MD, Professor of Medicine and Chief, Division of Rheumatology, Columbia University School of Medicine
- Julia Arnsten, MD, Professor of Medicine and Chief, Division of General Internal Medicine, Albert Einstein College of Medicine
- Liise Ann Pirofski, MD, Professor of Medicine and Chief, Division of Infectious Diseases, Albert Einstein College of Medicine
- Rita Charon, MD, PhD, Professor of Clinical Medicine, Executive Director, Program in Narrative Medicine, Columbia University

Wow! Reading through this list, I get goose bumps. Why are these awesome women taking time out on a busy weekend to come to our meeting? Because of the power of AMWA's name.

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AMWA Offices Moving Back to the Washington DC Area

After five years in Philadelphia, the AMWA National Office is moving back to the Washington DC Metro Area. AMWA leaders thank Executive Director Elizabeth Franks, Associate Director Gina Marinilli, and the Fernley & Fernley team for their dedicated service to AMWA. Drohan Management Group (DMG), which is based in Reston, VA, will take over operations in October following a brief transitional period. The transition will be overseen by Acting Directors Dr. Eliza Chin and Dr. Diane Helentjaris. AMWA anticipates a smooth transition with no disruption to membership services.

The new mailing address and contact information is as follows: AMWA, 12100 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 130, Reston, VA 20190, 703-234-4069, Fax: 703-435-4390. The new support staff are Robin Turner, Account Executive, turner@drohanmgmt.com and Taylor Entsminger, Administrator, tenetsminger@drohanmgmt.com. The toll-free telephone number, 866-564-2483, and contact email for general inquiries, associatedirector@amwa-doc.org, remain the same.

AMWA's 98th Anniversary Annual Meeting News

By Mariyam Cherry and Emily Suh, AMWA Student Conference Committee



Mariyam Cherry

this diverse group of women in medicine. Educational opportunities for physicians, medical students, and residents alike will include presentations by nationally recognized leaders in medicine in addition to experts on a variety of topics such as finance, medical writing, family life, and leadership. Physicians will receive CME credit with their attendance. Furthermore, stu-

The American Medical Women's Association is proud to announce that the 98th Anniversary Annual Meeting will be held in New York City on March 15-17 2013 at the historic New York Palace. Bringing together physicians and medical students from all over the United States, special emphasis will be placed on mentorship and networking among

dents and residents will have the opportunity to present their research projects, which will conclude with the distribution of several prestigious awards. The much anticipated and internationally recognized AMWA awards also will be presented to preeminent women in medicine.



Emily Suh

The annual Gala dinner

will take the form of a yacht cruise, with breathtaking views of the New York City skyline, jazz accompaniment and a selection of gourmet food. You will be assured a night of elegance and enjoyment. Of course, no such event would be complete without a renowned keynote speaker, who will soon be announced. Stayed tuned as AMWA makes exciting news!

Report from the American Medical Association (AMA) House of Delegates (HOD), Chicago, IL, June 16-20, 2012

Nancy Church, MD (AMWA Delegate to AMA), Theresa Rohr-Kirchgraber, MD (AMWA representative to the [AMA-WPC Women Physicians Congress Governing Council](#)), Bonnie Hamilton, MD (AMWA Alternate Delegate to AMA), and Kim Templeton, MD (University of Kansas-Kansas City representative to the Section on Medical Schools), attended the annual AMA HOD meeting where Ardis Dee Hoven, MD, an internal medicine and infectious disease specialist from Lexington, Kentucky, was elected AMA's new President-elect.

Testimony by the AMWA Delegation, including Drs. Church and Hamilton, helped persuade the reference committee to recommend supporting many of these issues. For the size of OUR organization compared to AMA, AMWA was especially visible speaking up for the women's agenda. The Delegation demonstrated that AMWA can and does have influence.

The [AMA Women Physicians Congress \(WPC\)](#) held its caucus and reception and reviewed its positions on various items of business to come before the AMA HOD that focuses on issues of women's health and issues of particular concern to women physicians. Some of the related resolutions AMA adopted are: [HPV vaccine and cervical cancer prevention worldwide](#), [physi-](#)

[cian response to patients who may be victims of human trafficking](#), [female genital mutilation](#), and a [new policy on screening mammography](#). A summary on all the actions taken at the HOD can be found on the AMA web-site at www.ama-assn.org.

Sara Laschever, author of *Women Don't Ask* was the AMA WPC keynote speaker for the educational program "Negotiation and the gender divide: The power to get what you really want." The AMA-WPC liaison meeting featured updates about what state and different specialty medical societies are doing to address important issues affecting women physicians. **Kim Templeton, MD** (AMWA) highlighted the ongoing work of the **Sex and Gender Women's Health Collaborative** and has developed an elective in which senior medical students spend 4 weeks at the state capitol learning legislative and regulatory issues and practicing medical advocacy firsthand.

The WPC Governing Council elected Theresa Rohr-Kirchgraber, MD, as their Vice-chair and Nancy Church, MD was elected to the Governing Counsel of AMA's Organized Medical Staff Section not only as the ONLY female member currently, but as the second female member ever elected to the Governing Counsel of the OMSS.

Women's Preventive Services in the Affordable Care Act

What's New as of August 1, 2012?

The health care law makes preventive care more accessible and affordable to millions of Americans. This is especially important to women, who are more likely than men to avoid needed health care, including preventive care, because of cost.

Resources

- [Brochure](#): "How the Health Care Law is Helping Women and Their Families"
- [HealthCare.gov](#): "Preventive Services Covered under the Affordable Care Act"

To help address cost barriers and make sure all women have access to needed care, the new preventive health care provisions in the law go into effect on August 1 as new insurance plans enter their plan year. Over the next few years, as an increasing number of health plans come under the law's reach, more and more women will have access to a wide range of preventive services without co-payments or deductibles, including:

Well-Woman Visits

Coverage of well-woman visits without a co-pay will ensure that needed services, screening and counseling are within reach of all women.

Breastfeeding Support

Lactation counseling can provide a new mother much-needed support, and supplies such as breast pumps allow women to maintain their milk supply when their child is unable to breast-feed directly or when they are away from their child.

President's Message *(continued from page 1)*

One speaker is juggling her children's schedules around to make it. Another rearranged choir commitments. A third will fly in and fly back out again in the same morning as her schedule is so busy. They are doing this because, as Julie Frieschlag, the William Halstead Professor and Chair of Surgery at Hopkins, wrote simply, "I would love to do this."

Why this amazing show of altruism and enthusiasm? Because of a name: AMWA. The idea of mentoring our students and our physicians appeal to these accomplished women tremendously. Recently, I was approached by, and then elected a fellow of the American College of Physicians, an unexpected honor. Why? Because of a name: AMWA. Such is AMWA's power, her glory, her strength. Such is our power, our glory, our strength.

I urge us all to keep this vision of AMWA within our hearts and

Contraceptive Methods and Counseling

The full range of FDA-approved contraceptive methods is included in the package of preventive health services. Increased access to birth control has been linked directly with declines in maternal and infant mortality.

Screening and Counseling for Domestic Partner Violence

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that women in the U.S. get approximately two million injuries from domestic violence each year, making it vitally important that health care providers use every tool at their disposal to identify and help survivors of intimate partner violence.

Screening for Gestational Diabetes

Testing for gestational diabetes and access to well-woman visits, including prenatal care with no co-pays or deductibles, means that expectant mothers will know what steps they need to take to have a healthy pregnancy.

Screening for Sexually Transmitted Infections

Routine visits to the gynecologist improve women's health and potentially save lives by helping prevent, detect and treat a variety of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). In addition, doctors can counsel their patients about preventive measures such as vaccination, safer sex and routine testing for themselves and their partners.

our minds as we work together with unbridled optimism to forge a vibrant student and physician centered future for AMWA that rivals her wondrous past.

Our 98th annual meeting is coming up! In March 2013, in the great port of New York, at the luxurious Palace Hotel. Let's make it an event to remember!

Fondly,



Gayatri Devi, MD
AMWA President, 2012-2013

AMWA Endorses New Hormone Therapy Statement of Agreement

After 10 years of debate regarding the risks and benefits of hormone therapy, 15 top medical organizations have come together to issue a statement of agreement regarding the benefits of hormone therapy for symptomatic menopausal women. It was July 9, 2002, when the controversial, highly publicized Women's Health Initiative (WHI) published its assessment of hormone therapy for the prevention of chronic disease and concluded that risks exceeded benefits. The new joint statement, prepared by The North American Menopause Society (NAMS), the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), and The Endocrine Society, concludes that hormone therapy is still an acceptable treatment for menopausal symptoms. This statement has been endorsed by 12 other leading organizations in women's health, including AMWA.

"The American Medical Women's Association Board of Directors unanimously and enthusiastically endorses the July 9, 2012 statement of the North American Menopause Society, the American Society for Reproductive Medicine and the Endocrine Society, which defines the appropriate use of hormone therapy for symptomatic women, based on currently available data. We applaud them for their thoughtful and systematic evaluation of the available data, and their commitment to providing appropriate opinions to American women in this area of expertise."

[Read the press release on the solidarity statement.](#)

[Read the solidarity statement.](#)

[Read the position statement.](#)

Celebrate Women in Medicine Month with Faces of AMWA

In honor of September, Women in Medicine Month, AMWA is proud to announce a new Exhibition, Faces of AMWA, which celebrates the achievements of women in medicine, past and present.

The assemblage of this pantheon of women leaders in medicine demonstrates a wide variety of experiences and expertise with one unifying theme: the unwavering commitment to make a difference for women, be they physicians or patients.

We welcome you to visit the exhibition at www.amwa-doc.org.



From left to right: Dr. Mia Talmor, Andree Brown, and Dr. Eleni Tousimis

ABC News Series "NY Med" Features Dr. Eleni Tousimis and Her Patient through Breast Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment

In [this episode](#), you will watch the journey of patient Andree Brown at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, and take a look into the daily lives of the doctors, nurses, and hospital staff. Ms. Brown was a patient of Dr. Eleni Tousimis, AMWA Board member.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Dr. Wang, September 13, 2012

After reading the article on breast Tomosynthesis in the spring 2012 *AMWA Connections*, I feel there is an even more pertinent issue for AMWA members in the ongoing political debate over whether to notify women with dense breast tissue (DBT) in the required mammography result letters already sent to patients. California and several other states have active legislation pending. Connecticut, Texas, Virginia and New York already have notification laws and a federal bill (HR 3102) was introduced in October, 2011.

In 2005 I began notifying women with dense breast tissue that they should consider additional screening with ultrasound, and as a result over 30 early breast cancers have been detected which were not apparent with mammography. Dense breast tissue is significant because it is linked to a 4 to 6 fold increased risk of developing breast cancer, and 17 times higher rate of interval cancer; (interval cancer is one that presents clinically after a negative mammogram).

Diagnosis of late stage breast cancer causes enormous personal and societal costs in grief, suffering, and money. These costs have a ripple effect and result in increased health care costs, lost productivity and earnings, and the premature deaths of mothers, sisters, and wives. As a society we have accepted the challenge of conquering this disease; early diagnosis remains a key part of our strategy.

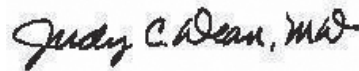
Until recently detection rested almost entirely on mammography, but we know that for women with dense breast tissue mammography alone is inadequate. We have the tools to

compensate for this, but the affected women do not know to ask for them. It's time to stop withholding that information from women.

Notification of this vital health information is essential to facilitating informed health choices. In my own practice it has also facilitated needed discussion with primary care physicians about individual assessment of breast cancer risk, and strategies to improve prevention and early detection. Ultimately these strategies not only reduce deaths from breast cancer, they also lower health care costs.

I have been a breast imaging specialist for over 20 years, and I have experienced firsthand the tragic consequences of cancers missed because of dense breast tissue. We can and should do better, and AMWA members need to know about and support legislative efforts to do so.

Sincerely,



Judy C. Dean MD

1. Kelly KM, Dean J, Lee SJ, Comulada WS, Breast cancer detection using automated whole breast ultrasound and mammography in radiographically dense breasts, *Eur Radiol*, 2010 Mar; 20(11):2557-64
2. Kelly KM, Dean J, Lee SJ, Comulada WS, Breast cancer detection: radiologists' performance using mammography with and without automated whole-breast ultrasound, *Eur Radiol*, 2010 Nov; 20(11):2557-6

Updated AMWA Position Paper: Emergency Contraception

AMWA believes that the number of unintended pregnancies in the US is unacceptably high (3.2 million annually, with over 1/2 million of these being teens) (Shrader SP, 2011), and that this has a detrimental impact on women's health. AMWA supports programs which reduce the rate of unintended pregnancies, as these will improve women's health. A 2011 committee of the IOM recently found sufficient evidence to support certain preventive services that support women's overall health. The first of their recommendations includes a fuller range of services ... **to help women better avoid unwanted pregnancies and space their pregnancies to promote optimal birth outcomes.**" (IOM) [Read the paper.](#)

New AMWA Media and Marketing Committee – Call for Members

Join the Media and Marketing Committee today and help us raise national awareness of AMWA and help us strengthen the involvement of existing AMWA groups. For more information please contact either co-chair: Dr. Farzanna Haffizulla at info@housecallsmd.us or Dr. Anne Burke at aburke@jhmi.edu or Ryan Smith at amwahelper@gmail.com.

MWIA Update

Learn more about the work of the Medical Women's International Association and the work of the regional member and related organizations worldwide in the [latest update](#). AMWA members are also members of MWIA.

AMWA Member News

AMWA Leaders with Former Executive Director Lorraine Loesel

AMWA Leaders Dr. Gayatri Devi, Dr. Satty Keswani, Dr. Eleni Tousimis, and Dr. Eliza Chin had the opportunity to meet and reminisce with former AMWA Executive Director, Lorraine Loesel, who led AMWA for many years during the 1970's. Many stories were shared, and it was interesting to note the remarkable progress made by women in medicine over the past few decades.



Left to right: Dr. Satty Keswani, Dr. Eleni Tousimis, Dr. Gayatri Devi, Lorraine Loesel, and Dr. Eliza Chin

AWHS 95th Anniversary Campaign Progress

This year marks the 95th Anniversary of AWHS. Please celebrate with us by making a tax-deductible donation to AWHS. Your vital contributions will ensure the ongoing support to these many clinics.



You may send a check (payable to the American Women's Hospitals Service) or [donate online here](#). Mail your check to AWHS, 12100 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 130, Reston, VA 20190.

Thank you to the major donors of the **AWHS 95th Anniversary Campaign!**

Virginia H. Baker, MD, MPH
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Janice Stachowiak, MD

Kathryn A. Williams, MD

List as of August 31, 2012

The STAR Doctor Medical Professional Liability Insurance Program for Women in Medicine

The Star Doctor Insurance Program provides Preferred Medical Professional Liability Insurance for Women Physicians. Coverage is available for most specialties except OB, ER, major surgery, and anesthesia. Available to AMWA members as a benefit, the program for Women in Medicine combines the value of

competitive premiums with preferred and specialized features for Women Physicians who need to balance their personal and professional lives. Contact The Wood Insurance Group, (800) 695-0219 or [read more about it](#).

Mentoring Tips from “Take Charge of Your Career! Mentoring and Other Tools for your Professional Development Toolbox”

A Presentation Given by Luanne Thorndyke, MD at AMWA’s 97th Annual Meeting



To Assure Your Success, You Must Ensure That You Have Accessed Your Resources

- What **support** and **resources** has the organization made available to you to succeed?
- Is access to **mentors** to provide expertise and guidance available to you?
- Do you receive regular evaluation and feedback on your performance and progress?
- **Do you take advantage of what your organization or professional society offers?**

Navigate and Manage the Mentoring Relationship

- Ask for help with specific requests
- Establish expectations for both mentor & mentee
- Schedule and keep appointments to meet
- Prepare for meetings with your mentor
- **Listen** to advice and feedback



American Medical Women's Association

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Help AMWA conserve resources. Please send your email address to associatedirector@amwa-doc.org to receive this newsletter and other important member information by email.



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