



American Medical Women's Association

Message from the President

Eliza Lo Chin, MD, MPH

Dear AMWA Member,



This year, as we celebrate AMWA's 95th Anniversary, we can reflect on the many achievements that we have attained as women in medicine. Back in 1915 when AMWA was first founded, women physicians were a distinct minority in America, numbering around 5-6% of all physicians.

Today, these numbers are vastly different. Women medical students now represent nearly 48% of entering medical students. These achievements have been significant, but not without challenge and sacrifice. For nearly a century, AMWA has been at the forefront, a tireless advocate in promoting women in medicine and women's health. Here are a few of our most recent accomplishments and current initiatives:

Accomplishments:

- A highly successful 95th Anniversary Meeting in conjunction with the 18th Annual Women's Health Congress which drew over 1,000 joint attendees.
- AMWA's Day on the Hill co-hosted with Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health (PRCH) which connected physicians and legislators on a pivotal day where the nation witnessed Health Care Reform become the law of the land.
- Recognition of AMWA's 95th Anniversary by Senator Barbara Boxer (CA) in the [U.S. Congressional Record](#), Proceedings and Debates of the 111th Congress.
- Established and hosted the first Networking Alliance of over 15 allied organizations, including the Association of American Medical Colleges, American Medical Association-Women Physicians Congress, Doctors for

America, National Physicians Alliance, and the Association of Women Psychiatrists, to align initiatives and collaboration efforts.

- Developed Advancing Women's Health, an Interactive Virtual Library for Sex and Gender Specific Women's Health Education Resources.
- Continued charitable support of clinics world-wide through the American Women's Hospitals Service (AWHS), most recently supporting Haiti after its devastating earthquake.
- Established a new Residency Division to bridge the gap between medical students and physicians and meet the specific needs of women in training.

Initiatives:

- Faces of AMWA - an online exhibition of women in medicine.
- A webinar series to address issues such as gender equity, contract negotiation, mentorship, and career-life balance.
- Health education programs in line with the First Lady's Initiative to eradicate childhood obesity.
- Reorganizing and growing Physician Branches to create more of an impact at the state level for members, their constituents and women in medicine nationwide.
- Cervical cancer prevention in partnership with the Pearl of Wisdom Campaign.
- Partnerships in national coalitions: Stop Obesity Initiative, U.S. Bone and Joint Decade, and Vision 2020: An American Conversation about Women and Leadership.
- Opening of the AMWA Legacy Exhibit at Drexel University's Archives and Special Collections.
- Underage Drinking prevention in partnership with the National Consumers League and DISCUS.

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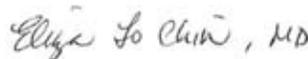
Message from the President *(continued from page 1)*

We are working hard every day to fulfill our mission: to be an organization which functions at the local, national, and international level to advance women in medicine and improve women's health. We achieve this by providing and developing leadership, advocacy, education, expertise, mentoring, and through building strategic alliances.

We can't do it alone and hope that some of the items listed above caught your interest enough to inquire how to participate. In addition to the impact your participation will have on various projects, becoming involved creates opportunities to grow into leadership positions and allows you to develop new and strong relationships with other members. To learn more, please contact Sarah Hagy at shagy@fernley.com or 215-564-3484 x 2276.

For 95 years, AMWA has been the vision and voice of women in medicine. As we begin our Countdown to a Century, we hope that you, too, will be part of this wonderful legacy.

With warm regards,



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

2010 Annual Meeting Wrap Up

The 95th Anniversary AMWA Annual Meeting was a phenomenal success. Held in conjunction with the 18th Annual Women's Health Congress, there were over 1,000 joint attendees and a schedule packed with outstanding CME lectures by leading clinical experts. On Advocacy Day, AMWA partnered with Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health and together met with over 70 legislative offices on Capitol Hill to advocate for the passage of health care reform and women's reproductive health. A highlight for all was AMWA's 95th Anniversary Gala during which AMWA award winners and new inductees to the International Women in Medicine Hall of Fame were honored. Special guests included 13 past presidents, former Executive Director Eileen McGrath, past Director of Special Programs Marie Glanz, and Dr. Kavita Patel, former Director of Policy for the White House Office of Pub-

lic Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs. Keynote speaker, Dr. Vivian Pinn, challenged us all to envision the future of women's health and women as physicians and to work together to make that vision a reality. The evening culminated in the unveiling of the Woven Word Quilt, a symbolic representation by AMWA students of our collective hopes for healthcare reform.

Membership Committee Update

AMWA's Membership Committee has been very busy working to get the word out to new members about AMWA and its many benefits! Have you taken the time to talk with your colleagues about membership? This is a great time for new physician members to get to know AMWA by taking advantage of our \$95 new member rate, in honor of our 95th Anniversary! This offer expires October 31, 2010. Don't delay, help us recruit new members and get rewarded!*

As a reminder, AMWA offers a life membership rate! A onetime payment of \$2,000 continues your AMWA membership for life, saves money, and alleviates you of having to renew each year. To take advantage of this great membership rate, contact AMWA Headquarters: 215-320-3716.

*See the new member incentive in the Member News section of this issue for details.



AMWA President's

AMWA invited to the White House for the First Lady's Initiative, Let's Move: America's Move to Raise a Healthier Generation of Kids.



Left to right: Elena Ong, Dr. Judith Palfrey (President of the American Academy of Pediatrics), Dr. Eliza Chin

Eliza Chin (AMWA President) and Elena Ong represented AMWA at the First Lady's launch to combat childhood obesity on February 9, 2010 at the White House. The initiative, "Let's Move," aims to solve the childhood obesity problem in America within a generation. Excerpts from the First Lady's speech can be found [here](#). Also in attendance were key members of the President's Cabinet, Surgeon General Regina Benjamin, members of Congress, and representatives from medical, public health, food service, media, and community groups.

Women's Health Working Group

Take advantage of the growing information available at Advancing Women's Health, an Interactive Virtual Library for Sex and Gender Specific Women's Health Education Resources.

Advancing Women's Health aims to make teaching materials and health information universally accessible to clinicians, medical faculty, medical students, nurse practitioners, and allied health professionals so that known Sex and Gender specific differences will become integrated into all levels of women's medical care and incorporated into clinical practice. This is a project of the Women's Health Working Group, comprised of leaders from the top medical institutions, including AMWA and ACWHP whose mission is to improve women's health by making better known the biopsychosocial implications that affect women to achieve optimal, evidence based care. SUPPORT THIS MISSION. Become a member, CONTRIBUTE, PARTICIPATE, and AUTHOR original content. Visit the site at: www.medpedia.com/groups/444. For more information, contact the project coordinator at jgodfrey31@gmail.com.

Call for Board of Directors Nominees due July 10

Nominations are being received by the Governance Committee for election of AMWA officers: President Elect and Secretary, and board members at large, including Residency physician candidates. The Candidate Questionnaire (available by emailing Sarah Hagy) and a brief biography (five page max. CV) should be submitted to the national office by July 31, 2010.

Call to Action! Members by the Dozen Campaign!

In honor of AMWA's 95th Anniversary year, we have a promotional membership rate of just \$95 for new physician members. Help us reach out to non-AMWA physicians to show the value this organization brings to women in medicine. Think about all of the reasons you joined and maintain your AMWA membership and tell your colleagues about it! This rate expires October 31, 2010 and is the lowest annual membership fee AMWA has offered!

What's in it for you? Besides growing your professional organization which is committed to supporting the unique needs of women in medicine, the top five physician members that recruit over 12 members will receive their next year of membership free: a \$225 value!

How it works:

1. Obtain membership applications [here](#) or send physicians to join [online](#).
2. Tell member to note your name.
3. Wait to be notified by AMWA Headquarters after the promotion ends to see if you have won!

The top five recruiters will be recognized in the following issue of *Connections* and their membership will be extended for an additional year complimentary!

Call for Committee Volunteers- AMWA Needs YOU!

Would you like to help AMWA lead women in the medical industry? Here is your chance!! AMWA is putting out a call for volunteers on its committees. There are several opportunities for you to participate in fulfilling AMWA's mission or to grow into the leadership positions of the organization. Please contact Sarah Hagy at shagy@fernley.com to learn about available opportunities.

Omega Silva Awarded Foremother Award of National Research Center for Women and Families

Omega C. Logan Silva, MD, MACP was awarded the Foremother Award of the National Research Center for Women and Families on Monday, May 10, 2010 at the University Club.



Dr. Silva's accomplishments are many, including first woman president of the Howard University Medical Alumni Association, the first African-American to be awarded a clinical investigatorship in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the second African American president of the American Medical Women's Association, founder of the International Women in Medicine Hall of Fame and winner of the Bertha Van Hoosen Award. Her long-time advocacy for universal health care and her committed support of women in medicine are well known. She was the second African-American woman to be honored with a Master-ship in the American College of Physicians.

Dr. Silva was one of three honorees, including Diane Rehm, popular host of National Public Radio's The Diane Rehm Show, and Ruth Lubic, the MacArthur "genius award" winner who founded the nationally replicated Developing Families Center that provides exemplary health care in one of Washington's poorest neighborhoods.

The National Research Center for Women & Families is dedicated to improving the health and safety of women, children, and families by using research to encourage more effective programs and policies achieving that mission by gathering, analyzing, critiquing, and explaining scientific and medical research. Its Cancer Prevention and Treatment Fund focuses on preventing cancer, reducing the risk of recurrence, and improving the quality of medical care.

Announcing AMWA's New Residency Division!

Founded in March 2010, the AMWA RD hopes to empower women resident physicians to lead in improving health for all within a model that reflects the unique perspective of women while advancing academically and personally during their training years. The AMWA RD will provide Resident Members with professional support, friendship and collegiality, access to mentoring, professional recognition, and career and leadership development. In addition, two publications will soon be available: (1) "Women in Medicine Resident Guide" to provide advice on the unique social issues facing women in medicine such as: pregnancy, motherhood and family life and (2) "AMWA Resident Monthly," to keep physician-in-training members up-to-date with the advocacy, medical advances and opportunities that interest women in medicine and their families. Membership is only \$100 for the entire duration of residency, so please encourage women residents to join now.

Elmira S. Basaly, MD – AMWA Resident Co-President
Lauren Sparber, MD – AMWA Resident Co-President
Dani M.H. Barnes, MD – AMWA Resident President-Elect

Donate to the AMWA Legacy Fund

We have raised 70% of the funds needed for the permanent AMWA Legacy exhibit at the Archives and Special Collections on Women in Medicine at Drexel University. The AMWA Board of Directors has generously put forth over \$2000 in matching funds, so make your donation go even farther. In addition to recognition on the lobby's Wall of Fame for donors of \$2500 and above, there will be a special plaque within the AMWA exhibit honoring donors in the following categories: \$1000 Bronze, \$2,500 Silver, \$5,000 Gold, \$7,500 Platinum.

Interim Meeting Dates

The AMWA Board of Directors will host their next face to face Board Meeting, September 24-26, 2010 at AMWA Headquarters in Philadelphia.



Print Membership Directories Available

AMWA now offers a printed membership directory on request for just \$10. To order your copy, send your request to associatedirector@amwa-doc.org or call 215-320-3716. Don't forget, you may access the online membership directory under the member's only portion of the website.

MWIA Congress – Please let us know if you are attending!

The Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) will be holding its 28th International Congress in Muenster, Germany July 27-31. Held every 3 years, this Congress brings together women physicians from all over the world. Your membership in AMWA confers dual membership in the MWIA. AMWA President Eliza Chin and other AMWA leaders will be attending, so please consider joining us! If you will be attending, please e-mail Sarah Hagy, shagy@fernley.com so that we may have an accurate count for the number of AMWA delegates. For more information, please visit <http://www.mwia2010.net/>

The Missing Mentor – Mary E. Stutts

Introducing *The Missing Mentor*, a newly published book by Mary E. Stutts, an accomplished leader with over 25 years in the health care and communications industries. Drawing from the wealth of her experience as a executive - and the contributions of 11 other successful women whom she interviews (including Dr. Marianne Legato), she provides insight and sage counsel for women on everything from raising children to making tough career decisions. Told with wit, humor, and selfless honesty, this book provides a paper mentor to women who often cannot find mentors in the work place. This is a must-read for every woman professional.



AMWA President Eliza Chin with Mary Stutts, author of *The Missing Mentor*

American Women's Hospitals Service – Supported Clinic – Clinic Nepal

Mobile Health Clinic Crosses the Jungle to Madi, Chitwan
Jackie Taylor



"Dr Manfred Harrmann attending patients

Flying over rivers, forests and highways, Klaus and Manfred wondered what the next few days would bring. Dr. Klaus Harbig (Internist) and Dr. Manfred Harrmann (General Practitioner), both from Germany, had volunteered to take part in a health camp organised by Clinic Nepal, in Chitwan District – a lowland area of Nepal. This was as much as they knew; everything else was to come as a bit of a surprise.

Arriving at Bharatpur Airport – a landing strip on the edge of a small town with the same name – at 3:00 pm on 21 March, the adventure was about to begin. An hour or so outside of Bharatpur the doctors, along with Dr. Bishow Bandhu Bagale, from Nepal, and Hari Bhandary, Chairman and Founder of Clinic Nepal came to Chitwan National Park. Chitwan National Park is one of Nepal's oldest national parks and the one most populated with animals, particularly the one-horned Asian rhino. Would they see any wild animals on their drive through the park?

It was beginning to get dark, the sounds of the jungle could be heard above the engine of the jeep. Wild chickens, wild boars, deer and birds could clearly be seen along the edge of the road, running dustily through the trees. At an army checkpoint, designed to keep poachers at bay and protect the unsuspecting public from wild animals, the party were told they could travel no further that night, it was too late. With hours of drive behind them they did not want to turn round so appealed to the army commander who eventually gave permission for them to drive on. By now it was definitely getting dark. And they had been warned the wild elephants were invading a nearby village, enjoying a free meal of ready to harvest wheat in the fields. Was the decision to move on the right one? Read the full article [here](#).

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Save the Dates!

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

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

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