



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN

AMWA

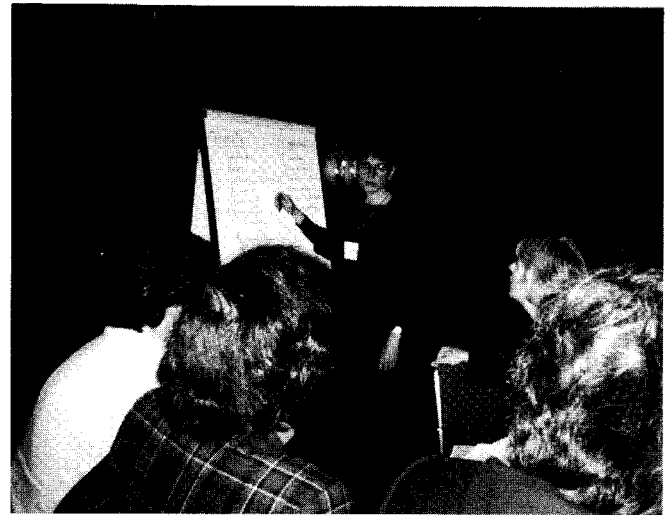
Volume XVIII, Number 2 / April-May 1998

Exciting Agenda
Planned for the
Interim Meeting
June 26-28

Accomplishments from the 1998 President's Retreat

The 1998 President's Retreat took place at the Westfields Marriott, near Washington, DC on January 30 through February 1. AMWA President, Sharyn Lenhart, MD, developed several exciting initiatives which were introduced to leaders of the organization.

Among those initiatives discussed was the creation of an AMWA Career Development Institute in partnership with the Simmons Graduate School of Management. The Institute would combine faculties of AMWA and Simmons to offer courses in personal and professional leadership and business management tailored to women physicians. The first Institute courses will be held at the 1998 annual meeting and at a combined Region 1 and 2 meeting in October. Located in Boston, Simmons College was founded in 1899 at the behest of John Simmons, who directed in his will that a college be established in his name to provide women with an education which would enable them to earn independent livelihoods. In 1974



Dr. Elizabeth Karlin leads a group of AMWA leaders in a discussion on career development in a strategic planning session at the 1998 President's Retreat

1998 Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars now for AMWA's 83rd Annual Meeting, "The Woman Physician: Personal and Professional Development," November 18-22, 1998 at the New Orleans Marriott in New Orleans, Louisiana. AMWA's Program Committee is finalizing the selection of more than 30 continuing medical education workshops on important women's health topics. A special series of sessions on career development is being planned.

AMWA members can take an active role in the committee, Board of Directors, and House of Delegates meetings to be held during the Annual Meeting. A two-day exhibition is scheduled so that meeting registrants can discuss the latest product information with knowledgeable industry representatives or learn about the projects and other activities of affiliated health care organizations.

More detailed information on the 83rd Annual Meeting, including information on how to register, will be mailed to all members in June. Contact: Gwen Miller, (703) 838-0500, or e-mail: gmillier@amwa-doc.org

Simmons College established a Graduate Program in Management designed specifically for women managers.

AMWA leaders also heard a presentation on the Citizen Ambassador Program. This program promotes friendly relations among all countries through the medium of scientific, professional, and technical exchange. Under AMWA's International Outreach Program, we have partnered with the Citizen Ambassador Program to design a women and girls health care delegation to the People's Republic of China lead by Dr. Lenhart from June 12 through 23. The delegation will visit with non-governmental and governmental leadership to discuss women's health care. Sightseeing and social and cultural activities will complement the professional program.

Strategic planning was also a focus for the weekend. Increasing membership was noted as one of the top priorities for the year. To support this effort the organization will focus on providing more benefits to members such as adding more content to the web page (www.amwa-doc.org) and revamping the newsletter to include more relevant information on career development. The leadership at AMWA is extremely interested in getting member input regarding ways in which the organization can better serve its members. If you have any suggestions, please call member services at 1-800-995-AMWA.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ethical Issues for AMWA

Sharyn A. Lenhart, MD



Rapid advances in medical technologies, chaotic changes in our health care delivery systems, and the evolution of new relationships between physicians, physician organizations, and business entities have created complex ethical dilemmas for the medical profession. In November of 1997 I appointed

Dr. Marjorie Clay, Medical Ethicist at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center, as ethical consultant to AMWA. Since then she has assisted us in ethical deliberations regarding two major AMWA activities.

First, during the January President's Retreat, AMWA leaders reviewed the problematic confusion of AMWA's NatureMade Vitamin Product Seal of Acceptance with the AMA's Endorsement of Sunbeam Products. Although the AMA program is significantly different from both the activities and philosophy of AMWA's Scientific Evaluation Council and its Product Acceptance Program, the problem of "misperception" as defined by our ethicist remains. I would therefore like to outline these distinctions for you and ask you as AMWA members to assist us in addressing any misperceptions that exist in the medical community.

1. AMWA's Product Acceptance Program was instituted not to sell endorsements for profit, but to encourage sound and thorough manufacturing, research, and advertising in over-the-counter women's health products and to help consumers make informed choices.

2. AMWA receives no profit or revenues from any product carrying a Seal of Acceptance and evaluation fees are set to cover operating expenses only.

3. The Seal of Acceptance (not endorsement) is awarded only to products which AMWA's Scientific Evaluation Council finds to be proven beneficial and effective in providing health benefits to women. The Council thoroughly reviews research design and conclusions as well as packaging and advertising materials.

4. All products which apply and meet eligibility criteria are reviewed, and AMWA will not grant exclusive Acceptances to a particular brand.

5. Eighteen products have been approved since the Council's inception in 1986. For more information contact Eileen McGrath, JD, at the National Office.

In March a second major ethical issue arose within our organization when a question of conflict of interest was raised concerning the authorship of an AMWA position paper published in JAMWA. This prompted a joint meeting between AMWA's Executive Committee and JAMWA's editor. The discussion was productive and resulted in the decision to revise and update AMWA's conflict of interest policy and to publish the following statements in the next issue of JAMWA.

Conflict of Interest

Wendy Chaovkin, MD, MPH, Editor-in-Chief

In the Winter of 1998 we published an AMWA position paper regarding breast implants (Silicon Gel Breast Implants. JAMWA. 1998;53:33-34). We have subsequently learned that one of the people who originally drafted the paper had financial ties to a defendant in breast implant litigation, which she did not reveal to us prior to publication. Because this was a position paper without an identified author, it escaped our usual mechanism for detecting such conflicts of interest, which is to ask all authors to sign a statement disclosing any financial relationships or other potential conflicts of interest. We deeply regret this incident and are establishing new mechanisms to guard against future such events.

President's Statement

Sharyn A. Lenhart, MD

Conflict of interest questions regarding the drafting of the Silicone Gel Breast Implant Position Paper provided the impetus for a critical and timely review of both AMWA and JAMWA policies and procedures in this area. AMWA's Executive Committee invited JAMWA Editor-in-Chief to join them in a collaborative conference that also included AMWA's Medical Ethicist, General Counsel, and Executive Director. This meeting provided a forum for stimulating a productive discussion of the complex relationships which are evolving between physicians, physicians organizations, and business entities. The Executive Committee determined after a full review of the issues that it would be appropriate to resubmit the Silicone Gel Breast Implant Position Paper for further review and update based on full disclosure of any potential conflict of interest. The Committee further determined that AMWA's current procedures did not provide for submission of formal disclosure statements in the creation of position papers which traditionally pass through many levels of review and revision before adoption and therefore have no identified author. The Committee recommended that AMWA's Conflict of Interest Policy and Procedure be

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GRANT PROJECT UPDATE

Special Offer for Members - Free Lecture Kit

The "Nutrition and Heart Disease" Program - complete with slides, talking points, and an educational brochure, "Guide to Heart Healthy Eating" - is available! You can use this kit to present talks in your community to either physician or lay audiences, or at an AMWA branch meeting. This program is part of AMWA's Education Project on Coronary Heart Disease in Women, which has made these lecture kits available via a loaner program. To provide the latest information on how to prevent coronary heart disease in women, please contact Abbe Bartlett, CHD Project Director, at the national office (703-838-0500; abartlett@amwa-doc.org) with your name, address, phone number, and how you plan to use the education kit. Sample slides from the kit are shown below.

The CHD Educational Project is funded by an unrestricted educational grant from DuPont Radiopharmaceuticals. The "Diet as Prevention and Treatment" component is funded by an unrestricted educational grant from the National Association of Margarine Manufacturers.

Dietary Changes Reduce CHD Mortality

- ❖ A significant decrease in CHD mortality has occurred since the 1970's, even in patients not receiving medical therapy.
- ❖ Eating habits changed dramatically from 1972-92
 - ♦ Decreased animal and saturated fats
 - ♦ Greater use of vegetable fats
- ❖ Healthier food choices became available
 - ♦ Low-fat and fat-free milk
 - ♦ Low-fat, cholesterol margarine products
- ❖ Multiple population studies attribute reduced CHD mortality to dietary changes

Initial Dietary Recommendations: Step I Program

- ❖ Target Audience
 - ♦ Population at large
 - ♦ Individuals with increased serum cholesterol and little restriction in dietary fat
- ❖ Step I recommendations
 - ♦ Total fat: 30% or less of daily calories
 - ♦ Saturated fat: 8 - 10% of daily calories
 - ♦ Cholesterol: less than 300 mg per day
 - ♦ Carbohydrates: 55% or more of daily calories
 - ♦ Protein: 15% of total calories

Tobacco Control and Prevention Update

AMWA is pleased to announce the new Tobacco Control and Prevention team. Angela Broom, JD, is Project Director and Susan Samuels is Project Associate. The Project is moving forward to finalize the Coalition mission statement (of those organizations unified to support tobacco prevention). If you wish to obtain a draft copy, please make your request by email to ssamuels@amwa-doc.org.

Women's History Month in March was a chance to highlight an area in which women have made negative progress - tobacco use. Today, smoking is the leading cause of premature preventable illness in women and kills more women than breast cancer. A press packet was mailed to 200 members of the media to disseminate information on AMWA's tobacco project including new data on how light cigarettes contribute to adenocarcinoma lung cancer. The packet provided a brief history of marketing by the tobacco industry specifically targeting women.

Also, at AMWA's Annual Meeting the Tobacco Control and Prevention Project will conduct a workshop covering tobacco industry advertising targeted to women, tobacco policy, and smoking cessation for women. We are especially honored that Eric Solberg, representing Doctors Ought to Care, will participate in this year's workshop.

Nominations Sought for National Community Service Awards

AMWA's Community Service Awards are once again national awards. AMWA is seeking nominations from physician branches, Regional Governors, State Directors, as well as individual members. Individual members who nominate will be asked to obtain the support of their nominee's branch.

AMWA wants to recognize on a national level the contributions our members make to their local communities. Presentation of Community Service Award pins and certificates will be made to all Award recipients at AMWA's annual meeting in New Orleans, November 18-22.

We ask that all Branch Presidents add Community Service Awards to their agenda at the next branch meeting. Look to both new branch members and established branch members as possible recipients of the Award.

Send support statements describing the community service of your branches nominee along with a current CV to Marie Glanz at the national office. Please provide your name, your branch number, an address, and phone number. **Deadline for receipt of nominations is July 15.**

DIRECTOR OF STUDENTS

Welcome

Elizabeth Karlin, MD: ekarlin@facstaff.wisc.edu

A short welcome from your Director of Students. I hope that you all feel free to come to me, or the two National Student Coordinators, with your concerns and kudos.

My first AMWA Board Meeting was a delight, owing to the presence and stunning abilities of your Coordinators-Ellie Hirshberg and Tanya Warwick. I would like to think of them as the movers and shakers, and me the cheerleader of the students. If, however, you note problems in the relationship of students and practitioners, come to me. I hope, within my two year stay, to address the problems we have all faced in the past, and reach a happy coexistence.

I can be reached at ekarlin@facstaff.wisc.edu, or by snail mail or fax. Thanks.

International Outreach Program Trip to Scandinavia

You are invited to join AMWA President Sharyn Lenhart, MD, on the International Outreach Program trip to Norway and Finland, September 15-27, 1998. The purpose of the International Outreach Program is to provide AMWA members with an opportunity to learn about health care systems outside the United States and to bring women physician, health care, and government leaders together across international borders. One of the program objectives is to establish a basis for communication regarding current information, common problems, the sharing of ideas and goals, and the identification of areas for future study and collaboration. Scandinavia was chosen as the 1998 destination because of its tradition of placing women in national leadership positions and for historically providing high quality health care to all citizens in those countries. An optional two-day trip to Copenhagen, Denmark has also been planned.

An itinerary for this ten-day trip is now available. If you would like to receive more information, please contact Gwen Miller at AMWA, 703-838-0500, or by e-mail at [gmiller@amwa-doc.org](mailto:gmillier@amwa-doc.org).

Leadership Changes

Donnica Moore, MD, has resigned as AMWA President-elect due to increasing commitments in her personal and professional life. Anita Johnson, MD, was elected by the AMWA Board to fill the position for the rest of the year and Beatrice Desper, MD, will serve as V.P. of Finance. A special election will be held at the 1998 annual meeting for the 1998-1999 President.

STUDENT SENATE

Membership Crisis

Tanya C. Warwick, National Student Coordinator: twarwick@musom01.mu.wvnet.edu

Last year, AMWA's Student Section lost a staggering 10% of it's membership. Though we still hold a strong voice in the medical student arena, this trend is extremely troubling to me. I feel that we, the future of AMWA, have an obligation to address this trend and to do all that we can to reverse it.

We are losing more fourth year students each year than we are signing first year students. Are local branches doing all that they can to recruit first year students? Or, is the national organization ignoring student and resident needs? As local branch members, we must ask ourselves several questions.

1. *Do I know a female student at my university who does not belong to AMWA?*

If so, what have you done to encourage her to join? If you truly believe in what AMWA stands for, you should want every woman you meet to be a member.

2. *Why did you join AMWA? What does AMWA do for you that no other organization can?*

It is hard for members to recruit others when they cannot justify their own membership. I will share with you in five simple words why I have committed myself to this organization: **HISTORY, COMMITMENT, NETWORKING, RESOURCES, and POWER**

3. *Does AMWA satisfy my needs as a student, and will it satisfy my needs as a resident?*

This is a question that only you can answer. If the answer to these questions is no, then you must ask yourself what you can do to correct this. The national organization has no way of knowing your needs if you do not speak out.

In reality, the problem of student and resident membership is probably shared by both the national organization and the local branches. Encouragingly though, both of these are correctable circumstances. I challenge each of you to reevaluate your membership, and to become not only a member, but an activist for AMWA. It is the only forum that we as future female physicians have, and the current crisis is threatening that forum.

I challenge each of you to use the soon to be released recruiting packets to get at least five members of your student body to join AMWA at the national level. If you would like more information or advice on building your local branch, feel free to contact your RSC or NSC.

updated to address these and other current issues. The input of AMWA members in this policy review process is welcomed. Please submit comments and suggestions to Executive Director, Eileen McGrath, JD, in the National Office.

Although these were difficult challenges for our organization, I am proud of the way in which AMWA leaders worked together to act responsibly on behalf of our members. Please help us continue by contributing your suggestions for revision of our conflict of interest policy and bringing to our attention any ethical issues which you feel AMWA should address during this time of rapid change in medicine.

1998 Interim Meeting: Peace, War, and Women's Health

"Peace, War, and Women's Health" is the theme of the 1998 Interim Meeting scheduled for June 26-28 at the DoubleTree Inn at the Colonnade in Baltimore, Maryland. The program has been designed to increase AMWA members' knowledge of some of the issues affecting the delivery of women's health care in the global community, both at times of peace and during armed conflicts. Up to 5.75 hours of category 1 continuing medical education credit may be obtained by attending the Interim Meeting.

Speakers and their topics include:

- ♦ Iris Chang, author of the highly acclaimed book, *The Rape of Nanking: "Women and Wartime Atrocities: A Case Study"*
- ♦ Colonel Doris Browne, MC USA, Deputy for Medical Research and Development, U.S. Army Medical Research & Material Command: "Military Women's Health Issues"
- ♦ Dr. Purificacion Quisumbing, Former Director, United Nations Center for Human Rights, New York Office: "Human Rights in Developing Countries and the Impact on Women's Health"
- ♦ Roberta Culbertson, Virginia Center for the Humanities: "Soul Loss and Survival: Refugee Women and the Long Arms of War"
- ♦ James C. Cobey, MD, Physicians for Human Rights: "Land Mines: An Impediment to Women's Health"

For more information and a schedule of committee meetings to be held during the Interim Meeting, please contact Gwen Miller at 703-838-0500 or by email: gmler@amwa-doc.org

Educational Opportunities Available

Diabetes Education Campaign

Research shows that approximately 67,000 lower limb amputations are performed each year among people with diabetes, accounting for more than half of all such amputations. At a cost of \$268 million each year, at least half of these could be prevented with proper foot care.

In response to this devastating public health problem, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) of the National Institutes of Health has developed an educational kit for physicians called *Feet Can Last a Lifetime*. The kit can be used to identify high risk feet, diagnose foot problems early, intervene to prevent further deterioration that may lead to amputation, and to teach people with diabetes about proper foot care. The *Feet* kit is available for \$7 (to cover shipping and handling) from the National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse at 1-800-GET-LEVEL. All materials may be photocopied and shared. To view the kit online visit <http://www.niddk.nih.gov>.

Colorectal Cancer Screening Campaign

A new initiative targeted at physicians is underway called *Focus on Improving Your Colorectal Cancer Screening Rates*. The program is aimed at educating physicians on the importance of screening for colorectal cancer as a means of reducing mortality. Colorectal cancer is the second leading cancer killer of men and women in the United States. Another key message of the initiative is that colorectal cancer is not just a man's disease, as many people believe. It affects men and women at almost identical rates. New guidelines for screening have been issued by the Agency for Health Care Policy Research (AHCPR) on colorectal cancer screening. Guidelines may be viewed online at www.ahcpr.gov/clinic/ or can be obtained from the AHCPR Publication Clearinghouse at 1-800-358-9295.

MWIA Congress Change in Venue

A decision was made by the MWIA Executive Committee to defer Nairobi, Kenya as the venue for the 24th International Congress due to security concerns. Several sites in Europe are now being explored. All efforts will be made to hold the Congress as close to the originally scheduled dates as possible. MWIA apologizes for any inconvenience. Those members who have expressed an interest in being delegates should contact Dr. Estherina Shems, MWIA National Coordinator, at 1-810-649-0697 or Marie Glanz at the national office to express their continued interest or their wish to be deleted from the delegate list. For further updates, contact Dr. Shems or Ms. Glanz.

FOUNDATION NEWS

Donors to AMWA Foundation's 1997 Unrestricted Funds

The backbone of the Foundation's annual fund drive are the hundreds of individuals who generously support AMWA. In 1997, donors had the option of earmarking their contributions to either unrestricted or specific programs such as student loan, AWHs, endowment, or the Reproductive Health Initiative. We applaud and thank all donors for their generosity in 1997.

In the interest of space, the list that follows includes ONLY donors who gave unrestricted support. In the next issue of the newsletter, we will acknowledge individual donors who earmarked their 1997 tax deductible contribution to specific programs.

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AMWA Welcomes New Staff

AMWA is pleased to announce that Angela Broom, JD, has joined the national office staff as Project Manager for the Tobacco Control and Prevention Project. The new Project Associate is Susan Samuels. We are also pleased to announce that Kelli Mills has joined AMWA as the Director of Government Affairs and Public Relations.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Long time AMWA members **Jane Hodgson, MD**, and **Elizabeth Karlin, MD**, wrote chapters in a new book entitled, *Abortion Wars*, edited by Rickie Solinger (University of California Press, Berkeley, 1998). In a *New York Times* review (January 25, 1998) both chapters were cited as among the "most memorable contributions." Congratulations to these AMWA leaders for continuing to fight for reproductive rights for women.

Joyann Kroser, MD, gastroenterologist and AMWA member, has been named as the Young Physician Representative of the Women's Congress Governing Council of the American Medical Association. She will serve along with AMWA Past President, **Debra R. Judelson, MD**.

AMWA member, **JoAnn E. Manson, MD, DrPRH**, endocrinologist and co-Director of Women's Health at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School, was selected as one of the top ten "heroes in women's health" in the U.S. by *American Health Magazine*. She was cited as one of the "trailblazers who revolutionized the way medicine treats women" and for "changing women's habits, saving their lives."

Kay Shilling, MD, PC, active AMWA leader from Omaha, Nebraska, presided at the 75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee meeting of the Central Neuropsychiatric Association in Boca Raton, Florida. She is the third woman president in 75 years. The CNPA is a national organization of psychiatrists, neurologists, and neurosurgeons dedicated to research in the psychoneurosciences. Dr. Shilling is in private practice in Omaha.

Lila A. Wallis, MD, MACP, women's health trailblazer and AMWA Past President, was the Editor-in-Chief of the newly published *Textbook of Women's Health*. She was also the Task Force Chair and Program Director for the First International Conference for the Advanced Curriculum on Women's Health, which took place in Miami, Florida March 20-22, 1998.

We would like to receive updates from our members to print in future newsletters. If you have exciting news to share with the rest of AMWA's membership please drop us a line. Send all submissions to Kelli Mills at the national office, 801 North Fairfax Street, Suite 400, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, or email her at kmills@amwa-doc.org. Pictures are also welcome. Every effort will be made to include all member updates in the newsletter.

Braude's Generosity Supports RHI

In a very generous gesture made out of strong personal conviction, Marjorie Braude, MD, announced that she will match 1998 contributions (up to \$25,000) made in support of the Reproductive Health Initiative.

"This contribution is a memorial to my Mother, who suffered life threatening physical injury and emotional damage through grossly inadequate gynecological care, and went through the unsafe and terrifying experience of two illegal abortions," she stated in her letter announcing the gift. As an active member of the 21 member RHI Advisory Committee, Dr. Braude has provided guidance and counsel in creating the new 1,000 page reproductive health curriculum which is presently being offered to medical schools around the country. The seven module medical school curriculum addresses a full spectrum of reproductive health topics, including:

- contraception
- sexually transmitted diseases
- primary care for infertility
- abortion (surgical and medical)
- physician-patient communication
- psychosocial factors related to delivering patient-centered health care

Now in its fifth year, RHI is being marketed throughout the country with great success. At present 29 medical schools use AMWA's curriculum.

Help the Reproductive Health Initiative receive Dr. Braude's philanthropy by giving or making a pledge today! Send your tax deductible check or pledge to the AMWA Foundation-RHI, 801 North Fairfax Street, Suite 400, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

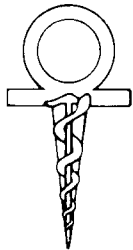
Janet M. Glasgow Essay Award and Carroll L. Birch Award

AMWA is now accepting applications from student members for the Glasgow Essay Award competition for the best essay of 1,000 words about a woman physician who has been a role model and mentor. The winning essay will bring \$1,000 stipend and national recognition at AMWA's annual meeting. Submit your typed, double-spaced essay by May 31.

Student Members may also submit their research papers for consideration in the Carroll L. Birch Award competition. National recognition at AMWA's annual meeting and a \$500 award go to the winner. The deadline is June 30. For more information on either of these awards or to enter a submission, contact Marie Glanz (email: mglanz@amwa-doc.org) at the national office.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN

AMWA



AMWA

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Calendar

May 31, 1998—*Glasgow Essay Submissions Due*

June 12-23, 1998—*Women's Health Care Delegation to the People's Republic of China*

June 26-28, 1998—*AMWA's Interim Meeting, Double Tree Hotel, Baltimore, MD*

June 30, 1998—*Birch Award Submissions Due*

November 18-22, 1998—*AMWA's 83rd Annual Meeting, New Orleans Marriott, New Orleans, LA*

Women and Girls Health Care Delegation to the People's Republic of China

As part of AMWA's international outreach efforts aimed at improving the health status of women throughout the world, we have partnered with the Citizen Ambassador Program of People to People International to offer an exceptional "Women and Girls Health Care Mission" to China, June 12-23, 1998. The delegation will be led by AMWA President Sharyn Lenhart, MD. The agenda includes meetings with NGO and governmental leadership in women's health care. Sightseeing and social and cultural activities have been planned to complement the professional program. The trip will begin in San Francisco and will travel to China's capital, Beijing, then on to Guilin and Shanghai.

For more information on this exciting opportunity, contact Kathleen Meyer, Director, People to People Ambassador Programs, toll-free at 1-888-671-8986; fax: 302-764-3776; email: kathleenm@ambassadors.com.

Emergency Contraception Information

For a resource packet that includes provider and consumer information on using emergency contraception properly, please contact Jackie Nichols at the national office (jnichols@amwa-doc.org).