

American Medical Women's Association

Message from the President: Reflections on the MWIA Conference in Muenster, Germany

Eliza Lo Chin, MD, MPH



The 28th Annual MWIA Congress was held July 28-31, 2010 in the picturesque town of Muenster, Germany, not far from the historic moated castles of the Middle Ages. At the opening ceremony, we were warmly welcomed by Dr. Regine Rapp-Engels, president of the German Medical Women's Association and Professor Dr. Atsuko Heshiki of Japan, President of the Medical Women's International Association (MWIA). Dr. Ursula von der Leyen, German Federal Minister of Labour and Social Affairs and Patroness of the Congress encouraged all the attendees to learn from one another:

"Besides generating new ideas, the exchange of information between women physicians from throughout the world can also provide new impetus... This is because globalization also means looking around in the world to find where things

are done particularly well and then following these examples. What experience do colleagues in Canada have with gender-sensitive working conditions in their clinics? How do women physicians in Japan develop a career? How do colleagues in Poland network? This exchange of information benefits everyone..."

What became clear early on was that the experience of women physicians found common global themes, crossing barriers of geography and ethnicity. Having this international forum for the exchange of information, clinical expertise, and regional experiences equipped each at-



MWIA Executive Board: Professor Afua A.J. Hesse from Ghana (President), Dr. Atsuko Heshiki from Japan (Immediate Past President), Dr. Shelley Ross from Canada (Secretary General), Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus from Germany (Vice-President, Central Europe)



2nd from the left to right: Keynote speaker, Professor Dr. Ilona Kickbusch, Dr. Satty Keswani, Dr. Padmini Murthy, Dr. Eliza Chin, Dr. Claudia Morrissey

tendee with information to take back to her own country. There were 650 attendees at this Congress (representing 48 countries) and over 80 scientific presentations from over 50 countries during the three-day meeting. Highlights included the plenary sessions on Gender Strategies and Violence, Health Care, Addiction, and Epidemic Plagues. Dr. Ilona Kickbusch of the Graduate Institute Geneva, Switzerland delivered an inspiring keynote lecture on global health and challenged us all to look stra-

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Some MWIA Attendees gather on the steps for a group photo.

telegically beyond our own countries to those health issues which transcend national boundaries. Dr. Monika Hauser, founder of Medica Mondiale, shared harrowing stories from her work in Afghanistan and Bosnia in hopes that women physicians would help "outlaw the practice of sexualized violence once and for all."

AMWA was represented by eight delegates: *Dr. Elena Dyer, *Dr. Jean Fourcroy (AMWA Past President), *Dr. Diana Galindo (AMWA Past President), *Dr. Satty Geswani and *Dr. Padmini Murthy (MWIA NGO representatives to the United Nations), *Dr. Claudia Morrissey (MWIA N. American VP), Ashley Styczynsky (MWIA Student representative), and myself. (*indicates presentation / workshop). It was a wonderful time of meeting new colleagues, reuniting with old friends, networking, exchanging gifts, and gaining insights on healthcare and career development from a global perspective.

For me, this will be just the first of many MWIA Congresses. We hope to bring an even larger U.S. contingent to the next meeting in Korea, 2013.

Eliza So Chin, MD

Eliza Chin, MD, MPH
President, American Medical Women's Association

Announcing the MWIA North American Vice-President – Dr. Claudia Morrissey



Dr. Claudia Morrissey

AMWA Past President, Dr. Claudia Morrissey has been elected to be the North American Vice President for the Medical Women's International Association. Dr. Morrissey is an international public health physician whose work focuses on women's health and development issues. She has worked at the United States Agency for International Development, the World Health Organization, and the University of Illinois, School of Medicine and Public Health. She is currently a Senior Director at Save the Children US. Plans are underway for a North American Congress in 2012.

Introduction of AMWA Committee and Task Force Chairs:

Advocacy: Dr. Omega Silva & Dr. Norma Jo Waxman
American Women's Hospitals Service: Dr. Anne Barlow & Dr. Laura Helfman
Archives: Dr. Mary Guinan
Awards: Dr. Nancy Church
Childhood Obesity Task Force: Dr. Kim Templeton
Council of Past Presidents: Dr. Elinor Christiansen
Faces of AMWA Exhibition: Dr. Laura Hudgings
Finance: Dr. Laurel Waters
Gender Equity Task Force: Dr. Roberta Gebhard & Dr. Linda Brodsky
Governance: Dr. Elinor Christiansen
Membership: Dr. Laurel Waters & Dr. Marlene Cutitar
MWIA National Coordinator: Dr. Jean Fourcroy
Program: Dr. Neelum Aggarwal & Dr. Bea Desper
Publications: Dr. Helen Wang
Resident Division: Dr. Kate Neely, Dr. Wendy McCurdy & Dr. Joan Lo
Student Affairs: Dr. Leah Dickstein, Dr. Carolyn Webber
Webmistress: Dr. Debra Judelson
Women's Health Working Group: Dr. Jan Werbinski

Please do consider joining one of these committees or task forces. E-mail associatedirector@amwa-doc.org

In Memoriam

In Memoriam: Dr. Bernice Sachs



Bernice Cohen Sachs, M.D. was born in Passaic, NJ, September 16, 1918 and passed away August 21, 2010 in Silverdale Washington. Dr. Sachs was a pioneer woman physician, graduating from the University of Michigan with distinction. She completed her residency at Michael Reese Hospital, Chicago, Illinois, where she met her husband, Allan Eli Sachs M.D., who, in 1994, preceded her in death.

Dr. Sachs moved to Seattle in 1949 and practiced psychiatry and psychosomatic medicine at Group Health Cooperative for 48 years. During those years she received many honors including the prestigious Elizabeth Blackwell award. Dr. Sachs served on many community boards and numerous medical societies, becoming president of the American Medical Woman's Association, the Washington Academy of Clinical Hypnosis, the American Society of Clinical Hypnosis, the Seattle Medical Women's Association, the American Psychiatric Association and the first woman president of the Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine.

The Sachs's were instrumental in establishing the Jewish Community Center and were active members of Temple de Hirsch. "Dr. Bea" had an amazing capacity to share her compassionate heart with everyone. She had the endearing ability to connect with people making them feel accepted and important. Her irresistible, exuberant personality was unforgettable.

For the past four years Dr. Sachs resided at Emeritus Oaks, a memory care community. Dr. Bea received compassionate care and shared her passion for life and love of people bonding with caregivers, residents, and families alike.

Mom, grandma, great-grandma, sister, aunt, and friend, you will be missed by all of us. You imparted your strength of character, love of life and the ability to see the unique beauty in every person to each of those whose lives you touched. Thank you for such a rich legacy. Dr. Sachs is survived by her son, Lee Sachs of Mexico, her daughter, Robin Sachs Murphy of Gig Harbor, six granddaughters, thirteen great grandchildren, her brother, Albert Cohen of Florida, her niece, Beverly Doran, nephew, Barry Bloomfield, and Barbara, Jay, and Lynn Levy.

Dr. Sachs battled dementia for 12 years. In memoriam the family suggests gifts to the Alzheimer's Association: <http://memorywalk.kintera.org/olympicpeninsula/robin-sachsmurphy>.

Gifts can also be designated to the Bernice Cohen Sachs, MD Endowed Fund for Women Medical Students at the Group Health Foundation, PO Box 34015, Seattle, WA 98124-4015. Dr. Sachs was also an avid supporter of the Jewish Community Center, Mercer Island.

The American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) is greatly saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. Bernice Sachs, one of AMWA's most distinguished Past Presidents who led the organization from 1964-1965. Dr. Bea was an exceptional president of AMWA. Her vivacious, dynamic personality endeared her to all. She reveled in the collegiality and camaraderie of women physicians from all different specialties, coming together on a mutual basis. Her particular interest in physical fitness led to the tradition of morning exercises prior to the sessions at AMWA Annual Meetings. AMWA members describe her as a sparkling leader, full of enthusiasm, forward thinking, and optimism. She left many fond memories and a wide circle of friends. Her fun-loving spirit will be greatly missed. We will always honor Dr. Bernice Sachs for the wonderful legacy that she left to AMWA.

*The American Medical Women's Association
Elinor Christiansen, MD, Chair, Council of Past Presidents
Eliza Lo Chin, MD, MPH, President*

September is Women in Medicine Month.

Send your inspiring story about being a woman in medicine and your name will be entered into a drawing to win an AMWA silk scarf. Send stories to amwahelper@yahoo.com.

AMWA Interim Meeting – Opening of AMWA’s Legacy Exhibit & private screening of *Half the Sky*

The AMWA Interim Board Meeting will be held Sept 23-26 in Philadelphia, PA. AMWA members and guests are invited to join AMWA leaders on Friday, September 24, for a special reception to celebrate the Women in Medicine Month and the opening of the AMWA Legacy Exhibit at Drexel University, 2900 W. Queen Lane, Philadelphia, PA. The reception will be followed by a private screening of *Half the Sky*, the documentary based on the award winning book by Nicholas Kristof & Sheryl WuDunn. For more information, please visit www.amwa-doc.org.

AMWA Residency Division Announces the Formation of the Charlotte Edwards Maguire Mentoring Database

The AMWA Resident Division (RD) has announced the newly created Charlotte Edwards Maguire MD Mentorship Register - a database to help resident physicians find attending physician mentors and a resource where residents can seek out answers to the questions they have - whether it be about balancing their careers with family life or about how to get involved in research within a particular specialty.

The database is named after Dr. Charlotte Maguire, an exceptional physician and philanthropist who was featured in the National Library of Medicine’s Exhibition, *Local Legends: Celebrating America’s Local Physicians*. She was one of the first women to enter the University of Arkansas Medical School, and the only woman in her class in 1944. She later returned to her home town of Orlando, FL where she became the first woman in Orlando to establish a private practice in pediatrics in 1946. She took a special interest in children with disabilities, always providing free services to those in need. Throughout her career, she has mentored female physicians from at least four generations, and still continues to do so today. For more information on becoming a physician mentor, please email AMWAResident@gmail.com.

New Books

AMWA member, Dr. Padmini Murthy, has recently published *Women’s Global Health and Human Rights* along with Dr. Clyde Lanford Smith. Among the 65 authors are three AMWA members, Dr. Jean Fourcroy, Dr. Gayatri Devi, and Dr. Kim Templeton, as well as nobel laureate Dr. Amartya Sen, Partners in Health co-founder Dr. Paul Farmer, former Dean of Columbia School of Public health Dr. Allan Rosenfield, former president of International Planned Parenthood Foundation Dr. Fred Sai, and UN Ambassador, Mr. Anwarul K. Chodhury. This book was lauded by Ms. Rangita de Silva de Alwis, Director of International Human Rights Policy, Wellesley College—“Padmini Murthy’s exploration of the right to health challenges and enriches our understanding of rights and freedoms and provides a critical gender perspective to the literature on economic, social and cultural rights.” Dr. Stephen Marks, Professor at Harvard School of Public Health, praised the authors for “transforming the slogan of ‘women’s rights are human rights’ from aspiration to realization.”

Historian Kimberly Jensen, PhD, has recently published, *Women and Transnational Activism in Historical Perspective*, an analysis of women’s international activism that reached beyond borders to bring women leaders together. Of particular interest is the chapter devoted to International Health and the work of the Medical Women’s International Association (MWIA) and the American Women’s Hospital Service (AWHS), both during World War I, and the period of civil war and religious strife that ensued. Dr. Jensen portrays the challenges faced by these women leaders who by virtue of their shared identities took action despite obstacles in politics and local policies. Pictured on the book’s cover is a photo from the first Medical Women’s International Association Congress in 1922.

AMWA Student Affairs Division – New Grant Awardees

Congratulations to the following awardees:

- Mary Becker - \$1,000 Tuition Scholarship
- Justina Gamache - \$1,000 Tuition Scholarship
- Olga Bishop - \$75 Membership Scholarship
- Region 4 - \$600 Region Award

2011 Women in Medicine Awards Call for Nominations

AMWA honors the pioneering medical women of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

From Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman to receive an M.D. degree from an American medical school, to Bertha Van Hoosen, founder and first president of the American Medical Women's Association.

From Antonia Novello, the first woman, and the first Hispanic, to become Surgeon General of the United States, to Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, the first woman, and the first African American, to be president and chief executive officer of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

To the next generation of physicians, like Ashley Styczynski, AMWA Student President and 2010 winner of the Anne C. Carter Leadership Award.

Learn how to submit a nominee for one of our prestigious awards here (<http://www.amwa-doc.org/gallery2-315/2011AwardsApplication>). Nominations are due by December 15, 2010.

AMWA Partners with PRN Media Health

AMWA has partnered with PRN Media Health to provide better media training for AMWA Members. Up to five members every month will receive 30 minute sessions by phone or in-person media training sessions this year. Interested members should contact associatedirector@amwa-doc.org. A media training session will also be offered to new members at the 2011 AMWA Annual Meeting, held in conjunction with the 19th Annual Women's Health Congress, March 31-April 2.



AMWA Launches Underage Drinking Campaign

In partnership with the National Consumers League (NCL) and DISCUS, AMWA has launched an underage drinking campaign at campuses nationwide. AMWA Student Branches will help distribute brochures on campus to educate young women about the serious consequences of alcohol poisoning and how they can find help.

Webinar on Mentoring

Thursday, Sept 30, 5-6 (Pacific), 8-9 (Eastern)

Hear from two inspiring women...

The Missing Mentor: Women Advising Women on Power, Progress and Priorities

Mary Stutts – Senior Vice President of Elan Pharmaceuticals, author, speaker

Luanne Thorndyke, MD, FACP – *Mentoring: A Useful Tool for Your Professional Toolkit*. Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs at the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS).

This is the first in a series of four webinars, prepared by the American Medical Women's Association and hosted by Doctors for America—for members of a networking alliance of medical organizations. Participating organizations include: American College of Emergency Physicians, American College of Women's Health Physicians, American Medical Association–Women Physicians Congress, American Medical Women's Association, Association of Women Psychiatrists, American Medical Student Association, American Society for Reproductive Medicine, Association of American Medical Colleges, Doctors for America, National Physicians Alliance, PRN Media Health, and RENEW.

To register, please visit :

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/205976753>

Corporate Partners

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Because health matters



Save the Date!

AMWA's 96th Anniversary Meeting,
held in conjunction with Women's Health 2011:
The 19th Annual Congress – April 1-3, 2011
with Advocacy Day March 31

Connections is a publication of the American Medical Women's Association

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