

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN

AMWA

Annual Meeting
Reflections

Volume XIX, Number 2/December 1998-January 1999

Annual Meeting Demonstrates That AMWA is a Premiere Source of Information on Women's Health

On November 18-22, 1998, AMWA held its 83rd Annual Meeting, entitled "The Woman Physician: Personal & Professional Development," at the New Orleans Marriott Hotel. Mae Jemison, MD, in her keynote address on "Achieving Excellence" at the Opening Ceremony, set the tone for the meeting. Dr. Jemison described her triumphant journey from her childhood in St. Louis to becoming, among her many achievements, the first woman of color in space.

This year's meeting once again showed that AMWA is a premiere source of information on women's health. The program presented attendees with more than 40 seminars on a wide range of topics including tobacco control, coronary heart disease, chemoprevention of breast cancer, gender bias in health insurance reimbursement, menopause, osteoporosis, and eating disorders. A total of 25.5 credit hours of Category I CME programming was available.

In addition to seminars on medical topics, AMWA premiered its Career Development Institute (CDI), developed in partnership with Simmons College Graduate School of Business Management. The Institute featured AMWA and Simmons faculty presenting courses focusing on personal and professional development, leadership, and business skills vital to today's woman physician. Presentations covered an array of important topics including leadership styles, gender equity and mentoring, life and career balance, negotiating skills, quality management, and business strategy development.

AMWA's Annual Meeting continued to serve as the primary venue for conducting association and foundation business. Committees and subcommittees met and made recommendations to the Board of Directors. The House of Delegates convened to address a number of resolutions and one position paper and elected AMWA's leadership for the next year.

Constructing a network of colleagues is an integral part of professional development, and in keeping with the meeting's theme, social events were plentiful. Two luncheons held in the exhibit hall were featured this year, giving attendees the opportunity to interact with colleagues

while learning about the goods and services of the exhibitors. A well-received Mentoring Breakfast allowed medical students to meet physicians in specific specialties and form professional relationships. The meeting's social and networking events culminated on Saturday night with the President's Banquet, which included a parade led by a New Orleans-style line band, complete with costumes, beads, and a police escort.

AMWA's 83rd Annual Meeting was a clear success, providing individual attendees and the association as a whole with the tools, knowledge, and inspiration to prosper, succeed, and lead. Mark your calendar now to attend



Members of AMWA's 1998-1999 Board of Directors.

AMWA's 84th Annual Meeting, to be held November 10-14, 1999, at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco.

Call for Nominations

It's not too early to begin thinking about yourself or a colleague for election to an AMWA national office in 2000. To qualify, candidates must have been members in good standing for five years and have been in a national leadership position for two years. Offices to be filled in the 2000 election are:

President-Elect, Vice President of Career Development, Vice President of Communications, Vice President of Programs, Director of Students, Resident Representative, National Student Coordinators, Speaker of the House of Delegates, and Vice Speaker of the House of Delegates.

Candidates will be asked by the Nominating Committee to submit a curriculum vitae and to complete a questionnaire. Questionnaires are available from the national office and should be returned to Jannine Jordan, at AMWA. The deadline for submission is April 1, 1999.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Inaugural Address

Clarita E. Herrera, MD



Sharyn Lenhart, MD, left, passes the gavel to AMWA's new President, Clarita Herrera, MD.

Thank you all for being here today. Thank you Dr. Lenhart for a highly productive year of leadership, and thanks to all of you who work to make AMWA such a fine organization. This morning, I would like to tell two stories. A brief one about myself, my family, and my professional life, and a story about an association that

was founded in 1915 because the American Medical Association refused to admit women physicians. AMWA used that defeat to catapult itself to become a premiere organization for women physicians and medical students.

My birth country is the Philippines, an archipelago, and I was one of ten children (and that was with careful family planning!). My parents were poor and uneducated, but they were rich in dreams and gave all of us an education despite great hardship and extreme sacrifice. I received my entire education from Dominican priests. I can still remember the day I was called to the office of the Dean of Students for getting caught holding hands with my boyfriend on campus. He got away scot-free while I nearly got expelled. That was my first experience with gender bias.

Unbeknownst to me, when I arrived in the United States, the ideals of Elizabeth and Emily Blackwell, the founders of the New York Infirmary where I trained, would forever be intertwined with my professional life. Many of my attending physicians became presidents of the Women's Medical Association of New York City, Branch 14 of AMWA, and I was honored to follow in their footsteps when I became Branch President in 1992.

My experiences include the dubious honor of being the first woman and international medical graduate to become chief resident in internal medicine and a fellow in cardiology in my hospital. I, like the 25 percent of women physicians in graduate medical education, started having children during training, and I quickly learned to work double shifts.

My journey with AMWA began when I met Lila Wallis, MD, who in 1974 was already a towering figure in women in medicine and women's health issues. She became my mentor and dearest friend. She mentored, she corrected, and she provided all the best she could to me. Thank you Lila.

Bertha VanHoosen, MD, and a few thoughtful, determined women founded AMWA in 1915. It stands for the same principles today as it did then. We are strong, vibrant,

and unafraid to commit ourselves to the core values of our 10,000 members. Our vision of empowering women to improve the care of all through our unique perspective will remain the guiding light forever.

We at AMWA do many things right. We advocate for women's health through our projects and grants. Our newest CME train-the-trainers project is in arthritis education. We have come a long way from the horse and buggy days of surgeon Emily Dunning Barringer, MD, to the globe-trotting efforts of our very own surgeon, Laura Morris, MD, and her Master Faculty teaching breast health education to the primary care professionals in the Department of Defense.

We at AMWA do things right in meeting your professional and personal development needs, and the Career Development Institute (CDI) is another example. The CDI was started by Dr. Sharyn Lenhart, and I promise to continue it. The CDI faculty listened to your needs and worked very hard in developing a curriculum that will be offered at different regions and branches, as well as in Hawaii in the year 2000.

We at AMWA do things right in advocating women's health issues on your behalf by constantly interfacing with our policy makers and elected officials under the inspired leadership of Susan Ivey, MD, and this year under the dynamic leadership of Debra Judelson, MD. She and Patricia Davidson, MD were instrumental in the passage of the bill on research in women and cardiovascular disease sponsored by Rep. Maxine Waters, who recognized their efforts on the floor of the House, a historic first for AMWA.

Our peer reviewed journal, books, and the Advanced Curriculum on Women's Health International Conference continue to flourish and are highly respected educational tools. The second Advanced Curriculum on Women's Health International Conference will take place in Maui, Hawaii in February 2000.

Despite our noble efforts, we continue to face the challenge of those who fail to join us and those who claim our work is already done.

I urge you to join me in telling and re-telling the stories of your patients, friends, or sisters. The case of a woman, who in her own home, is beaten, kicked, or killed by an abusive partner; a woman raped; a woman denied health care in her war-torn country. Ask Marjorie Braude, MD and her Task Force on Violence Against Women how much work still needs to be done.

I urge you to join me in telling and re-telling stories about our colleagues such as Jane Hodgson, MD, who 50 years ago believed in providing patients with reproductive rights, but were derided, threatened, and incarcerated. We only need to look to the recent murder of Barnett Slepian, MD. We need to tell their stories to keep alive their legacies, as well as that of our very own Liz Karlin, MD. AMWA's Reproductive

Health Initiative has succeeded in incorporating AMWA's Reproductive Health Curriculum in 47 medical schools, but there are still 97 schools not using it.

I urge you to join me and Dr. Michele Bloch's committee in telling the story of the egregious acts of the tobacco enterprise. Remember the story of Joe Camel, an outright, unconscionable campaign, to target our children and grandchildren. Prior to the campaign, tobacco advertising had a poor showing of only one half of one percent of its targeted market. After the launching of Joe Camel ads, it rose to 33 percent - profits went up from \$6 million to \$500 million. Our work is far from being done when everyday 3,000 young American girls and boys light up a cigarette for the first time.

How far have we really gone when only six out of 144 medical school deans are women? By the year 2050, 50 percent of physicians in the United States will be women. Our first lady is fond of saying — We carry half of the story, therefore, we must carry equally the responsibility to protect, to heal, and to educate. We need to continue to provide support to stem the decline in the numbers of underrepresented minority students entering medical schools. The number of African-Americans enrolling in medical schools fell 12 percent from the 1994 level. We need to continue to enhance the diversity of our membership by focusing on the special needs of our underrepresented physicians and international medical graduates. Cultural sensitivity and medical competence can only lead to improved care of our patients, of whom 47 percent will be people of color by the year 2050. We need to support gender based research and our colleagues in academia where gender inequity remains in a fast-forward mode.

In order to educate ourselves and our patients on the burgeoning interest in complementary medicine, our upcoming issue of *JAMWA* is dedicated to the subject. Thank you Wendy Chavkin, MD for your vision on making our journal highly regarded in its field and a must read for women in medicine.

As we enter the new millennium, professional medical organizations will face rapid and further changes in how we practice medicine, educate ourselves and our patients, and interface with our global neighbors. All one has to do is scan the Internet to witness the huge and uncontrolled source of medical information available. Television, with its sound bites and glib commercials, has become the quick source of information for many of us. To address this problem I will establish a Task Force on Responsible Media and Internet Reporting on Women's Health Issues. My dream is that one day, AMWA will establish a Center for Responsible Media and Internet Reporting on Women's Health Issues.

Instant communication and partnership with our global medical neighbors is now available electronically with a

mere click of a mouse. In order to ensure AMWA's international presence, the International Outreach Task Force was formed. As its Chair, I believed it to be a successful endeavor in establishing a connection with international leaders in women in medicine and women's health, a valuable learning experience for our medical students with an interest in international medicine, and an effective vehicle in increasing our affiliate membership.

How do I envision the future of our organization? These are difficult times for us, for our patients, and for AMWA. Membership among professional associations is declining. I will place all my energy in recruiting, retaining, and reclaiming members. I will do my best so AMWA will remain focused on its core purpose — to maintain the covenant between ourselves and our patients and improve the health of all. This core value is eternal, but our mission will continue to shift as our profession and needs change.

I will recommend that our Strategic Planning Committee take a serious inventory on our structure, finance, and staff and create a realistic do-able framework of initiatives, at the same time bearing in mind our resources and budgets. The plan will include crystal clear objectives, action steps, time frames, and designated responsibilities. It will evolve and become more than an annual intellectual exercise at the President's Retreat. The committee chairs will set their goals within the guidelines of the initiatives, which will be revisited on a frequent basis.

As leaders we will ask tough questions. It will take courage, enormous thought, and at times, risks to maintain the health of the organization. Is it time to de-centralize our meetings and instead bring them to the Regions in conjunction with local and state legislative lobbying? With continuing constraints on our time and pocketbooks, I predict that entrepreneurs will venture in to distance learning via satellite and that it will become an affordable alternative to traditional face-to-face education.

We must remember, however, that the value of leadership, networking, and mentoring can be best achieved by personal meetings and interaction. AMWA is the only women's medical organization that combines all the specialties in medicine. Continued proliferation of many small voices for women in medicine offers the potential adverse side effect of fragmenting our unified voice.

I ask you to join me in finding the solution to these tough questions. I ask you to join me in pushing the boundaries of our professional lives while nourishing and enjoying our personal lives. Let us remain brave, committed, and stand up and be counted in defending our values.

Unified, we will succeed in our endeavors. Thank you very much.

HOD UPDATE

AMWA's House of Delegates debated many issues at the Annual Meeting. Ten resolutions, one position paper, and numerous bylaws changes, grouped into seven topic areas, were considered. Resolutions that passed the House of Delegates included:

Human Rights—Two resolutions were carried this year that reflected on the current events taking place in the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. This is an issue that has recently become a concern of AMWA, as the rights of women and girls continue to be violated. One resolution states that AMWA condemns the Taliban's discrimination against women and urges full restoration of their rights, particularly their right to health care. The resolution also calls upon the United States and the United Nations to deny recognition of the Taliban as a government and to impose economic sanctions until the Taliban has ended their pattern of gross abuses of internationally recognized human rights. The second resolution concerning this matter

calls on the Taliban to repeal the restrictions on physicians, both male and female, from medically treating and caring for the women and girls of Afghanistan.

Medical Screening—Two resolutions were passed concerning issues of medical

screening. The first states that routine thyroid screening should be included as a preventive health benefit under the Medicare program. The second states that AMWA should support efforts to make pap smear technologies widely available and include efforts to assure adequate reimbursement for such technologies.

Animal Proteins to Herbivores—A final resolution passed stating that AMWA will support an FDA ban of the feeding of ruminant to ruminant in order to prevent a neurological epidemic in herbivores and the risk of prion disease to humans.

The House of Delegates also approved a new position paper on Emergency Contraception. This position paper states that "AMWA believes that emergency contraception can play a much stronger role in reducing unintended pregnancy and unnecessary abortion in our nation." To affirm its commitment to supporting reproductive choice for women, this position paper states AMWA's resolution

Medical Education Loans Available

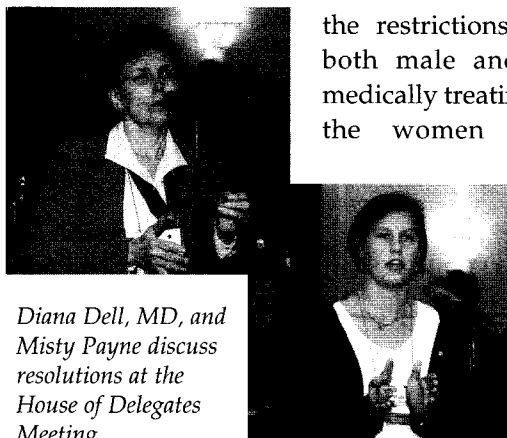
Recognizing the ever increasing costs of a medical education, AMWA offers medical education loans of \$2,000 to \$2,500 to women medical school students. Interest of 10 percent does not begin until December 15 after graduation and monthly repayment begins the January after graduation. Applications will be mailed to interested students beginning in January. Deadline for completion of the application is April 30, 1999 and all supporting documentation must be submitted by May 15, 1999. Contact Marie Glanz at the national office by phone, mail, or e-mail (mglanz@amwa-doc.org) to receive the application or for further information.

Wilhelm-Frankowski Scholarship Offered

A \$4,000 scholarship for a woman medical student will be offered again in 1999. Criteria include community service and work, research, and participation in women's health issues. Additional criteria include participation in AMWA activities and in women in medicine or other medical student group(s). Contact Marie Glanz at the national office by phone, mail, or e-mail (mglanz@amwa-doc.org) for an application or for further information. Applications will be mailed beginning in January. Deadline for completion of the application is April 30, 1999, and supporting documentation is due by May 15, 1999.

to inform its members about emergency contraceptive pill use and availability and encourage the widespread release of this information to the medical community, women's groups, health groups, the public, and the media. The paper also calls for AMWA to support programs that provide improved access to emergency contraception.

There were many bylaws changes debated this year. Because of the sheer number to be discussed, the bylaws were grouped into seven topic areas for voting. Bylaws changes that were passed include the expansion of the role of the Resident Member Representative to include voting privileges in the House of Delegates, the inclusion of an AMWA Foundation Board Representative as a nonvoting member of the Board of Directors, and the addition of representatives from the Council of Past Presidents and the MWIA National Coordinator-USA to the Strategic Planning Committee. After much debate, the House of Delegates also voted to change the election of the National Officers to a mail-in proxy and enact a tie-breaking vote at the Annual Meeting in the event that a tie vote occurs for any national office. A final bylaws change concerned the creation of an Information Technology Committee.



Diana Dell, MD, and Misty Payne discuss resolutions at the House of Delegates Meeting.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Renew Your AMWA Membership today

We value you as an AMWA member — please do not miss out on the values that AMWA has to offer you as a woman physician. Membership Renewal Notices were mailed in November 1998 to all AMWA members. Please do not hesitate...mail in your renewal payment today to continue to receive valuable AMWA benefits such as: career development opportunities, networking, and mentoring programs. Renew your membership by February 1st and receive a complimentary AMWA tote bag. If you would like to pay your dues by phone (Visa or Master Card payments only), please call Member Services.

For Members Only

Members who need to contact the Member Services Department can do so toll-free by dialing 1-800-995-AMWA. If you have any questions regarding your renewal statements, membership, change of address, member-get-a-member campaign, etc., please feel free to call, or continue to use e-mail: member@amwa-doc.org.

We welcome Katrese Phelps to the Member Services team as the new Member Services Coordinator. This new position has been added to assist members with questions, requests, renewals, and joining AMWA. Ms. Phelps brings to the organization a strong background in customer service.

1999 Ambassador Program

During the upcoming months, AMWA President Clarita Herrera, MD will be traveling around the AMWA globe to visit many branches and regions to speak to its members on "career development for the female physician," as well as the many benefits of AMWA membership. These mini workshops are very informative and offer excellent opportunities to recruit new AMWA members. If your branch or region is interested in sponsoring Dr. Herrera as a speaker for a branch workshop, please call Germaine Ashton in Member Services at the national office. Please do not delay...the schedule is filling up fast!

Member-Get-A-Member Program

Congratulations to all AMWA members who participated in the 1998 Member-Get-A-Member Program (MGM). The key to AMWA's success is You! The following were the top 1998 recruiters:

PHYSICIAN RECRUITERS

1. Kaaren Nichols, MD
2. Donnica Moore, MD
3. Lesly Mega, MD

STUDENT RECRUITERS

- Leslie Bryan
- Julie A. Scott

The 1999 MGM Campaign has begun (October 1, 1998 to September 30, 1999). Begin today to recruit new AMWA members. The 1999 top recruiters will receive a complimentary registration to AMWA's 85th Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. Be sure to include your name on the "referred by" line on all applications.

Are You a Member of the President's Circle?

AMWA's President, Clarita Herrera, MD, challenges all leaders to participate in the 1999 MGM Campaign. Members are vital to AMWA's recruitment efforts. *Recruit at least five new physician members* and become a life member of the President's Circle. Members of the President's Circle receive credit towards the MGM Campaign, a President's Circle Pin, special recognition, and attend a private reception at the Annual Meeting. Contact Tangie Newborn in Member Services for more information.

Bylaws Revisions/Changes

Proposed revisions to AMWA bylaws are due to the AMWA Bylaws Committee by February 1, 1999. Please address your recommended bylaws changes to:

Germaine Ashton
Member Services Manager
c/o AMWA Bylaws Committee
801 N. Fairfax Street, Suite 400
Alexandria, VA 22314

Branch Development

A mailing was sent to all Branch Presidents requesting an updated roster of Branch Officers and committee members. If your Branch has recently changed Branch Presidents, please contact the former President or Member Services for this mailing. Please complete this information and return it to Member Services no later than February 15, 1999. We need updated information to include in the 1999 Leadership Directory. If any AMWA member is interested in forming a new AMWA physician or student branch, please contact Member Services for a branch kit to help you get started.

Have you Moved or Changed Your Phone Numbers?

To maintain effective communication with all AMWA members, it is essential that Member Services has updated member information in its database. When preparing for your next residential or employment move, please be sure to include AMWA on your checklist. Call Member Services immediately to update your mailing address, e-mail, or telephone numbers. This will assure that you will not miss out on vital information, JAMWAs, newsletters, etc.



Sharyn Lenhart, MD, (left) Karen Katen, VP Pfizer Incorporated, (center) and Clarita Herrera, MD (right) at the Corporate Partners Luncheon.



Attendees at the President's Banquet pose outside the Board of Trade building.



Medical students with Clarita Herrera, MD at the President's Reception.



President's Banquet revelers parade to the historic New Orleans Board of Trade Building.



The Awards Luncheon brings attendees together to honor the achievements of AMWA members.



President-Elect Catherine Henry, MD (left) and Women's Health Co-Chair Susan Stewart, MD (right) at the Corporate Partners Roundtable.



Award recipients and presenters at the Awards Luncheon.



Gail Devers (left) accepts the Presidential Achievement Award from Sharyn Lenhart, MD (right).



Students sample the information available in the registration area.



AMWA President Clarita Herrera, MD delivers her Inaugural Address.



Patricia Davidson, MD, Barbara Ross-Lee, DO, and Omega Silva, MD (L to R) at the uplifting Plenary Session.



Sharyn Lenhart, MD (left) with Elizabeth Blackwell Award recipient Leah Dickstein, MD (right).



Nancy Binder, MD, Carolyn Webber, MD, Beatrice Desper, MD, Omega Silva, MD, Nancy Church, MD, and Debra Judelson, MD (L to R) at work in the House of Delegates.



Tanya Warwick places a white rose in memory of Elizabeth Karlin, MD during the memorial service at the Opening Ceremony.



Mae Jemison, MD delivers her inspiring Keynote Address.

GRANT PROJECT UPDATE

AMWA Launches Arthritis Education Initiative During 83rd Annual Meeting

November 15-16, 1998 were successful days for the Arthritis Education Initiative as it completed its first phase by training 20 health care providers on the current diagnosis, treatment, and prevention strategies of arthritis. A model partnership between AMWA, Searle, and Pfizer has led to what promises to be a far reaching initiative, benefiting the 40 million Americans who are affected by arthritis.

The training, which took place in New Orleans just prior to AMWA's 83rd Annual Meeting, was conducted by four of the initiative's Advisory Group Members, Leslie Kahl, MD (project leader), Linda Brecher, DO, Cheryl Lambing, MD, and Susan Stewart, MD. The group provided a multi-disciplinary approach to curriculum development drawing from the expertise of rheumatologists, family practitioners, a gastroenterologist, and a psychiatrist. Maria Greenwald, MD, Heidi Solz, MD, and Sharyn Lenhart, MD, also members of the advisory group, contributed to the curriculum's development.

With its modular design, the curriculum, "Approach to Arthritis: A New Look at an Old Problem," allows for presentations ranging from two to six hours and is divided



AMWA Arthritis Master Faculty pose during the training.

into eight modules covering musculoskeletal exam, osteoarthritis and NSAIDs, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoporosis, nonarticular rheumatism, fibromyalgia, interpretation of labs and serologies, and case studies.

Following the Master Faculty training, the Arthritis Education Initiative was officially launched on November 20, 1998 in New Orleans. The official launch of the initiative also coincided with the first arthritis presentation. Utilizing a panel format, Drs. Kahl, Brecher, Lambing, and Stewart presented a two-hour iteration of the curriculum. Dr. Heidi Solz provided valuable feedback as she observed and evaluated her colleagues' implementation of the curriculum she helped to design.

The evaluation conducted both by the Master Faculty members and the workshop participants indicated that the Arthritis Education Initiative was well received, and provided encouraging information. The Master Faculty and the workshop participants found the arthritis curriculum

extremely useful and expressed that the timing of the initiative could not be better, as more and more women are affected by arthritis.

The next phase of the initiative will focus on conducting arthritis workshops at several national, state, and local medical meetings throughout the country. With ten confirmed venues for 1999 and the potential for ten more, the Master Faculty can look forward to several presentation opportunities. The goal is to train as many primary care providers as possible by August 1999. The Arthritis Education Initiative is being funded by Searle and implemented by

AMWA. In partnership with Searle and Pfizer, AMWA looks forward to enhancing the knowledge of health care providers and consumers about the new

approaches on the horizon for this old problem of arthritis.

AMWA welcomes the opportunity to come to your branches and regions with this initiative. To arrange for a presentation in your branch/region or other setting, please contact Brenda Johnson, Project Director, at bjohnson@amwa-doc.org or call the national office, 703/838-0500, ext. 3303.



AMWA members listen intently during their Master Faculty training.

Reproductive Health Initiative

Once again, the Annual Meeting played host to a very successful Reproductive Health Initiative (RHI) Workshop. More than 70 interested medical students and medical school faculty attended. The workshop also gave AMWA the opportunity to introduce our tribute to Liz Karlin, MD, who was a leader in women's reproductive health and one of the founders of AMWA's RHI, by naming the 4th year elective the Liz Karlin, MD Fellowship. The workshop was moderated by RHI Implementation Chair Marjorie Braude, MD, who gave an overview of the Reproductive Health Model Curriculum. The panel included Miriam Zieman, MD, a course director of the elective at Emory University School of Medicine; Ava Moskin, a medical student from Albert Einstein School of Medicine who recently took the Brown elective; Paula Castano and Kathryn Marcotte, both medical students from the University of Minnesota who helped establish the Reproductive Health Model Curriculum in their school; and Anjali Kumar, a University of Washington medical student and former AMWA RHI Intern who spoke about her internship experience at the national office. A wealth of information was

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discussed and numerous copies of "A Medical Student's Guide to Improving Reproductive Health Curricula" were distributed. AMWA also introduced a draft of the "Directory of International Reproductive Health Opportunities for United States Medical Students" and copies of "A Reproductive Health Bibliography," which was produced jointly with Medical Students for Choice. If you are interested in receiving information about RHI, would like to implement the elective at your school, or take an elective at another school, please contact Stephanie Woodfin, RHI Project Manager, at the national office (703/838-0500; swoodfin@amwa-doc.org).

Smoking Cessation: RWJ Grant

The Robert Wood Johnson grant for smoking cessation, begun last October, is heading into its final stages. The grant was aimed at increasing the number of physicians who effectively counsel their patients to stop smoking, and to promote the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) Guidelines for Smoking Cessation. AMWA, together with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, trained 13 physician trainers in smoking cessation intervention. These physicians have since been busy making presentations of their own throughout the country. We wish to thank the many AMWA members who have generously given of their time to this project including: Michele Bloch, MD, PhD, Sally Faith Dorfman, MD, MSHSA, Carolyn Dresler, MD, Linda Fisher, MD, MPH, Diane Helentjaris, MD, Sandra Hoffmann, MD, Annette Kusmaul, MD, MPH, Hogai Nassery, MD, Paula Scariatti, DO, MPH, Katherine Schneider, MD, Margaret Stager, MD, Susan Cobb Stewart, MD, and Norma Jo Waxman, MD. For more information about the project, or to receive materials on smoking cessation, contact Beth Feldpush at the national office at 703/838-0500 or e-mail at bfeldpus@amwa-doc.org.

Tobacco Control and Prevention Initiative Update

On October 28th the Tobacco Control and Prevention Initiative gave a presentation on Women and Cigar Use at the 4th Annual National Conference on Tobacco and Health. AMWA's workshop was one of the few selected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from 500 applicants. In addition, the Initiative was selected to exhibit during the conference as part of a showcase of exceptional programs. Slides and talking points are available. To obtain copies, please contact Liz Tramer, Project Associate, at the national office (Phone 703/838-0500) or e-mail at ltramer@amwa-doc.org.

The Initiative also presented a tobacco control and prevention workshop at AMWA's 83rd Annual Meeting. The presenters were Sandra Headen, PhD, a Social and Community Psychologist with the Center for Health Promotion and Prevention, and Eric Solberg, Executive

Director and Vice President of Doctors Ought to Care. Dr. Headen spoke on successful smoking cessation techniques for African Americans and Mr. Solberg spoke on successful counter advertising techniques.

AMWA members, mark your calendars for the Mothers And Daughters Race Against Teen Smoking, which will occur June 6, 1999 in New York's Central Park. Please contact Joanne Kildare at The National Council on Women's Health, Inc. (Phone 212/746-6967) for details on participating.

Coronary Heart Disease in Women

AMWA Master Faculty members Catherine Henry, MD, Leslie Hamilton Poor, MD, and Patricia Davidson, MD, presented the most up-to-date information on risk factors, symptoms, prevention and treatment, and gender-sensitive diagnostic evaluation of coronary heart disease (CHD) in women at AMWA's Annual Meeting in New Orleans. A special segment of the workshop expanded our emphasis by focusing on the differences in risk factors, prevention, and treatment concerns associated with CHD in minority women.

The Education Project on CHD in Women continues to advance the awareness and knowledge of physicians and medical students on the changing issues in this area, including the latest research on the impact of post-menopausal hormones, the role of lipid therapy, and newer cardiac interventions. Dr. Leslie Hamilton Poor recently spoke to an audience of 250 health professionals, politicians, and the public at the Women's Health Summit in North Carolina about new technologies in the diagnosis and treatment of CHD in women.

The nutrition component of the project is currently available on loan to all members to use in your local community for physician or patient education. To receive the "Nutrition and Heart Disease" education packet, which includes slides, a lecture guide, and a patient education brochure, "Guide to Heart Healthy Eating," contact Stephanie Woodfin, CHD Project Manager. Please FAX (703/549-3864) or e-mail (swoodfin@amwa-doc.org) your name, address, phone number, fax number, and e-mail address, along with how you plan on using the education packet. Requests will be fulfilled on a first-come, first-served basis and the loan packets must be returned within two months. The "Guide" brochure is also available on AMWA's Web site in the section "For the Public" at: <http://amwa-doc.org>.

AMWA would like to applaud Dr. Patricia Davidson's assistance and testimony to Congress that aided the passage of the Women's Health Research and Prevention Amendment of 1998 (S.1722) which included the Women's Cardiovascular Research and Prevention Act (H.R. 2130/S. 349). The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute will use the \$140 million to expand and intensify research, prevention, and educational outreach programs for heart attack, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases in women.

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If you are aware of regional or specialty conferences that would benefit from the inclusion of the CHD in Women material, please contact Stephanie Woodfin, CHD Project Manager.

The Education Project on Coronary Heart Disease in Women is funded by an unrestricted medical educational grant from DuPont Radiopharmaceuticals, a division of the DuPont Merck Pharmaceutical Company, as part of its Difference in a Woman's Heart Program. The "Diet as Prevention and Treatment" component of the project is funded by an unrestricted medical educational grant from the National Association of Margarine Manufacturers.

DOJ Grant Update

AMWA was awarded a grant from the Office for Victims of Crime of the Department of Justice to develop a Web site which will educate health care professionals to recognize, diagnose, and respond to the domestic violence patient. AMWA members Marjorie Braude, MD and Carole Warshaw, MD are the physician project leaders of the program. The course will be broken down into units which include the presentation and recognition of domestic violence in all fields of medicine, intervention and referrals, victim safety, the effects on children, reporting laws for each state, and relations with the criminal justice system. Each unit will provide CME credits. The Web site, which will be available through AMWA's on-line address, will be up and running in the next few months.

Foundation Corporate Partners Roundtable Focuses On Arthritis

AMWA leaders and executives from health care companies gathered at AMWA's 83rd Annual Meeting in New Orleans and learned about the latest breakthroughs in the prevention and treatment of arthritis, a condition which impacts approximately 40 million Americans.

In a presentation which was noteworthy for its clarity of information and appealing style, Leslie Kahl, MD gave an overview of the condition which disproportionately impacts women. She reviewed traditional treatments and emerging options for both osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis.

Dr. Kahl, an Associate Professor in the rheumatology division and Associate Dean for Student Affairs at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri, is project leader of AMWA's new Arthritis Education Initiative. A two-track program including physician education workshops emphasizing prevention and current treatments and a consumer awareness and education effort was launched earlier in the year. Due to a generous educational grant from Searle/Pfizer, AMWA has developed a practical curriculum for everyday use by primary care providers.

The Corporate Partners Roundtable was chaired by outgoing AMWA Foundation Chair Lesly Mega, MD. Representatives of Searle, Procter & Gamble, Pharmacia & Upjohn, and Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical participated in the substantive exchange which is a major benefit of the Foundation's Corporate Partners Program.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Mary Guinan, MD, has announced her retirement from the Epidemiology Program Office of the CDC after more than 20 years of federal service. Dr. Guinan will continue her distinguished career as the State Health Officer of Nevada.

Director of Students, **Nancy Church, MD** was recently published in the *Chicago Tribune* for an opinion article she wrote on emergency contraception. In her article Dr. Church stresses the benefits that emergency contraceptive pills can provide to women in this country and announces the arrival of the Preven™ Emergency Contraceptive Kit.

Iowa **AMWA Branch 19** participated in the Iowa Medical Society's Retreat for Women Physicians held October 9-10, 1998 in Des Moines, IA. This represented the first cooperative programming effort between the state medical society and the Iowa AMWA branch.

Congratulations to **Estherina Shems, MD**, newly elected Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) Vice President for the North American Region. Dr. Shems, a member of AMWA since medical school, has served in

numerous leadership capacities both for AMWA and for MWIA, having served most recently on the AMWA Board for six years as MWIA National Coordinator.

Lila Stein Kroser, MD, Past President of AMWA, is the newly elected President of the Medical Women's International Association. Dr. Kroser, inaugurated at the 24th MWIA Congress recently held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, will serve as MWIA President for the next three years.

Student member **Nausheen Akhter** spent this past summer at the Medciti Rural Health Center in the township of Medchal, in Sikhandrabad, India. Ms. Akhter kept a detailed journal of her experiences and says she learned a great deal more than clinical skills. She hopes that other medical students or physicians get an opportunity to take similar adventures.

If you have a news item you would like to see in Members In the News, please send it to Beth Feldpush at the national office.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

AMWA's Governmental Affairs Committee has been very active in 1998. Below are some of the actions that were taken in the months of September and October 1998.

Health Care

- AMWA signed on to a letter with other medical societies endorsing HR 4092, the "Investment in Women's Health Act." The bill, introduced by Rep. Neil Abercrombie (D-Hawaii), proposes to raise the minimum Medicare payment for screening Pap smears to \$14.60 from \$7.15.

Miscellaneous

- AMWA signed on to two letters supporting the nomination of Jane E. Henney, MD, as the next commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration.

Reproductive Health

- AMWA signed on to a letter going to the House and Senate conferees requiring Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) plans that cover prescription drugs to also cover FDA-approved prescription contraceptive drugs and devices.
- The Government Affairs staff sent out a letter to AMWA members asking that they call members of the Agricultural Conference Committee and urge them to oppose inclusion of any amendment to the agricultural bill that would prevent the FDA from approving drugs developed to induce abortion.
- AMWA signed on to a letter with other medical associations to members of the Labor-HHS Conference Committee urging them to adopt the Senate committee's recommendation of funding for the Title X Family Planning Program and reject the House Committee provision which would mandate parental notification or parental consent for contraceptive services received by adolescents in Title X clinics.

Tobacco

- AMWA President Sharyn A. Lenhart, MD, sent letters to Attorneys General in 46 states expressing AMWA's concerns about a pending multi-state settlement with the tobacco industry.

Violence

- AMWA sent a letter supporting HR 3081 and S 1529, the "Hate Crimes Prevention Acts," stating that AMWA feels the protection of women's rights as human rights is an important position for our national government to take in the continuing battle to end discrimination against women and other underrepresented groups.

STUDENT SENATE

Greetings from the Student Senate of AMWA

Heather Williams, NSC, Indiana University and Seema Kumbhat, NSC, University of Miami

The Annual Meeting in New Orleans was a huge success for the Student Senate. Opening Ceremonies were enjoyed by over 60 medical students who were all inspired by the achievements and vision of Mae Jemison, MD. At the meeting this year we held three Student Senate meetings aimed at increasing the communication between student AMWA members. At the first meeting we viewed our newest recruiting tool, the student slide show. The second meeting addressed chapter development, fundraising, and each of the resolutions and position papers for the 1998 House of Delegates. We distributed the student slide show on disk to branch presidents and RSC's and anticipate a successful year of student recruitment. At the third Student Senate we bid farewell to the outgoing RSC's and NSC's and elected new officers.

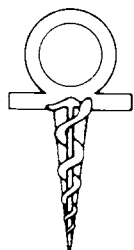
We now have 13 new RSC's: Deanna Chin—Region I, Rose Cohen—Region II, Ayesha Khalid and Michele Manahan—Region III, Jana Watts—Region IV, Karin Hardiman and Lauren Averett—Region V, Madhari Dandu and Kristin Jensen—Region VI, Marisa Getter—Region VII, Ellie Hirshberg—Region VIII, Catherine Rongey—Region IX, and Michelle Thompson—Region X. For the first time ever, we held parliamentary proceedings for decisions regarding candidate requirements and our representation in the AMA-MSS. Over 130 student members participated in the final session.

We are very proud of our Student Senate as a whole. This year two resolutions and one position paper that were accepted by the House of Delegates were written by students. We had regional conferences in Regions I, II, III, VI, and X. We had a member elected to a national position in Medical Students for Choice (MSFC). We had many students attend the AMA meeting in Hawaii at the end of November. We look forward to continued commitment in the year to come. Please contact us if you have any suggestions, concerns, ideas, or successes regarding the students of AMWA.

Congratulations to Teresa Dahl, Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine. She was the winner of the Exhibit Raffle at the Annual Meeting and received a free registration to the 1999 Annual Meeting.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN

AMWA



AMWA

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Calendar

January 22, 1999
1998-1999 AMWA Calendar Due

January 29 - February 21, 1999
President's Retreat

January 29, 1999
Optional Lobby Day

February 1, 1999
Bylaws Revisions/Changes Due

March 19-21, 1999
AMWA Career Development Institute, Denver, CO

April 30-May 4, 1999
AMWA Career Development Institute, Boston, MA

October 9-21, 1999
AMWA International Outreach Program on Women's Health; Ambassador Trip to Southeast Asia

November 10-14, 1999
AMWA's 84th Annual Meeting, The Pantheon Hotel, San Francisco, CA

AMWA Welcomes New Staff

AMWA is pleased to announce that Katrese Phelps has joined the national office staff as the new Member Services Coordinator. We are also pleased to announce Lawrence Leonard has joined AMWA as the Director of Meetings.

Newsletter Committee and Staff

Clarita Herrera, MD, AMWA President
Mary Guinan, MD, Co-Vice President, Communications
Carolyn Webber, MD, Co-Vice President, Communications
Diana Dell, MD, Chair, Publications Committee and Director of Students
Seema Kumbhat and Heather Williams, National Student Coordinators
Wendy McCurdy, MD, Resident Representative
Eileen McGrath, JD, CAE, Executive Director
Kelli Mills, Managing Editor
Beth Feldpush, Editor

What's Happening in AMWA is published six times per year 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. **Phone: 703-838-0500; Fax: 703-549-3864.**

Have you seen...

JAMWA has a new Web site. JAMWA has recently revised its Web site at www.jamwa.org. Currently the site electronically publishes several articles from the new JAMWA issue on Emergency Contraception in their entirety, as well as information on both past and future JAMWAs and a registration site for online ordering. The site is linked to AMWA's Web site.