

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN

AMWA

Volume XVII, Number 2/April-May 1996

Interim
Meeting
June 28-30



Elaine Feldman, MD, Debra Judelson, MD, and actress Christine Elise following the editorial roundtable held in New York.

AMWA Promotes Healthy Lifestyles for Women

On February 8, 1996, AMWA and the National Association of Margarine Manufacturers presented the findings of a new Louis Harris and Associates survey on women's health and nutrition. Debra Judelson, MD, AMWA President-Elect, and Christine Elise, who portrays medical resident Harper Tracy on the NBC hit series "ER," headed an editorial roundtable on the survey that included AMWA member and nutrition expert Elaine Feldman, MD, and Executive Director Eileen McGrath, JD.

The survey found that while most women today understand the importance of adhering to basic nutrition guidelines, more than 50% are not committed to a healthy nutritional lifestyle. The survey found that the basic barriers among the women polled were confusion as to which foods to eat and a lack of discipline, as well as the belief

continued on p. 2

Interim Meeting To Focus on Managed Care and Medicaid

This year's interim meeting will include an in-depth look at managed care issues affecting physicians. Topics to be addressed include legal, financial, and profiling/termination aspects, as well as the health care needs of Medicaid populations. The meeting will be held June 28-30 with a Lobby Day on July 1 at the Washington Court Hotel in Washington, DC.

AMWA members moderating the Sunday program are Jacqueline Corrigan, JD and Medical Student, Janet Freedman, MD, and Susan Ivey, MD, MHSA. The program will include three panels focusing on legal aspects of managed care, the impact of capitation and financial arrangements on access to and quality of care, and Medicaid in the present and future.

"The entry of managed care organizations into the care of the poor is relatively new and, in general, only covers those poor who are Medicaid beneficiaries. During the afternoon session, AMWA members will have the opportunity to

hear how some states and managed care organizations are responding to the needs of special populations," said Dr. Susan Ivey.

The three-day meeting will include board of directors and committee meetings on Friday and Saturday. Highlights of the weekend will include Saturday's luncheon featuring keynote speaker Ann Lewis, Deputy Campaign Director and Director of Communications for Clinton-Gore '96. Formerly, Ms. Lewis was Vice President of Policy for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. Members also will have the opportunity to participate in Monday's Lobby Day and tour the Holocaust Museum with their families on Saturday afternoon.

In addition to the managed care program on Sunday, AMWA members will receive updates on key issues from Government Affairs staff and legislative staffers and learn how to effectively communicate with Congress, the public, and media on women's health topics. Members who would like to participate in Lobby Day, Monday, July 1, are encouraged to contact Anne Pritchett or Liz Pejeau at the National Office.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Affirmative Action and Its Role Today

Jean L. Fourcroy, MD, PhD, AMWA President



It has been a busy winter for AMWA and the staff. Everyone is grateful that spring is finally here...and please, let's not have one more snow storm! The Governmental Affairs Committee has been busy planning an outstanding interim meeting for you on managed care and Medicaid

issues. Understanding these issues and their impact on our patients and practice is important. I hope each branch will send a representative to this day-long and very timely session to be held on Sunday, June 30, preceding our July 1 Lobby Day.

An issue whose time has come (or has it gone?) is affirmative action. What is it and do we need it? Affirmative action refers to positive measures taken to remedy the effects of past discrimination, and we as women have benefited from these positive measures. The word "sex" was added to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as an afterthought to block the bill's passage. Many of us would not have gone to medical school if that three-letter word had not been added. "Race and racism have obscured the extraordinary role that affirmative action has played in moving women [up] from their customary low tiers in the workplace."¹ Once given a chance, women quickly proved they could perform quality work. However, today no more than 6% of top leaders are women and their compensation is far from equal to that of their male counterparts.

Clearly, affirmative action has changed my life. When I was a pre-med student in 1951, the University of California Medical School at San Francisco (UCSF) admitted 1 woman into a class of 60; in 1964 when I returned to school, 2 women were admitted into a class of 120. This quota, though not unique to gender, was typical and was reflected in the number of women who graduated from medical schools. Today at UCSF, 51% of the students are women. When I returned to medical school in Philadelphia I still was not allowed to open a bank or charge account or to sign an apartment lease in my name. By 1974, things were changing rapidly and an older woman with a research background and four children was an asset. By this time, affirmative action had shocked pro-

fessional organizations, and I was a beneficiary. The first woman urologist received her certification in 1962; I was the fifth woman to receive her urology certification in 1981. And although I had some wonderful male colleagues, I know that our memories of residency are not the same.

Affirmative action has become one of the most controversial policies in the United States, and many beneficiaries of affirmative action now oppose it. However, without the increased number of women in all professions, many of the advances in women's health might not have been achieved. Today, obtaining a residency in many specialties is easier; biological clocks are not ignored and there are even some mentors, but the "sticky floor" still remains the path to leadership. Is it truly time to throw out affirmative action? If it is, what should replace it? I have asked Beatrice Desper, MD, Vice President of Career Development, and Lynn Epstein, MD, Director of Students (lynn-Epstein@brown.edu), to bring concepts for discussion to the interim meeting and to help us develop AMWA's position on this complex subject. This discussion will require facts and thoughts from all of you; since most of you have email, it should not be difficult to establish a dialogue on this issue.

As usual, I look forward to hearing from you at sjlfbehr@aol.com, AMWA's website (amwa-doc.org), or at your branch.

¹ Holmes, Eleanor Norton, in Clayton, SD, and Crosby, FJ, eds. *Justice, Gender, and Affirmative Action*. Ann Arbor, MI: The University of Michigan Press, 1995.

Healthy Lifestyles continued from p. 1

that they would pay more attention to nutrition as they got older. The findings indicate that physicians and nutritionists can help women improve their dietary habits by first identifying the extent to which these barriers exist and then communicate the importance of following basic nutrition guidelines and acting now rather than later to practice a healthy lifestyle. AMWA's physicians emphasized the importance of setting realistic goals such as making simple substitutions in their diet—selecting foods that are low in saturated fat and cholesterol, exercising regularly, and making a daily commitment to improving their dietary health.

The roundtable was followed by a satellite media tour. The day's events were covered by the Food Network, local television stations across the country, the Saturday morning "Today" show on NBC, and leading national newspapers.

Breast and Cervical Cancer Education Project

AMWA's three-year Breast & Cervical Cancer Education Project for Primary Care Providers came to a close in March with the completion of 35 workshops held across the country. The goal of the project, which was funded through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, was to train primary care physicians nationwide in breast and cervical cancer screening, detection, and diagnosis to improve the health care of their female patients.

Over 1,000 health professionals were trained at the workshops, with over 90% of participants giving the program very favorable ratings. The success of the program in achieving its goal is evidenced by a 28% improvement from participants' pre- to post-test scores and equally high scores on four-month post-test evaluations. Not only was there long-term improvement in health professionals' knowledge of screening guidelines and management protocols, but more than one-half of the participants reported feeling more skilled in performing clinical breast examinations.

The great interest among nonphysicians in AMWA's program demonstrates the need for further programs on screening for breast and cervical cancer. This widespread interest may reflect the rapid changes in the health care delivery system. In Petersburg, Virginia, workshops were filled to capacity and local health department officials donated their own time and resources to provide a continental breakfast for program participants due to a shortage of funds.

"Reaching so many people in somewhat remote areas with the education on screening for breast

and cervical cancer was one of the most rewarding aspects of the project," commented Linda Thomas, Project Manager.

Due to the quality and efficacy of the program, AMWA continues to receive workshop requests. AMWA thanks Janet Rose Osuch, MD, Diana Dell, MD, Sterling Sightler, MD, and the entire Master Faculty and project staff for the extensive time and energy they contributed to the project. AMWA would also like to bid a fond farewell to Project Manager Linda Thomas whose contributions to AMWA will be greatly missed. Additional questions regarding the project should be directed to Eileen McGrath, JD, or Jannine Jordan at the National Office.

Coronary Heart Disease Education Project Needs You

AMWA members are encouraged to schedule a CME workshop on coronary heart disease in women to help AMWA meet its workshop goal. If you would like to hold a workshop in your community on this important women's health topic, please contact Janie Darby, Project Assistant, at the National Office for more information. Faculty and materials will be provided.

Reproductive Health Initiative

The current anti-abortion climate and the reduction in federal funds for such efforts as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's STD/AIDS prevention programs highlight the need for physician education in reproductive health through efforts such as AMWA's Reproductive Health

Initiative (RHI). In addition, AMWA has found that most medical schools seem to provide little, if any, training on abortion or physician-patient communication. The good news is that some medical schools are beginning to recognize the need to improve their reproductive health curricula. AMWA's RHI elective curriculum provides these schools with a model to meet their students' educational needs.

Last year, AMWA successfully established RHI electives at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City and the University of Iowa College of Medicine in Iowa City. Student evaluations have been overwhelmingly positive, with comments such as, "Loved it, great experience," "fantastic," and "the best rotation of medical school so far!"

The curriculum addresses primary care infertility, contraception, abortion, and STDs. The curriculum also focuses on communication theory, how to develop effective physician-patient communication (such as sexual history taking), patient education, and patient counseling. An implementation guide, for use by course directors in organizing and delivering the elective, includes a list of recommended learning tools such as videotapes, roleplays, case studies, and other group and individual educational exercises. The RHI model elective is an innovative way for schools to provide comprehensive medical training in reproductive health.

Medical students and faculty at sixteen schools are exploring the possibility of holding electives. AMWA currently has four established electives for 1996 and two for 1997. In addition to host school students, six fourth-year medical students will participate in the 1996 RHI

continued on p. 10

Tobacco Control and Prevention Project

AMWA's Strategic Coalition of Girls and Women United Against Tobacco continues to expand its outreach and educational efforts to public agencies, health and advocacy organizations, and AMWA members. To increase the number of physicians active in tobacco control and prevention, AMWA is pleased to sponsor three regional trainings for AMWA students in the fall of 1996. The trainings will provide AMWA students with an understanding of the most recent demographic trends of smoking prevalence among women and girls and will enable students to identify specific strategies for becoming effective tobacco prevention advocates. The trainings will engage AMWA students and enable them to make a difference toward achieving one of the country's most cherished public health goals. For further information about the trainings, please contact Felicia Bloom, MHS, Project Manager, at the National Office.

As a member of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, a national initiative to support the proposal by President Clinton and the Food and Drug Administration to reduce the appeal and access of tobacco products to youth, AMWA has sponsored several advertisements that have appeared in major newspapers such as *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, and *The New York Times*. Michele Bloch, MD, PhD, Chair of AMWA's Tobacco Control and Prevention Subcommittee, is a spokesperson for the campaign and has made several media appearances on behalf of AMWA and the campaign.

Raising policymakers' and the public's awareness about women and tobacco issues is one of AMWA's primary goals. To this end, AMWA has been asked to co-sponsor a Healthy Women 2000 series conference on

women and smoking with the U.S. Public Health Service's Office on Women's Health. Susan Blumenthal, MD, MPA, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Women's Health and Assistant Surgeon General, is directing the planning of this historic event. Details will be provided in an upcoming issue of the newsletter.

To make AMWA's Strategic Coalition more visible, AMWA is designing promotional items with tobacco control and prevention messages for women and girls. Possible items include t-shirts, posters and buttons, which may be available at the interim meeting. AMWA hopes that these materials will help raise awareness and further members' commitment to the issue of tobacco use among women and girls.

Improving Child Care Options

Data indicate that 50% of working women have children under age 6. A key issue facing these women is the lack of good, consistent child care. To help women, particularly women physicians, address this problem, AMWA

teamed with the Lutheran General Children's Day Care and other subject matter experts to write *Developing a Child Care Program: A Health System Decision-Making Guide*. The manual was written under the direction of Roselyn Payne Epps, MD, AMWA Past President, with assistance from the National Association of Hospital-Affiliated Child Care Providers. AMWA committee members involved in the project include Constance U. Battle, MD; Leah J. Dickstein, MD; Betty B. Mathieu, MD; Victoria I. Paterno, MD; Lila A. Wallis, MD; and Katherine A. Schneider, MD.

Focusing on the challenge of ensuring high-quality child care, this guide provides the information, tools, and model for developing and implementing a quality child care program. From building a vision to planning and implementing a child care program, this resource is written for anyone who is concerned about building a more productive workforce and meeting the needs of working parents. This guide, which is available for \$25 from the National Office, introduces an innovative decision-making model for use in ensuring quality child care in any organization.



Authors of the child care guide (l to r): Salvini G. Kernaghan; Mary Ellen Gornick, MA; Maryruth Clohisy, MBA; Roselyn P. Epps, MD; and Josie O. Disterhoft, MA.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

AMWA welcomes aboard Anne Pritchett as new Director of Public Affairs and Government Relations. Liz Pejeau is also working on legislative and public affairs as well as continuing to support the Tobacco Control and Prevention Project. The Government Affairs staff members are currently working closely with Omega Silva, MD, Chair of Governmental Affairs, to strategize on legislative activities, including reviewing and possibly revising some procedures to facilitate quick response to key issues, and on ways to encourage members to become part of the legislative network.

AMWA members have been involved in several White House events over the past couple of months. AMWA President Jean Fourcroy, MD, PhD, and Executive Director Eileen McGrath, JD, recently participated in a White House strategy session on the repeal of the Dornan Act, which would require discharge of all service members who, although they have tested HIV positive, are currently deemed fit to perform their duties. The Senate recently voted to repeal this requirement as part of a spending bill designed to keep the Government in operation the remainder of this fiscal year.

Dr. Fourcroy and Ms. McGrath also participated in several events held by the White House Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach, which provided them with the opportunity to present AMWA's position on important women's health issues and promote AMWA's efforts in the area of women's health.

In early March, President-Elect Debra Judelson, MD, and leaders from 15 other organizations were invited to a breakfast with First Lady Hillary Clinton to discuss the concerns of their constituencies and provide direction and recommendations to ensure that the needs of their con-



Patricia Davidson, MD, and cardiovascular disease survivors at the press conference held on Capitol Hill.

stituents are met by the current Administration. Dr. Judelson stressed the need for Federal funding in the area of women's health and urged the President's continued support of women's rights, particularly the right to choose, as well as support for the recently introduced Omnibus Women's Heart Disease Prevention Act.

On February 29, Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA) introduced the Women's Cardiovascular Disease Research and Prevention Act (H.R. 3001). This legislation would authorize \$140 million to the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute within the National Institutes of Health to expand and intensify research, prevention, and educational outreach programs for heart attack, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases in women.

Despite the prevalence of cardiovascular disease in the female population, women and minorities have been underrepresented in heart attack and stroke research for many years. Tests for detection and equipment to treat these diseases are largely based on studies of men; not all

collected data is applicable to women. The Women's Cardiovascular Disease Research and Prevention Act would remedy this problem.

"The importance of this legislation to women's health, specifically cardiovascular diseases, cannot be overstated," said cardiologist Dr. Patricia Davidson, a member of AMWA and the American Heart Association, who spoke at the press conference. "In the past, women's symptoms of cardiovascular diseases have often been overlooked. This legislation will provide necessary funding to teach doctors more about how to properly diagnose, treat, and prevent cardiovascular disease in women."

In addition to Dr. Davidson, survivors of cardiovascular disease and other members of Congress participated in the press event. Members are encouraged to contact their legislators and urge their support of this key legislation.

AMWA member Willa Brown, MD, attended a White House briefing on March 29 at which the President introduced a new cancer

continued on p. 7

Annual Meeting

AMWA's 81st Annual Meeting "Women Empowering Women: World Population and Leadership" will be held in Boston October 30-November 3, 1996, at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel. The meeting will address a wide range of topics including career development, leadership, and reproductive health.

The keynote speaker for the meeting is Pat Heim, PhD, President of The Heim Group, which provides management and organizational development services. In addition to teaching at several universities, Dr. Heim has conducted continuing research in the area of management development and gender differences. She also has authored several books, including the landmark publication *Hardball for Women, Smashing the Glass Ceiling*, and *Learning to Lead*.

Plenary speakers include Florence Manguyu, MD, President of the Medical Women's International Association; Nitza Citron, MD, PhD, NASA and internal medicine resident at the University of Texas at Galveston; Jane Lubchenco, PhD, President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; and Felicia Stewart, MD, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs, Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Among the invited speakers are Senator Olympia Snowe from Maine and

Norway's Prime Minister Gro Brundtland.

A women's health consumer symposium is also being planned for the Annual Meeting. The session will allow AMWA to reach out to and educate consumers, raise AMWA's profile in the Boston area, and publicize *The Women's Complete Healthbook*. Key women's health topics will be addressed at the symposium, such as breast cancer and osteoporosis.

Additional information will be provided to members in the preliminary brochure to be mailed in June.

AMWA Endorses National Events

AMWA has endorsed the National Osteoporosis Foundation's (NOF's) National Osteoporosis Action Campaign. The campaign seeks to bring attention to osteoporosis and the need for Federal funding for osteoporosis education and prevention programs. To sign on to NOF's petition for Federal support and/or to participate in a public policy forum on osteoporosis in Washington, DC, June 23-25, please call (202) 223-2226 or write to NOF, PO Box 98228, Washington, DC 20090-8228.

AMWA members are also encouraged to participate in Stand For Children, June 1, 1996, at the

Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC. This day has been designated for families and communities to renew their commitment to meeting the needs of American children. For more information about this event and/or to request posters for display, please call 800-233-1200.

AMWA is cosponsoring the Fourth Annual Congress on Women's Health to be held June 18-19, 1996, at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, DC. The conference will focus on clinical care, emphasizing the conditions and diseases that are most prevalent among and/or of greater risk to women. Geared to practicing physicians, this conference features distinguished physicians, leaders, and experts in the field of women's health. Please call (301) 652-3072 for more information.

For the third year, AMWA is co-sponsoring National Primary Care Day (NPCD) with other medical organizations. This national celebration of primary care will be held October 10, 1996. The event provides an opportunity for medical students to educate each other about the important role of generalist physicians in the evolving health care delivery system.

AMWA is helping to identify organizers at each school. Please contact the NPCD Clearinghouse at (202) 828-0435 with the name of the NPCD organizer at your school by Friday, May 17th.

Postdoctoral Fellowship Opportunity in Contraceptive Research and Family Planning

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Center for Population and Family Health in the School of Public Health at Columbia University is seeking candidates for a 1- to 2-year fellowship in clinical and research aspects of contraception and abortion. The program includes classroom instruction, clinical training in abortion through the second trimester, sterilization, and all contraceptive techniques. The fellowship includes a stipend of about \$45,000 plus benefits and allowances for research and travel. The fellowship will be under the direction of Drs. C. Westhoff and A. Rosenfield.

Applicants must be board certified or eligible obstetrician-gynecologists with a commitment to a career in family planning and an interest in public health. Applicants should send a letter of interest and a C.V. to Dr. Westhoff at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, 630 W. 168 St., New York, NY 10032. Columbia University is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer and educational institution.

WHAT'S NEW AT AMWA

AMWA on the World Wide Web

<http://www.amwa-doc.org>

AMWA has begun construction of a site on the World Wide Web (Internet) that will offer news of AMWA activities and related events. Future services to be offered include chatrooms for member discussions and online publications.

The AMWA web site will include hypertext links, consisting of multiple paths to more detailed narrative on a particular program or activity as well as paths to other relevant web sites. By just pointing and clicking on highlighted words (hypertext links), members will be able to access multiple information resources.

We invite all members who have experience developing web sites and using HTML to volunteer their time and/or provide donations to help AMWA make this vision a reality. The number of Internet users is increasing rapidly, and a web site is one more way for AMWA to better serve its members' needs, recruit potential members, and promote women's health issues in a new medium.

Those interested in assisting in this effort should call or email the National Office at amwaleg@aol.com or amwa-doc.org.

AMWA To Participate in Cutting Edge Medical Series

As part of the nationally syndicated half-hour television series "The Cutting Edge Medical Report," AMWA will work with the Information Television Network and the Public Health Service's Office on Women's Health

to produce a 15-part weekly women's health series entitled "Healthy Women 2000: A Prescription for Your Good Health." Susan Blumenthal, MD, MPA, explains that "by bringing the Healthy Women 2000 message into the homes of American women through this television series, I believe we can provide millions of women with the tools and knowledge they need to lead longer and healthier lives."

Topics for shows in the Discovery series (to begin in June) include young women's health issues, ovarian cancer, lung cancer (smoking), mature women, and eating disorders. Dr. Blumenthal will serve as a medical consultant for the series, which will include a two-minute segment at the end of each program by AMWA President Jean Fourcroy, MD, PhD, promoting AMWA and *The Women's Complete Healthbook*.

Government Affairs continued from p. 5

briefing on March 29 at which the President introduced a new cancer initiative that would speed the review process for some cancer treatments. Earlier this year, Dr. Brown attended a briefing announcing the appointment of Henry Foster, MD, to the position of Senior Advisor to the President for Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Youth Development, as well as Expert Advisor to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. AMWA member Felicia Stewart, MD, was actively involved in this event, and both Drs. Brown and Stewart spoke on the need for comprehensive training on reproductive health services and voiced their support for keeping abortion service

Student Award Opportunities

The Janet M. Glasgow Award is presented to an AMWA student member for the best essay of approximately 1,000 words about a woman physician who has been a significant role model for her. Please send your double-spaced typed essay to Marie Glanz at AMWA's National Office by the May 31 deadline. The award recipient will receive \$1,500 and will be recognized at an awards presentation at the AMWA Annual Meeting.

The Carroll L. Birch Award is presented to an AMWA student member for the best original research paper. The recipient receives an award of \$500 and is recognized at an awards presentation at AMWA's Annual Meeting. For information on submission requirements, please contact Marie Glanz at AMWA's National Office. The deadline is June 30.

training in medical school curricula.

Michele Bloch, MD, PhD, Chair, Tobacco Control and Prevention Subcommittee, and Government Affairs staff participated in the Coalition on Smoking OR Health's March 20 Lobby Day which included visits to senators' and representatives' offices to urge their support of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) proposal to prevent youth access to tobacco products and prohibit the tobacco industry's marketing of tobacco to youth. Many AMWA members participating in the legislative network with an interest in tobacco-control issues were contacted and provided with talking points and draft letters to ask their legislators' support of the FDA proposal.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

PAMWA Congress Scheduled for Ecuador

The Pan American Medical Women's Alliance (PAMWA) will hold its next Congress "The Woman Physician, Challenges for the 21st Century" in Guayaquil, Ecuador, October 26-November 1, 1996. Note: The PAMWA meeting will be held along with the 1st Latin American Regional Conference. If you would like to attend or serve as a speaker for this conference, please contact Martha Vandervlugt, MD, 8715 First Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910; telephone: (301) 495-4113.

The Medical Women's International Association Launches a Young Forum Newsletter

The happenings and aspirations of MWIA's Young Forum were shared in its first newsletter sent to thirty-eight Young Forum representatives around the world, including three representatives from the United States. According to Else de Wit, MD, of Australia, "the spirit of the Young Forum is to accept the challenge, expand one's horizons, and gain insight into the greater MWIA organization and serve the MWIA as one matures." Project funds are used for such activities as assisting women's health programs in regions with compelling needs. At the last International Congress, Young Forum members discussed supporting a project in Nairobi, Kenya, where the 1998 International Congress will be held.

Efforts of forum members include an international survey of women physicians being conducted by Gabrielle Casper, MD, of Australia, current Young Forum Chair. Dr. Casper currently is col-

lecting data on women physicians' entry into specialty training and plans to provide comparisons by region and country. MWIA Young Forum members are encouraged to collaborate on this important effort.

International Networking

MWIA is compiling a database of physician members who are interested in international networking. Please contact Marie Glanz at the National Office for the appropriate form and mail to the MWIA Secretariat, Herbert-Lewin Strasse 1-D-50931, Cologne, Germany.

Smoking Among Women and Girls

The special double issue of JAMWA on women, girls, and smoking—the definitive resource on the issue until the release of the 1997 Report of the Surgeon General on Smoking and Health—is now available. The issue addresses gender differences in smoking initiation, smoking cessation techniques, smoking and reproductive outcomes, public policy issues, tobacco advertising, and the physician's role in combatting smoking, as well as provides a history of smoking among girls and women. Single and bulk orders of this landmark issue may be purchased through the National Office.

Future MWIA Meetings

June 6-9, 1996

12th Northern European Regional Congress on New Genetics: Friend or Foe
Gentofte (near Copenhagen), Denmark

Contact: Danske Kvindelige Lægers Forening, c/o Sigbrit Christensen
Baunegaardsvej 56B
2900 Hellerup, Denmark

Dr. Fourcroy encourages members to join her at the 12th Congress!

July 8-20, 1996

Citizen Ambassador Program to Romania, the Czech Republic and Hungary

Contact: Jerry Smith, Citizen Ambassador Program,
Dwight D. Eisenhower Bldg.
S. 110 Ferroll St.
Spokane, WA 99202

Oct. 26-Nov. 1, 1996

1st Latin American Regional Congress, Guayaquil, Ecuador

Contacts: Dr. Rebeca Kuniyoshi
Ricardo Palma 363, Miraflores
Lima 18, Peru
Dr. Rosa Fiol or Dr. Ana Amat
Casilla 5249
Guayaquil, Ecuador

February 1997

1st Central Asia Regional Congress, Bombay, India

Contact: Dr. Tulsi Basu
10 Pratapaditya Rd.
Calcutta 700-026, India

Young Forum of the MWIA

Laura Helfman, MD
Young Forum Co-Chair

As many of you know, the MWIA is an association of medical women's organizations throughout the world. Just as AMWA unites diverse women physicians in the United States and serves as a forum for exchange so does MWIA on a global level. I have had the opportunity to attend the past two MWIA congresses as a Young Forum representative and would like to relate my experiences.

The Young Forum was established to provide networking activities for MWIA members under 40 who are generally new in practice. It is not an official committee but rather an informal exchange mechanism. Although there is some interaction with the congress, the main function of the forum is to foster understanding and communication about common interests through luncheons and sessions.

Many women physicians attend from countries where being a female physician (much less being young and having family commitments) is a constant struggle for one's own identity—just as many long-standing AMWA members experienced early in their practice. Many of the physicians come to meetings desperate for sisterhood and support. Those who come from more enlightened countries (or at least countries where women have organized and fought for recognition) come with more sophisticated needs. These women can share ideas and successes, act as mentors to their sisters, as well as develop greater challenges for themselves.

All and all, there is a spirit of sharing—friendships are made to be continued over the years. There is an intangible good feeling related to

meeting those who are both similar and different at the same time. The next congress will be in Nairobi, Kenya, and I will be the Young Forum representative for the last time (as I am approaching 40 much to the surprise of many AMWA members who wonder when I will finish my residency).

Projects of the Young Forum include the sale of crafts representative of each native country with the proceeds going to MWIA. Finding unique items from the United States can be a challenge—any ideas?

Finally, the Young Forum has a commitment to giving. Each Young Forum member is asked to coordinate a fundraising effort in her own country and bring those funds to the congress. These funds are then combined and donated to a worthy women's health project in the country where the congress takes place.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the MWIA Young Forum. I look forward to traveling to Nairobi with some of you in 1998.

RESIDENT ROUNDS

Another Election Year....Not Again!

Frieda Hulka, MD
National Resident Representative

The debates....the pamphlets....the mudslinging....It must be an election year. By the time this article is published, the Republican presidential nominee will likely be selected. Regardless of each candidate's position on a balanced budget, taxes, foreign policy, or defense spending, the one topic that sets the two political parties apart is their stand on the freedom of reproductive choice.

In 1973, when *Roe v. Wade* was decided many thought that access to safe abortion services would be ensured. However, 23 years later, legalized abortion is still a major political issue. Regardless of which Republican candidate is chosen, all have expressed that abortion should be more limited than it is currently. President Clinton, on the other hand, remains pro-choice.

I may be faulted for taking on this volatile subject; however, reproductive choice remains a predominant concern of the voting public. As residents, we often do not take the time to exercise our right to vote. In 1996, many issues set the presidential candidates apart, reproductive choice representing only one of the disparities between the two parties. I encourage each of you to be an informed and responsible voter. Remember...vote early and vote often!

In Search of...

Interns

The National Office is seeking summer interns in the areas of government and public affairs (contact Anne Pritchett or Liz Pejeau) and tobacco control and prevention (contact Felicia Bloom, MHS).

Medical Student Volunteers and Interns

Those interested in improving the primary care training of medical students in infertility, contraception, abortion, sexually transmitted diseases, and physician/patient communication, and helping to establish RHI electives at medical schools nationwide, should mail or email a cover letter and resume to Susan Eisendrath, MPH, RHI Project Director, at the National Office (amwaleg@aol.com).

Get Involved!

*Melissa Merideth and Elizabeth Skirm,
National Student Coordinators*

AMWA student branches have been very active in their communities this year. Community service projects of the branches range from efforts to raise awareness of breast cancer to buying toys for a children's hospital. We have been hearing about many great community service project ideas across the country including those described below.

- Texas Tech University's student branch works with the Ronald McDonald House and has participated in a March of Dimes Walk-a-Thon.
- Branches in Region V have been active in family violence education and raising money to buy toys for the Tulane Children's Hospital.
- The University of Texas at San Antonio branch sponsored a clothing drive for a women's shelter and passed out ribbons to commemorate victims of domestic violence.
- Students from the University of Maryland and The Johns Hopkins University are linked with volunteer opportunities through Hands on Baltimore, which facilitates one-time volunteer opportunities. This and similar organizations are ideal for medical students as no long-term commitment is required. To find out about similar organizations in your city, call City Cares of America at (202)887-0500.
- The University of Florida branch decorated the doors of the pediatrics and bone marrow transplant units for Valentine's Day and provides child care and transportation for an HIV positive Women's Group.
- The University of Miami's student branch teaches local college and

university undergraduates how to perform breast self-examinations.

- Duke University's branch held a holiday movie night to collect goods for a local homeless shelter.
- Tufts University medical students participated in a breast cancer walk with the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition.
- The Bowman Gray Chapter takes Big Brother/Big Sister kids who have not yet been placed on outings and participates in the "Get Set-Go" project which encourages girls to become interested in science.
- Students at MUSC in Charleston volunteer at a domestic violence shelter, crisis hotline, a women's literacy program, and People Against Rage, which trains volunteers to serve as advocates for rape survivors, as well as provide child care and structured play for children at a homeless shelter.
- The branch at the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Pomona co-sponsored a Domestic Violence Week, during which they sold purple ribbons and donated the proceeds to a local women's shelter.
- Students at the University of Nevada at Reno helped judge high school science fair entries and established a \$50 AMWA award.
- The University of Missouri-Columbia branch established an outreach program for low-income women for mammograms and pap smears.
- The Northwestern University branch started an advocacy program for pregnant teenagers and help staff a shelter for battered women.

Keep up the great work, everyone! For more community service ideas, see the spring issue of the student newsletter, *AMWAtch*. Members are encouraged to look at their own

communities and see what they can do to help.

On another note...it is not too early to begin fundraising and planning for the 1996 Annual Meeting in Boston to be held October 30-November 3. The annual meeting is a fantastic opportunity to network with physicians and medical students from across the country, hear dynamic speakers discuss a variety of women's health topics, and gather innovative ideas to bring back to your AMWA branch. Look for creative fundraising ideas in the Spring issue of *AMWAtch* or contact your Regional Student Coordinator; Elizabeth (206)781-4897, skirmish@u.washington.edu; or Melissa (410)675-3557, mmeridet@welchlink.welch.jhu.edu.

RHI Project continued from p. 3

electives. Columbia University will hold an elective in July 1996, and Brown University School of Medicine in Rhode Island will hold electives in August and September 1996. Emory University School of Medicine in Georgia will conduct electives in October 1996 and March 1997. In addition, Tulane University School of Medicine in Louisiana will hold an RHI elective in April 1997. AMWA is also establishing a network of AMWA members to promote the RHI initiative. These physicians will work with medical school faculty and students to help them assess their school's coverage of reproductive health, as well as raise awareness of the need for more reproductive health education and training.

If you would like to help improve reproductive health training or would like more information on the RHI project, please contact Susan Eisendrath, MPH, RHI Project Director, at AMWA's National Office.

BULLETIN BOARD

Electronic Media Pathways Task Force Survey or Let's Get Wired

Greetings! We "computer geeks" have been busy working on an official AMWA website among other things, and a complete update will be provided in the next newsletter. As promised in the last newsletter, here is a survey designed to assess AMWA members' levels of computer literacy and educational needs. Please take a few moments to complete and return the survey by Friday, May 31, to Angela R.C. Tiberio, MD, Chair, EMP Task Force, care of the National Office or email to atiberio@aol.com. Survey results will be reported in an upcoming issue of the newsletter. Thanks for your time. We hope to better meet your needs with this information!!

Name _____ Email _____ FAX _____

Address _____

Would you like copies of (circle choices) *Buying Your First Computer* or *Getting On Line the Easy Way*?

If so, how would you like them sent? (circle choice) FAX Snail Mail Email

1) DO YOU CURRENTLY OWN A COMPUTER?

YES (Continue to question 2a below)

2a) What type of computer do you own?

____ IBM-compatible ____ Macintosh

3a) Where do you use your computer?

____ Home ____ Office ____ Both

4a) How would you rate your computer skills?

____ Novice ____ Intermediate ____ Expert

5a) For what do you use your computer?

____ Word Processing ____ Email/Communications

____ Spreadsheet ____ Internet Access

____ Database ____ CME/Education

____ Presentations ____ Schedules/Calendars

____ Billing/Accounting ____ Clinical Decision Support

____ Patient Records ____ Bibliographic Database

____ Other (please specify) _____

____ Other (please specify) _____

6a) Do you access the Internet/World Wide Web?

____ YES ____ NO (Please go to question 4b.)

Approximately how many hours per week? _____

Which online service do you use?

____ AOL ____ Compuserve ____ Prodigy

____ Other (please specify) _____

For what purpose(s)?

____ Research ____ Games/Leisure

____ CME ____ E-magazines

____ Newsgroups ____ Chatrooms

____ Other (please specify) _____

7a) What would you like to see on an AMWA website?

____ National Office Staff ____ CME Material

____ Leadership Listing ____ Branch Information

____ National Meeting Info. ____ Position Papers

____ JAMWA/Newsletters ____ Legislative Alerts

____ Members Only Area ____ AMWA Products

____ Members Only Chatroom

____ Other (please specify) _____

____ Other (please specify) _____

(PLEASE GO TO QUESTION 4b)

NO (Continue to question 2b below)

2b) Do you plan to purchase one in the next 6-12 mos.?

____ YES ____ IBM-compatible

____ Macintosh

____ Not sure which type yet

(PLEASE GO TO QUESTION 3b)

____ NO Why not? _____

(PLEASE RETURN SURVEY NOW)

3b) For what do you plan to use your computer?

____ Word Processing ____ Email/Communications

____ Spreadsheet ____ Internet Access

____ Database ____ CME/Education

____ Presentations ____ Schedules/Calendars

____ Billing/Accounting ____ Clinical Decision Support

____ Patient Records ____ Literature Management

____ Other (please specify) _____

____ Other (please specify) _____

4b) How can this task force help you?

____ Provide materials on buying/upgrading your system

____ Provide advice/resources on specific applications:

____ Software (word proc., presentations, etc.)

____ Getting on line

____ Other (specify) _____

____ Provide electronic membership directories

____ Provide workshops at annual meeting. If so, what topics would you like to see covered?

____ Provide listing of members in your area who could give you "hands-on" help with your computer questions

____ Other (please specify) _____

____ Other (please specify) _____

4c) Would you like to serve on the Electronic Media Pathways Task Force? ____ YES ____ NO

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME AND INPUT!!



AMWA President Jean Fourcroy, MD, PhD, speaks with Ruth Bader Ginsburg, JD, Associate Justice, U.S. Supreme Court (R to L), at the Society for the Advancement of Women's Health Research Annual Dinner on February 5. The event was widely attended by AMWA members.

Bylaws Revisions

Proposed revisions to AMWA Bylaws are due to the AMWA Bylaws Committee by Friday, May 31, 1996. Please send your changes to Christine M. Mueller, Chair, Bylaws Committee, care of the National Office.

Newsletter Committee and Staff

Jean L. Fourcroy, MD, PhD, AMWA President
 Diane Helentjaris, MD, VP, Communications
 Donnica L. Moore, MD, Chair, Publications
 Lynn Epstein, MD, Director of Students
 Melissa Meredith, Elizabeth Skirm, National Student Coordinators
 Frieda Hulka, MD, Resident Representative
 Eileen McGrath, JD, Executive Director
 Anne Pritchett, Managing Editor, Director of Public Affairs and Government Relations
 Liz Pejeau, Desktop Publisher and Layout Artist, Project Associate, Public Affairs and Government Relations Associate
What's Happening in AMWA is published six times per year (February, April, June, August, October, December) by the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA). All editorial material becomes the property of AMWA. AMWA reserves the right to edit all materials. For a copy of an article or an issue of the newsletter, contact AMWA, 801 N. Fairfax St., Ste. 400, Alexandria, VA 22314; Online: amwaleg@aol.com. Phone: 703/838-0500; Fax: 703/549-3864.

Member News

Sally Faith Dorfman, MD, MSHSA, recently received an award from the New York State Perinatal Association for her work on behalf of pregnant women and children. As Orange County, New York, Commissioner of Health from 1988 to 1994, Dr. Dorfman worked to improve access to care for women and children, obtaining more than \$2 million in grant funds for the county.

Calendar

June 1, 1996

Stand for Children event
 Lincoln Memorial, Washington, DC

June 18-19, 1996

Fourth Annual Congress on Women's Health
 Renaissance Hotel, Washington, DC

June 28-30, 1996

Interim Meeting
 The Washington Court Hotel, Washington, DC

July 1, 1996

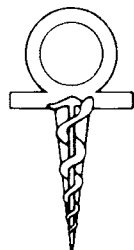
Lobby Day

October 30-November 3, 1996

Annual Meeting
 Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN

AMWA



AMWA

801 North Fairfax St., Suite 400
 Alexandria, VA 22314

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Albany, NY
 Permit #377