

AMWA Connect

Novello and Elders to be Honored at Gala

Newsletter of the
American Medical Women's
Association
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AMWA's 2002 Interim Meeting, "Physicians Adapting To A Changing Environment" will be held June 21-23, 2002 at the Hilton McLean, Tysons Corner in McLean, VA.

Join us Friday night, June 21st for our Second Annual International Women in Medicine Hall of Fame Gala. We are pleased to honor Drs. Antonia Novello and Elders as our contemporary inductees in the Hall of Fame. This year's celebration will also honor posthumously, the first women graduates of medical schools in the United States

Antonia Novello, MD was the first female and first Hispanic to be appointed surgeon general of the United States by President George H. Bush. Prior to her appointment, Dr. Novello was trained as a pediatric nephrologist and in public health. During her tenure as Surgeon General, Novello focused her attention on the health of women, children and

minorities, as well as on underage drinking, smoking, and AIDS. Novello also similarly worked to discourage illegal tobacco use by young people, and repeatedly criticized the tobacco industry for appealing to the youth market through the use of cartoon characters such as "Joe Camel."

Elders, MD, was the first African American to be appointed Surgeon General. Appointed by President Clinton, Dr. Elders argued the case for universal health coverage, and was a spokesperson for President Clinton's health care reform effort. Prior to her work as Surgeon General, Dr. Elders received a National Institutes of Health career development award. As Director of the Arkansas Department of Health by then-Governor Bill Clinton, her accomplishments in this position included a ten-fold increase in the number of early childhood screenings annually and almost a dou-

bling of the immunization rate for two-year-olds in Arkansas.

On Friday, June 21, the Board of Directors will have an all-day leadership retreat. Due to the retreat, there will not be a Lobby Day at this year's meeting. On Saturday, join us for educational sessions on Practice Management, Career changes and transitions, and caregivers. Several committee meetings will follow these continuing medical education workshops.

For more information on the Interim Meeting, please contact AMWA's meeting coordinator, Danielle Lawler at Prestige Accommodations (800)321-6338, Fax: (714) 957-9112 or email danielle@prestigeacc.com. ♦



Joycelyn Elders, MD



Antonia C. Novello, MD

Menopause Town Hall

On March 20, 2002, AMWA partnered with the US Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health to hold the first National Town Hall on Menopause. The half-day conference, moderated by AMWA Past President, Omega Silva, MD, addressed current and new advances in menopause, its symptoms and related conditions, and the implications for public policy. Activities included presentations by national experts on the health and medical issues surrounding menopause. AMWA Past President, Diana Dell, MD of Duke University, spoke

about the pervasiveness of female sexual dysfunction and the psycho-sexual issues surrounding menopause.

The Town Hall also addressed osteoporosis, heart disease, breast cancer as well as complementary and alternative treatments for menopausal symptoms and conditions. Wanda Jones, Dr. PhD, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health (Women's Health) at the Department of Health and Human Services, discussed current Federal initiatives on menopause. A webcast and transcript of the conference can be seen at www.kaisernetwork.org/heath_cast/hcast_index.cfm. ♦

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Message from the President



Elinor T. Christiansen, MD

Change is ubiquitous. Change is a reality of life and an integral part of our world. How we react to change, handle change, effect or influence change makes all the difference in the quality of our lives, our health and well-being, and the lives of those around us.

External changes beyond our control include weather, natural disasters, and war. Some external factors which affect our lives are generally considered beyond our control, we may be able to influence or change, if we so choose, such as politics, taxes, the economy, and the health care system.

Internal factors beyond our control include our genetic composition, the stages of life, and aging. However internal factors under our control include what we choose to do in our personal and professional lives. We make daily choices, which affect our health, vitality, and even longevity. We make personal choices which affect our contentment and sense of fulfillment. We make career choices which affect our level of satisfaction or sense of accomplishment.

How we choose to communicate and interact with other people is also under our control. And change is possible. How fortunate we are to be able to make so many choices that can change our lives and the lives of others. Among the things I especially appreciate about being a member of AMWA are the networking opportunities with other women physicians on both the local level and the nation-

al level. The sharing of concerns, experiences and discovering possible solutions to problems is enriching, supportive and exhilarating.

I feel so fortunate that my mother, a physician and surgeon, was such a wonderful role model for me. She found balance and satisfaction in her life by re-evaluating her priorities periodically as her family situation and responsibilities changed, and opportunities changed at different stages of her life. She participated in regular exercise and a nutritious, balanced diet and encouraged her patients and friends to do the same. She nourished her spirit through regular participation in worship, reading, classical music, and gardening. Her strength and serenity were remarkable.

Do you know the difference between a thermometer and a thermostat? A thermometer simply records the temperature. A thermostat sets the temperature. I choose to be a thermostat. What about you?

During my year as your president, I want to bring about several changes to revitalize AMWA and move it into the future.

1) Become more member-oriented, listening to member concerns and finding out what women physicians want and need, and then trying to meet these needs.

2) Become more effective and efficient by simplifying and streamlining our organization and function.

3) Become visionary and courageous, taking a leadership role in proposing a new health care system that is equitable, simple, accessible and inclusive.

There is an ancient Chinese proverb, "When sleeping women awake, mountains will move." ♦

2002 President's Trip: Scotland

All AMWA members, spouses and friends are cordially invited to participate in the 2002 President's Trip which will take place from September 8-16, 2002. The trip is a nine-day, breathtaking highland scenery tour of Scotland. Dorothy Ward, MD, Past President of MWIA, is arranging medical visits and briefings in Glasgow and Edinburgh. Participants will learn about Scotland's national health plan and how well it works. Tour participants will stay in first class hotels in Glasgow, Isle of Skye, Inverness, Braemar, and Edinburgh.

The Scottish government is committed to improving the health of the people of Scotland and tackling the inequalities in health between the rich and the poor. The Scottish government has created a plan that builds on previous work and also looks to the future. It brings together a fragmented National Health System, signals new partnerships with Local Authorities and other organizations, and sets out new ways of ensuring that national standards of care will be delivered locally. It marks a real change in the way the Scottish National Health System is run.

For more information, please call Margie Orris from Globus Travel at 1-877-245-6287, ext. 6121. If you would be interested in a 3-day, medical education extension at the end of the trip, please email Elinor Christiansen at: EChris7@aol.com.

AMWA is committed to a maximum of 35 persons, so please make your reservations early. We are looking forward to your participation in this beautiful tour of Scotland.

Take Charge Against Stroke

The American Stroke Association and AMWA have developed a brochure on women and stroke, called "Take Charge Against Stroke: Our Guide for Women". This brochure is intended to increase women's understanding of stroke, the risk factors and what to do if a stroke strikes. To receive a free supply of brochures for your practice, please email your contact information to Ellen Magnis at ASA at: ellen.magnis@heart.org (brochures will be sent in quantities of 100 while supplies last).

Student Senate: A Focus on Communication

*Gillian Baty, National Student Coordinator
University of Utah, MSII*

So there you are. Back to the grind. You remember the plane ride home from AMWA's Annual Meeting when you were thinking about all the projects you had been inspired to start, the people you were going to get in touch with, and the e-mails you were going to send to your new friends. If you are like most of us, you are stressing about the boards (your exams, your patients, your kids) and a month later you don't know where to find those e-mail addresses, can't quite remember what the projects were and keep saying gee, I just wish I had more time to get these projects off the ground.

I've decided it's not about time. God knows I fall into the "over-committed" crowd. I've decided it's about communica-

tion. If we concentrate on the small acts of communicating with our circle of professional contacts, the rest happens. If we ask one thing at a time of our colleagues in a time frame that is manageable, we get things accomplished.

I just returned from the American Medical Student Association convention in Houston. The standout discussion for me at the Women in Medicine meeting was the overlapping interests with AMWA. One thing I've focused on at all levels of leadership (local, regional, national) is coalition building. There are only a handful of proactive medical students and they are driving most of the organizations. It seems to me that these groups are unnecessarily divided and we could all effect more change by finding those common interests and building coalitions. But this requires communication.

In the last issue of AMWA

Connections, Allison Dean of the University of South Carolina School of Medicine (my esteemed co-NSC) talked about being energized by the Annual Meeting. I want to put the challenge to you fellow student leaders to remember that energy and take a few minutes each day and ask if there is something easy you can do to facilitate communication. Whether it is sending a quick e-mail, writing a short article and sending to Inna (newsletter) or Wendell (website), or sending some photos to share with other chapters, make it something manageable.

Remember the Interim Meeting is right around the corner and even if you can't make it, we want to make it a time for student leaders everywhere to have a voice. Please let Allison and I know if there is any way in which we can be of help. ♦

Celebrating a Rich Legacy

Exhibit Opens May 17

MCP-Hahnemann University is creating a permanent exhibition at the Queen Lane Campus that will celebrate the 150-year-old legacy of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania/Medical College of Pennsylvania and Hahnemann University. The heritage of these two schools is the foundation of the current institution, so it is important to understand and celebrate this rich legacy. A personal approach will be used to capture the heart, the memories and the source of traditions at these two institutions.

Large-scale drawings incorporating strong artistic imagery surrounded by text in the form of an oversized hand-written diary comprise the underpinning of the exhibition. Objects, quotes and images complete the format. The content, seen largely from the perspective of students, is based on stories illustrating real experiences compiled from archival letters, diaries, and interviews.

The exhibition opened Friday, May 17, 2002, and will be a permanent installation at the Queen Lane Campus of MCP-Hahnemann, Philadelphia. For further information contact the Archives & Special Collections on Women in Medicine at 215-842-4744.

Contribute Your Memorabilia to a Lasting Legacy

The Archives and Special Collections on Women in Medicine, at MCP-Hahnemann School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA, is the repository for AMWA's historical papers and photographs and those of AWHF. Contact the Archives staff at 215-842-4744, to discuss your papers and photographs as a possible addition to the Archives Collection.

Call for Nominations

It's not too late to consider yourself or a colleague for election to AMWA national office in 2003. To qualify, candidates must have been members in good standing for five years and in a national leadership position for two years. Nominees for Resident Representative and the National Student Coordinators must be active members of the Association. Offices to be filled in the 2003 election are:

President-Elect
Vice President of Finance
Vice President of Membership
Director of Residents
Resident Representative
National Student Coordinators (2)
Speaker of the House
Vice-Speaker of the House

Candidates will be asked by the Nominating Committee to submit curriculum vitae and to complete a questionnaire. Questionnaires are available from Francina Roberts, at AMWA. The deadline for submission is June 14, 2002.

Back Up Your Birth Control

Emergency Contraception Education Campaign

Coordinated by the Reproductive Health Technologies Project (RHTP), AMWA joined with a coalition of more than 100 national and local women's health advocacy groups and medical organizations, to launch a health awareness campaign educating the public about emergency contraception (EC). The campaign, Back Up Your Birth Control, aims to "put emergency contraception in women's hands before they need it" in an attempt to reduce the three million unintended pregnancies that occur in the United States each year. One of the campaign's priorities is for women to know that emergency contraception is safe, available, and that they can have it in their medicine cabinet should they ever need it.

The formal launch of the campaign on March 20, followed legislation introduced on March 6, (S 1990/HR 3887), by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and Representative Louise Slaughter (D-NY), entitled, "the Emergency Contraception Education Act." This legislation would provide \$10 million over five years to the CDC for a government-sponsored awareness campaign to make women

and doctors more aware of the availability of EC. AMWA encourages its members to support this legislation.

In February, Representative Melissa Hart (R-PA) introduced HR 3805, legislation that would suspend all federal funds to state and local education agencies that prescribe EC in school-based health clinics. The legislation perpetuates confusion between EC and abortion. The federal Food and Drug Administration has determined that EC is a safe and effective method of pregnancy prevention. Emergency contraception does not interrupt or disrupt an already established pregnancy. AMWA is working with several medical and reproductive health organizations to oppose this legislation, as it would not reduce teen sexual activity but instead will deter teens from seeking the services necessary to avoid unintended pregnancies. Make your voice heard on this and other important issues by using AMWA Legislative Action Center, www.capwiz.com/amwa. ♦

RHI: Building Momentum

The Reproductive Health Initiative (RHI) continues to build momentum in 2002 with development of the Second Edition of the *Reproductive Health Model Curriculum* (RHM), expansion of the Medical Abortion Education Program (MAEP), increasing international project activities, and promoting Emergency Contraception.

Work has begun on the Second Edition of the Curriculum, with drafts expected this summer. RHI Advisory Committee Chairs, Carolyn Westhoff, MD, MSc, Felicia H. Stewart, MD, Marjorie Braude, MD, and Vanessa Cullins, MD MPH, MBA will lead the team of expert reviewers for the Second Edition. The new edition will contain updates of statistics, medical protocols, and standards of practice, and will include new sections on menopause, refugees, displaced populations in the US, and a comprehensive module on

International Reproductive Health. In other exciting news, the Curriculum is now available electronically through the RHI Web site at: www.amwa-doc.org/RHI.htm.

Dr. Westhoff continues her work as Project Advisor for the Medical Abortion Education Project, as we enter our second year. RHI recently received a \$50,000 grant from the John Merck Fund, in addition to further funding from the Cohen Foundation, to support the project. To date, MAEP Faculty have presented 42 educational programs on medical abortion to over 1800 physicians and other health care professionals across the country, with additional programs planned in 2002. MAEP is a collaborative project with Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health (PRCH), the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP), and the National Abortion Federation (NAF).

In March, Dr. Cullins, RHI International Chair, and Mette Karlsen, MA, RHI International Associate, led a workshop at the International Health Medical Education Consortium (IHMEC) Conference in Havana, Cuba entitled, "International Reproductive Health: The Need for More Pre-Service Education and Training." In other international news, RHI recently received a proposal from the Campaign Against Unwanted Pregnancy (CAUP) to formally collaborate with them on strengthening Nigerian medical schools teaching on reproductive health. ♦

LA AMWA Presents Award to Senator Boxer



In October 2001, the Los Angeles Branch of AMWA (Branch 13) awarded the Outstanding Legislator Award to Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) for her advocacy on behalf of children, families, consumers, and her State of California. Senator Boxer became a United States Senator in January 1993 after 10 years of service in the House of Representatives. She was elected to a second, six-year term in 1998.

Committed to eliminating violence in America, Senator Boxer authored the Violence Against Women Act while serving in the House and helped steer it successfully through the Senate; it is now law. A strong advocate of medical research, Senator Boxer is part of a coalition to increase that critical effort. Senator Boxer authored a Patients' Bill of Rights in 1997 and continues to fight for these much needed protections. The Senate's leading advocate of a woman's right to choose, Senator Boxer authored the Family Planning and Choice Protection Act and helped lead the floor fight for passage of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act. She is now leading the Senate effort to overturn the Bush international gag rule and other anti-choice efforts.

In February 2002, AMWA President Elinor Christiansen, MD and AMWA Past President, Omega Silva, MD had the opportunity to personally present Senator Boxer with her well-deserved award in Washington, DC. ♦

Advocacy Update

During 2001, AMWA members began to use AMWA's Legislative Action Center, to contact their senators and representatives. Use of the Legislative Action Center is one of several steps AMWA is taking to enhance the ability of our members to participate in grassroots lobbying on federal issues. Your participation ensures that AMWA can continue to have an effective voice on Capitol Hill.

Universal Access

Concurrent Resolution 99, is an important piece of legislation because it

directs Congress to provide legislation that would guarantee everyone access to affordable, cost efficient and comprehensive health care by October 2004.

This is the first step towards universal access and it provides an opportunity to show support for this issue.

Collaboration around this resolution from medical organizations could influence Congress to have health care legislation and discussion by summer 2002. With congressional elections in the fall 2002, local rallying around this resolution could have a powerful impact on representatives running for office.

Branch members get involved with this issue by organizing meetings and com-

municating with local representatives running for office this fall.

Tobacco Cessation

AMWA is working with two different coalitions on the issue of tobacco cessation. The Coalition for World No Tobacco Day is a grassroots campaign with the aim of preventing people from starting smoking and helping people to quit smoking. On May 31, the Coalition encourages people worldwide to be aware of the damaging effects of tobacco for World No Tobacco Day. For more information go to www.worldnotobaccoaday.com. ♦

Emerging Diseases: Old and New

The Pan American Medical Women's Alliance (PAMWA) will hold its next meeting in Fernandina Beach, Florida, October 23-27, 2002. The meeting theme is "Emerging Diseases: Old and New". For more information about the conference please contact Anne Barlow Ramsay, MD, email Czardaska@aol.com.

The deadline for PAMWA abstract submission is June 30, 2002. Preference for oral session presentations will be given those abstracts related to the theme of the conference. Please contact Jean Fourcroy, MD at fourcroy@aol.com or Marie Glanz, AMWA, at mglanz@amwa-doc.org for submission criteria for abstracts.

Calendar

June 21, 2002

2nd Annual International Women in Medicine Hall of Fame Gala, McLean, VA
(Washington, DC metro area)

September 30, 2002

Community Service Award Nomination Deadline

American
Medical
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Association, Inc.



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