



Australian Federation
of **Medical Women**
the voice of australian medical women

afmw.org.au

Annual Report 2013

16 November 2013

AFMW PATRON:
Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia



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Statement of Purpose

We offer our members, colleagues and the community access to the collective knowledge and experiences of medical women and seek to ensure equity and equality for women doctors to achieve their potential throughout all stages of their professional lives.

Philosophy

The AFMW's philosophy is enshrined in these key principles:

Caring	For all persons in the Australian community, particularly women and children.
Respect	Promote respect for diversity and difference.
Service	Motivated by free will and the absence of any financial or non-financial gain.
Equity	Achieving fairness while recognising different experiences, needs, levels of power, access and expectations and ways of expressing illness.
Equality	The absence of bias, for all people, in opportunities and the allocation of resources with the purpose of achieving equitable outcomes.
Human Rights	Uphold the principles of human rights as defined by the United Nations.
Gender Competence	Promote gender competence in knowledge, education, research and health service provision, reflecting the capacity to identify where difference, on the basis of gender, is significant and act in ways that produce more equitable outcomes for women and men.
Development	Further the development of medical women through education and research, particularly in relation to the health of women and children.

The Australian Federation of Medical Women (AFMW) was formed in 1927 to promote and develop the formal practice of medicine among women.

It is the only national body that exclusively represents the views of female medical practitioners, and is a non-profit, non-government organisation with affiliated state member bodies.

Our Vision The voice of Australian medical women advocating for, and supporting the health and welfare of our local, national and international communities.

Patron's Message



Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Message from Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce, AC CVO
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

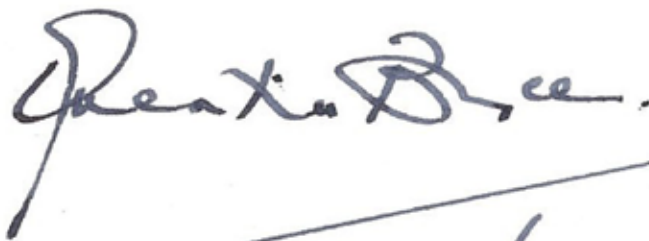

in support of the Australian Federation of Medical Women

I congratulate the Australian Federation of Medical Women on being selected to take part in the 57th Commission on the Status of Women addressing the crucial issue of the elimination and prevention of violence against women and girls.

The AFMW is committed to supporting the health of survivors of domestic violence, as showcased in its groundbreaking "Happy Healthy Women Not Just Survivors" project.

The strong leadership of the AFMW on this issue provides an important voice against violence, dedicated to the wellbeing of women and girls in Australia, our region and across the world.

As Patron, I give my strong support to the work and objectives of AFMW in advocating for the healthcare needs of those who need it most.

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President's Report



AFMW PRESIDENT
Dr Desiree Yap

Welcome to the Australian Federation of Medical Women's (AFMW) Annual Report for 2013. We have had a very busy year as you will see from the summary on the following page. I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank all my colleagues on the Council and commend all those who run their state committees.

I would like to reflect on why we, as busy doctors and medical students, continue to volunteer to help administer our organisations. After all, making the 'processes run' in 'spare time' is not the most exciting thing most people can think of!

I believe that there are several reasons, including the networking and the opportunity to meet like-minded colleagues locally, nationally and internationally as well as the advocacy work. Subjects raised at dinners, seminars and conferences are often of specific interest to medical women and not readily available in other fora. There is also that sense of the historical place of our organisations and the importance of acknowledging those who have gone before in addition to recognizing how their work contributed to the advantages we have today. It is also interesting to contemplate what still needs to be done.

We might volunteer to help run our organisations for the same reasons that we joined. Our organisations provide a good way to gain experience in working on committees and running organisations thereby equipping us to serve on college committees and other medical, academic and government organisations. This can be at local, national and international levels through our society membership.

This year I had the privilege to attend the Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) 29th Triennial Congress 'Medical Women Advance Global Health' in Seoul, Korea. I found it inspiring. Apart from meeting with 1100 medical women from all six continents (a fabulous experience in itself!), I was able to appreciate the role that each of us plays in our own home countries, as well as what we can do when we combine on the global stage. We share so much in terms of passions and challenges with women from all over the globe.

I implore you to browse the new MWIA website at www.MWIA.net and see for yourself what MWIA and its member countries are doing (also available on the AFMW website www.afmw.org.au). Better still – come to the next MWIA Congress in Vienna, Austria in 2016!

There were many inspirational highlights, but one that I found particularly interesting was the presentation by MWIA President-Elect, Dr Bettina Pfeiderer. Her topic was 'Gender and health – biological, cultural and power aspects'. As members of the AFMW/MWIA, we try to think about the complex interplay between the individual's health, a gendered view of healthcare and the effects of the political, cultural and biopsychosocial environments on wellbeing. Bettina made these complex ideas more accessible in an intellectually satisfying and helpful way. Her presentation can be found on the AFMW website and I highly recommend it to you. Also, Marissa Daniels has an excellent summary on this meeting in her report.

The AFMW will continue to advocate for the health of all Australians, in particular women and children, whilst keeping in mind the place of women doctors in the world, both personally and professionally. The reasons to belong to this series of organisations – state, federal and international are as pertinent today as they ever were.

Dr Desiree Yap, President, AFMW

President's Report Continued

It has been another busy and successful year for the AFMW.

AFMW achievements this year:

Ongoing:

- Progress with the Happy Healthy Women Not Just Survivors project (refer Project section)
- Continuation of Her Excellency, the Governor General Quentin Bryce as Patron
- The AFMW's quarterly newsletter and growing presence across social media
- Expansion of the Leadership Skills Database and 'Thank You Initiative' where we thank and recognise our mentors
- AFMW representation and consultation to various government and industry bodies
- Involvement in gender-related issues with the medical training colleges, industrial issues for doctors in training, particularly (but not exclusively) female doctors in training and the Australian Medical Student's Association
- Supporting the Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's anti-racism campaign
- Equal Opportunity Exemption: gives the AFMW the option to restrict attendance at meetings, seminars and events to women only (the exempt conduct) when appropriate
- Signatory to the National Compact; an agreement between the Australian Government and the not-for-profit sector to find new and better ways of working together based on mutual trust, respect and collaboration

New Initiatives:

- ARC Linkage Grant 'Elucidating the increasing demand for genital cosmetic surgery among girls and women in Australia'. Partners are: Monash & Deakin Universities, Women's Health Victoria, Family Planning Victoria, Jean Hailes Foundation, Southern Health and the AFMW. (See report enclosed)
- Ratified the AFMW position Statement on Cosmetic Genital Surgery, the wording of which was taken up by our international body the MWIA, and passed at the 29th MWIA Triennial Congress into a Resolution for recommendation to the United Nations (UN)
- Seven AFMW members presented at the UN Council on the Status for Women 57 (Dr Raie Goodwach's report (VIC))
- Contributed to Commission on the Status of Women (CSW57) online discussion which brought together civil society organisations and worldwide experts in the field of violence against women. Findings were used by UN Women to inform two UN Secretary-General's reports for the CSW57 and guide the discussion of CSW members. (Refer Project section)
- Nine delegates attended the MWIA 29th Triennial Congress 'Medical Women Advance Global Health' in Seoul, Korea. Two of our members presented and a poster presentation was also accepted (report by Dr Marissa Daniels (VIC))
- Elected a young MWIA Representative (Registered Medical Woman <40 years of age): Dr Marissa Daniels (VIC)
- Dr Marion Davies (WA) appointed to Pharmaceuticals Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC).
- Hosted a delegation of Arabic Women including the first female surgeon trained in the UAE, Breast Surgeon Dr Houriya Al-Kazim. Dr Magdalena Simonis was the contact, through Libby Lloyd AM, Office for Women who hosted the group and arranged meetings
- Members attended and presented at the Australian Women's Health Network Conference.

Dr Desiree Yap, President, AFMW

National Co-ordinator's Report



AFMW NATIONAL CO-
ORDINATOR
Assoc Prof Deb Colville

Ongoing collaboration with our national and international colleagues.

For the AFMW, 2013 has been a very busy year on the international scene, culminating in the MWIA triennial meeting from 31 July to 4 August in Seoul, Korea. Over one thousand members of the MWIA attended the meeting.

- **International collaboration.** All eight of the World Health Organisation (WHO) world regions are represented in the MWIA. Australia belongs to the Western Pacific region, with other country associations from Korea, Taiwan, Philippines, Japan, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Mongolia and China, and with an individual member from Fiji. The eight world regions are North America (USA and Canada), South America, Africa, 3 European regions (Northern, Middle and Southern Europe), Far East Asia (including India) and our region, the Western Pacific.
- **Medical Education** An extension of our AFMW 'Happy Health Women, Not Just Survivors' program was major government funding for an education program directed at medical students and practicing doctors. Philosophically, these events fit with the MWIA activities being held more generally in our Western Pacific region, including mentoring, overseas aid, and many local programs in women's and children's health run and delivered by dedicated women doctors. These events also are in keeping with the MWIA plenaries: for instance, the keynote speeches this year were firstly on women doctors advocating at international level for women's and children's health, and secondly, on medical women's career decision making.
- **International Policy Resolutions** The three General Assemblies at Seoul dealt with policies brought forward from many regions. The Ethics and Resolutions process resulted in the MWIA passing resolutions (for the MWIA website) including cautions and advice for women who are considering undergoing cosmetic genital surgery, and for doctors offering this surgery, advocacy for best practice to prevent maternal mortality worldwide, and for the HPV vaccination to prevent cervical cancer. To see the full resolutions from Korea 2013, and all past resolutions visit the MWIA news section at: www.mwia.net/news/.
- The MWIA also resolved that ethical cautions around prenatal testing be born in mind, and another resolution resolved to support practices to offset adverse health effects in commercial sex workers. These resolutions will be taken to the United Nations (UN) and the WHO by the MWIA President and others representing the MWIA during the next triennium. This is an exciting time for the AFMW to be part of the MWIA as an international organization.
- **Regional Meetings.** All AFMW members are eligible to attend all MWIA regional meetings. Contact the AFMW secretariat (via afmw@afmw.org.au) if you'd like to participate in WHO and UN meetings.
- **Young MWIA.** The AFMW elected a young MWIA Representative (Registered Medical Woman < 40 years of age): Dr Marissa Daniels (VIC). She attended the 2013 Congress in Seoul where she gave presentations on Health Care Social Media: Governance, Risk Management and Ethics; and Effective Social Media Communication in Australian Women's Health Networks.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deb Colville".

Associate Professor, Deb Colville, National Co-ordinator, AFMW

Secretary's Report



AFMW Secretary
Dr Jillian Tomlinson

Through the AFMW's willingness to embrace new technologies and social media, our members have actively contributed to various discussions. Topics have included domestic violence, celebrating medical women's achievements, conversations about workforce and gender and sharing live-time updates from the MWIA Congress.

The use of online resources such as real-time file sharing has seen the AFMW revise and implement additional policies to help deal with new demands and issues.

Membership numbers continue to grow. The Western Australian Medical Women's Society lead by the AFMW's WA representative Sophie McCarthy, had 42 new members join in 2013 as a result of their International Women's Day, high tea event. Within two years, this now brings their membership base to over 100 members. A fabulous effort as a direct result of hardworking

volunteer medical students and doctors.

Golden Jubilee Members Recognised at the MWIA's 2013 triennial congress (medical women for >50 years):

This year the MWIA triennial congress was held in Seoul, Korea. At the Congress we celebrate medical women who have more than 50 years' experience. It was a privilege to be able to put forward our Australian nominees. This year the following medical women were awarded a Golden Jubilee Award:

- BETHERAS, Dr Gytha, VIC
- BRODERICK, Dr Bell, VIC (dec) (posthumously)
- BURGE, Dr Barbara, VIC
- GALE, Dr Alex (dec 2010) (posthumously), VIC
- LAWRENCE, Dr Joan Lawrence, QLD
- MCIVOR, Dr Margot (dec) (posthumously), VIC
- MUIRDEN, Dr Nell (dec) (posthumously), VIC
- MURNANE, Dr Merrilyn Murnane OAM, VIC
- SUSSEX, Dr Margaret (dec) (posthumously), VIC
- MYERS, Dr Anne, VIC
- NICHOLAS, Dr Nancy, VIC
- COOPER, Dr Rosalie Cooper, VIC
- HENDERSON, Dr Margaret, VIC
- PEDEN, Dr Heather, VIC
- WILES, Dr Helen, ACT
- COATES, Dr Pamela, VIC
- BOLITHO, Dr Olga, VIC

Dr Susanne Close and Associate Professor Deborah Colville were awarded honorary MWIA memberships, in recognition of their long-standing contributions to the organization. Congratulations to them both!

Improving governance is an ongoing task. We have submitted our application to be recognised as a Department of Public Information's (DPI) Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) and eagerly await the outcome. Work continues on developing an AFMW Foundation and reviewing our constitution. Our members have been busy attending and presenting papers at numerous international events this year. We have included some of their reports in the following pages of this annual report.

Dr Jillian Tomlinson, Secretary, AFMW

Secretary's Report Continued

Communications & Media

Website



Our website (www.afmw.org.au) continues to feature content relevant to Australian female medical students and doctors. Our website content is educational for both medical personnel and allied industries.

AFMW eNewsletter



Our quarterly electronic newsletter continues to be a major method of contact with members and stakeholders, with subscription rates climbing to record levels. Our electronic communications enable us to deliver health promotional activities not only to rural students but also to geographically challenged individuals.

Reciprocal advertising arrangements have been negotiated for a variety of conferences that are directly relevant to our members, such as the 12th National Rural Women's Conference, the 5th Rural and Remote Mental Health Symposium, the National Indigenous Domestic Violence Conference and the 7th Australian Women's Health Conference. The eNewsletter has received sponsorship from Investec, vConsult, The Lifestylers Group and the Automotive Vehicle Brokers Australia.

Facebook



The AFMW Facebook Page continues to offer our members news and networking opportunities. The AFMW uses Facebook to communicate messages about events, activities and opportunities. The AFMW also cross-posts on state medical women's societies Facebook Pages, predominantly regarding new eNewsletter releases.

Twitter



We have embraced Twitter (@AFMWorgau) and connect with hundreds of Twitter users including large numbers of Australian not-for-profit organisations and women's organisations. A daily newsletter has been created of moderated tweets on gendered issues and from accounts that the AFMW follows.

LinkedIn



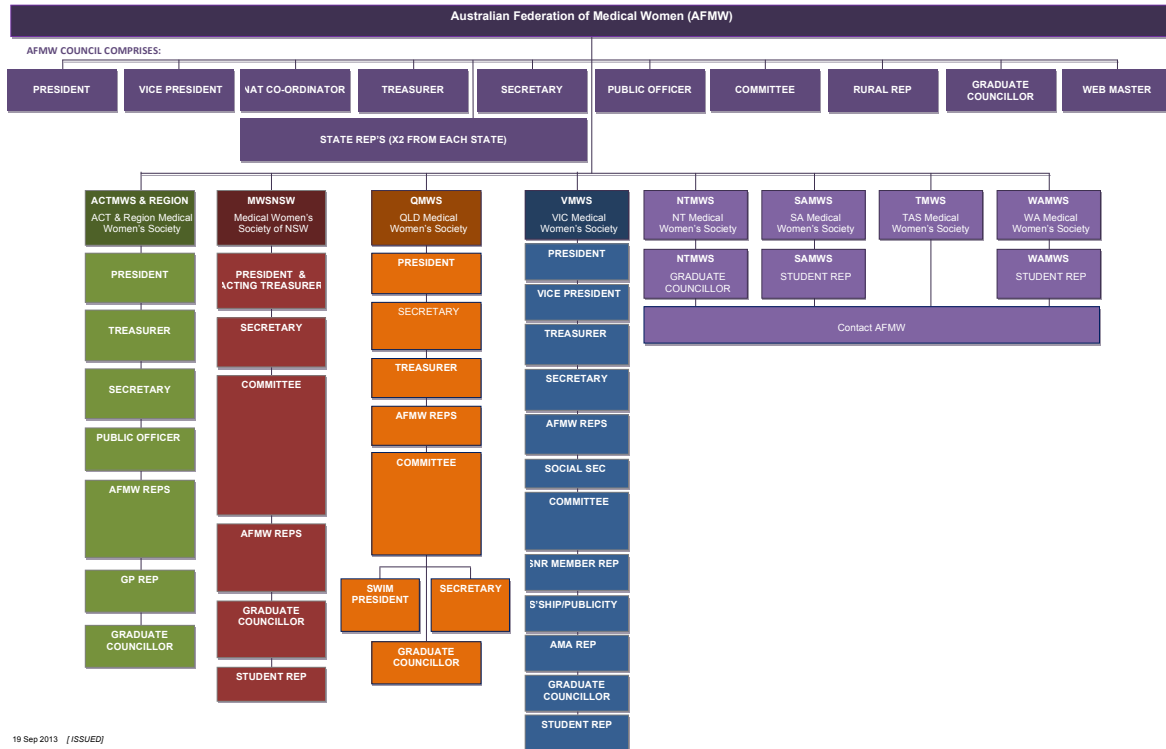
In April 2011 we launched a LinkedIn group that affords Australian medical women online professional networking opportunities. The group is 'closed', with entry limited to female Australian doctors and medical students. Women can participate in the discussion forums with their comments visible only to other Australian doctors and medical students.

Networking

The AFMW and its State Medical Women's Societies actively engage in various networking opportunities. This provides a face-to-face forum where we can share our knowledge and provide educational information not only with our medical colleagues but also with other professions.

Structure & History

AFMW Organisational Chart 2013



19 Sep 2013 [ISSUED]

History

- 1895 Victorian Medical Women's Society (VMWS)
- 1919 Medical Women's International Association (MWIA)
- 1921 Medical Women's Society of New South Wales (MWSNSW)
- 1927 Australian Federation of Medical Women (AFMW)
- 1937 Queensland Medical Women's Society (QMWS)
- 1950+ SA, WA, ACT, Tasmania Medical Women's Societies
- 1995 Supporting Women In Medicine (SWIM), student organisation, University of Queensland

AFMW: MEMBERS HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND the United Nations (UN) Dept of Public Information and Non-Governmental Organisations (DPINGO) Conferences; the World Health Assembly; regional World Health Organisation (WHO) meetings; and the Commission on the Status of Women in New York



Australian Federation of Medical Women

the voice of australian medical women

Organisation Profile

The Australian Federation of Medical Women (AFMW) aims to further the professional development of medical women through education and research, and to improve the health and welfare of all Australians — especially women and children.

The AFMW participates in health-policy development and service delivery, increasing women's voices in existing national academic and health areas so that the contributions of medical women can be fully realised and their skills fittingly applied to meet the medical education and healthcare needs of all Australians.

The AFMW's advocacy involves many and varied activities on behalf of its constituents and in the general health field, including:

- addressing sexual violence, discrimination, bullying, harassment, domestic violence and occupational violence
- informing governments about medical women's perspectives (latterly this has included meetings with policy advisors and participating in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), round-table discussions); promoting and facilitating professional mentoring and providing leadership skills training to medical women
- examining provisions for flexible training and retraining to promote workplace retention and re-entry of female doctors

Memberships and Affiliations

The AFMW is affiliated with the Medical Women's International Association (MWIA), the international umbrella for all the national medical women's societies. The MWIA is actively involved with the United Nations (UN) as a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and UNICEF. It is represented on the Board of the General Council of International Organisation of the Medical Sciences, and has NGO-observer status to the World Medical Association (WMA).



The MWIA's aims are to:

- promote co-operation between medical women from different countries and to develop friendship and understanding between medical women worldwide
- actively work against gender-related inequalities in the medical profession between female and male doctors, including career opportunities and economic aspects
- offer medical women the opportunity to meet, to confer questions concerning the health and well-being of humanity, and
- overcome gender-related differences in health and healthcare between women and men, girl-children and boy-children throughout the world

Profile

AFMW membership confers automatic membership in the MWIA. The MWIA provides its members with the opportunity to exchange ideas, medically and personally, with colleagues from other nations.

AFMW Objectives as an MWIA Affiliate

1. To stimulate, encourage and promote the entry of women into the medical sciences and help them to optimally use their medical training.
2. To foster friendship, respect and understanding among medical women throughout the world, without regard to race, religion or political views.
3. To afford medical women the opportunity to meet at stated times to consider problems together and foster the co-operation of medical women in matters of health.
4. To promote the interest of medical women in all matters relating to their professional work through continuing education and other means.
5. To act for and represent medical women in all matters of mutual interest at national and international levels, and, in particular, in relation to the further education of Australian medical women.

The AFMW has contributed a segment dedicated to violence against women and children on the new MWIA website. The website also includes relevant articles and links. The AFMW has been actively working in this area since 2010, when we ran the “Happy Healthy Women: Not Just Survivors” project in partnership with the Australian Women’s Coalition, with the aim of improving the long-term healthcare of survivors of sexual violence.

The AFMW is also a member of the Australian Women’s Coalition (AWC) (a group of women’s organisations that works collaboratively to advance the status of women, by presenting the views of Australian women to Government) and the Equality Rights Alliance (formerly WomenSpeak) Network, a non-government secretariat that provides representative advice on policy issues affecting women, including childcare, women’s health, women’s leadership, young women, the role of men and boys in gender equity and violence against women.



The new MWIA Executive

MWIA Congress Report

A report on the 29th International Congress of the MWIA

It was a great privilege to be one of the nine Australian medical women in Seoul, Korea, for the 29th International Congress of the Medical Women's International Association (MWIA). With Deborah Colville, Desiree Yap, Susie Close, Gabrielle Casper, Marjorie Cross, Kate Duncan Robyn Hewland and Celina Rappaport, it was an honour to spend four days learning with, and from, inspirational medical women from all over the world at the Ehwa Women's University. Many thanks must go to the organising committee, chaired by Bong Ok Kim, for the informative and challenging scientific programme and the wonderful networking opportunities made possible while enjoying generous hospitality.

The first international congress of women doctors was held in 1919 from September 15 to October 26 in New York. It was at this event that an enthusiastic and pioneering group formed the MWIA; the first President was Dr Esther Lovejoy. Since its inception, the MWIA has met regularly to discuss issues of importance. In anticipation of the upcoming 100th Anniversary of the MWIA in 2019, the biography of Dr Lovejoy "Oregon's Doctor to the World" has been written by Kimberley Jensen and is available for purchase online.

In Australia, we have a number of important milestones coming up: 125 years of the Victorian Medical Women's Society will be celebrated in 2020 and 100 years of the New South Wales Medical Women's Society in 2021.

The comprehensive Scientific Programme encompassed many important topics of current interest. Two exemplary Keynote Speeches initiated the event. Dr Margaret Mungherera, President-Elect for the World Medical Association and Ardis Dee Hoven, President-Elect for the American Medical Association, set the scene for the conference by describing some of the challenges faced by our women doctors of the world, and ways that the MWIA and national medical women's associations can help address these.

Dr Mungherera outlined the requirements for achieving the Millenium Development Goals, such as political commitment, appropriate resource allocation, intersectoral and intrasectoral collaboration and increased awareness among communities of their rights. Social mobilization, an increasing issue in Australia as well as internationally, is a challenge for preventative health strategies; basic health requirements, such as access to clean water and sanitation are of paramount importance for displaced communities. A critical mass of influential women doctors, strategically positioned and actively engaged in setting the agenda for global health, Dr Mungherera argued, is required to achieve real change. The MWIA and the national medical women's associations are in a unique position to raise awareness of global health issues, mentor young doctors with an interest in global health and provide training on advocacy and negotiation skills required to groom the next generation of leaders. They can also identify positions in global organisations and provide the support and encouragement required to help women take these up. What a fabulous organisation to be part of!

In the second Keynote Speech, Ardis Dee Hoven highlighted the power of organized medicine to effect change. Working as an infectious diseases physician at the time HIV was identified, she spoke about how she identified issues which impacted on the health of her patients but which were beyond the scope of practice of a medical practitioner. A change in health policy was required. Not accepting that she was unable to do more, she mobilized the power of organized medicine so that the profession's collective voice could effect the required change. Her take home message is pertinent for all of us:

"Use your collective voice to effect change; but whatever you do in organized medicine, make sure it is something that makes your blood boil because doing it justice will take time and hard work".

MWIA Congress Report cont.

Our day-to-day experience as medical practitioners is dictated by health policy. If we don't like what we see, the MWIA and the AFMW provide the platform to effect change. Don't know how? Just ask a member of your local, state or national committee!

Motivated and empowered to effect change, the 1100 delegates of the conference then set to work, discussing specific issues facing our global communities and ways to change these for the better. Over three days, sessions covered a range of topics including breast and cervical cancer, cardiovascular health and human immunodeficiency virus, gastrointestinal disease, dermatology, health issues of immigrants, the influence of environment and disaster on health, sexual violence, suicide prevention, disability, women's and children's health, breastfeeding, healthy ageing, gender in medicine, medicine and the law, medicine and politics, life as a female doctor, mentoring and the history of women doctors as leaders.

In a 90 minute session on gender mainstreaming, Shelley Ross (MWIA Secretary General), Bettina Pfeleiderer (MWIA President-Elect; Chair, MWIA Scientific and Research Committee) and Padmini Murthy (MWIA Representative to the United Nations) presented a thorough discussion of the definitions required to understand this important concept along with a review of the historical context in which it has emerged as critical for the understanding of the determinants of health and disease. Men and women are not the same, and while gender equity describes the process of being fair to both men and women, gender mainstreaming means approaching health and healthcare from the perspective of each gender. This concept is applicable to every aspect of our lives; it opens our eyes to the many varied and pervasive biases to which it is easy to become blind.

The Australian contingent was proactive in contributing to the scientific programme. In an oral presentation entitled "Sharing the Wisdom: A Practical Approach to Working Safe in Rural and Remote Australia", Dr Marjorie Cross presented the results of a multidisciplinary collaborative project initiated by the Female Doctors Group of the Rural Doctors Association of Australia. This project explored the issue of occupational violence in rural communities and a framework for responding to this issue. As part of this, a website has been established to disseminate strategies among employers and professionals. A further discussion of the importance of the use of social media for professionals was generated by the presentation I was privileged to deliver, "The Healthcare HootSuite: Health Care Social Media". This work, developed in collaboration with Dr Jillian Tomlinson, was supplemented by a poster presentation on "Effective social media communication in Australian Women's Health Networks". I would like to recognize the efforts of Jill in the preparation of these abstracts and for the opportunity to present them.

The scientific sessions were interspersed with the triennial General Assembly and the Western Pacific Regional Congress. The latter, as always, provided an opportunity to meet our nearest MWIA neighbours to discuss pertinent issues and collaborative approaches to address these. However, this year's regional congress was a momentous occasion, with the proposal that doctors from the People's Republic of China join their colleagues from Taiwan and Hong Kong in the MWIA. It was inspiring to see such collaboration! The proposal was quickly passed by the Western Pacific and ratified at the General Assembly. We eagerly await the development of our relationship with medical women in the People's Republic of China, of which there are over 2 million, in the years to come.

The General Assembly provided the forum to reflect on the achievements of the last three years, and to channel our motivation and inspiration to move forward and make positive change!

MWIA Congress Report cont.

Three years' worth of preparation came to fruition with the passing of seven new resolutions at the General Assembly. These encompassed topical, critical issues including the education of women and girls, vaccination against Human Papilloma Virus, maternal mortality, prenatal testing, human trafficking, as well as female genital cosmetic surgery, a resolution prepared by Australia from an idea initiated by Jillian Tomlinson. These resolutions will now be taken forward to the United Nations and the World Health Organisation during the next triennium.

The quality of the scientific programme and the progress made at the General Assembly was only rivaled by the generous hospitality of Korea, and the entertaining and enlightening social programme. Tours of the Ehwa Women's University, the largest female learning institute, and local hospitals provided the opportunity to explore Korean culture. The Gala Dinner was exemplary. Fine food and wine was accompanied by a demonstration of traditional fashion from all over the world and a showcase of the varied talents of the inspirational delegates.

The programme was intellectually, emotionally and spiritually stimulating. It provided the opportunity to meet colleagues from all over the world; old friendships were renewed and new friends made. The next MWIA International Congress will be in Vienna, in 2016. Where will we be in three years' time?

Dr Marissa Daniels, AFMW yMIWA Representative



The new yMWIA Executive



From left- Kate Duncan, Desiree Yap, international colleague, Deb Colville, Gabrielle Casper, International colleague - working lunch preparing resolutions for presentation to the General Assembly



Young MWIA on stage with Marissa Daniels

MWIA Congress Report cont.

Sharing the Wisdom: A Practical Approach to Working Safe in Rural & Remote Australia

AFMW member Dr Marjorie Cross has presented a paper on a unique Australian project exploring solutions to the problems of workplace violence for health workers, police and teachers in rural and remote Australia at the recent 29th International Congress of the Medical Women's International Association held in Korea.

As a female GP working in rural NSW, Dr Cross understands the challenges associated with maintaining a violence free workplace in a small rural community and how the failure to do so can impact on the retention of rural professionals, an increasing number of which are women. Her paper, "Sharing the Wisdom: A Practical Approach to Working Safe in Rural and Remote Australia", presented the findings and outcomes of a project looking for solutions to these challenges that was underpinned by cross-sectorial collaboration between doctors, nurses, teachers and police union representatives.

The genesis of this project came from the Female Doctors Group of the Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA), which hosted a roundtable on working safe in rural and remote Australia. In the wake of the roundtable, a project to explore solutions for working safe was undertaken as a result of collaboration between RDAA, Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM), Australian Nursing Federation (ANF), Police Federation of Australia (PFA), Queensland Teacher's Union (QTU) and Council of Remote Area Nurses Australia Plus (CRANAPlus).

A grant from the Department of Health and Aging funded RDAA to engage Urbis Consulting to undertake a literature review on occupational violence, and conduct an online survey of perceptions of violence and strategies for success. The key lessons from the project have been in knowledge, attitude and networks. The knowledge and lessons learned have been collated together in a website (www.workingsafe.org.au) which seeks to share the wisdom already existing and equip all involved to tackle workplace violence.

The paper was well received, particularly by delegates from countries such as Nigeria, India and Scotland who understand the challenges of delivering health services in rural and remote areas.

The abstract for "Sharing the Wisdom: A Practical Approach to Working Safe in Rural and Remote Australia" is available online at:
www.mwiaseoul2013.org/download/MWIA2013_AbstractBook_130819.pdf



Guests arriving at the Gala dinner in national dress



From left - Marjorie Cross, Kate Duncan, Marissa Daniels, Hyunjoo Park (Korean medical student) and Susie Close at the Gala dinner

yMWIA Representative

It was an honour to attend the 29th International Congress of the Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) as the young MWIA representative.

Initiated in 2007, the Special Interest Group for Young Female Doctors and Medical Students provides a forum for members of our profession who are less than 40 years of age to share knowledge and experiences and discuss issues pertinent at this stage of career development. The International Congress provided a unique opportunity for yMWIA members to meet in person, to make new friends, explore medical education from a global perspective and meet mentors. An executive Committee leads the group; the committee is elected at each International Congress and is appointed for the triennium.

For yMWIA members, the conference began with a yMWIA Networking Party organized by the Young Forum Organising Committee, chaired by Hyang Aie Lee. This unique opportunity to meet in an informal setting at the start of the conference set the scene for the development of friendships during the remainder of the congress.

The scientific programme provided a unique opportunity to explore the political strength of organized medicine and be inspired by our leaders and mentors. The messages of Margaret Mungherera and Ardis Dee Hoven in their Keynote Speeches were moving and relevant, and provided examples of how the collective voice of a profession can be harnessed. These are priceless lessons to learn at the start of one's career. How easy it is to become disillusioned and jaded when facing the daily struggles of study, work, research, teaching and other obligations! The lessons learned from our inspiring leaders put individuals' struggles into global perspective.

Presenting at an international forum provided the opportunity to initiate discussion on topics of importance, both locally and internationally. These discussions will continue long after delegates have returned to our own communities; networks will be nurtured and continue to generate opportunities to effect change. Of particular interest was the session entitled "Gender Mainstreaming". This concept for understanding health and disease provides a very different perspective from, and much greater understand than, more common approaches. Now that I have returned home, I find this point of view already to be infiltrating how I approach work, study, research and teaching.

The Western Pacific Regional Meeting and General Assembly provided occasions to observe the processes by which MWIA influences international policy development, and to participate in this decision making. It was a privilege to be mentored through the "behind the-scenes" process of preparing resolutions for presentation to the General Assembly and to witness some of the negotiation required. Much was learned about the attitudes and values of our international colleagues in these roundtable discussions. For this opportunity, I would like to thank Deb Colville, Susie Close and Gabrielle Casper.

It was with the anticipation of gaining a global perspective that I attended the 29th International Congress of MWIA. In addition, however, it was truly inspiration to witness the generosity with which our global leaders collaborate to achieve common goals. It is with eager anticipation that I look forward to seeing everyone again in 2016!

Dr Marissa Daniels, AFMW yMIWA Representative

Executive and Council Members



AFMW PRESIDENT
Dr Desiree Yap
Committee,
Victorian Medical
Women's Society



AFMW TREASURER
Dr Sharon Tivey
President & Acting
Treasurer Medical
Women's Society
of NSW



AFMW SECRETARY
Dr Jillian Tomlinson
Committee, Victorian
Medical Women's
Society



AFMW Immed. Past President MWIA REP
Dr Susanne (Susie) Close
Committee
Medical
Women's Society
ACT & Region



AFMW REG. CO-ORDINATOR
Assoc Prof Deborah (Deb) Colville
Committee Member,
Victorian Medical
Women's Society



AFMW RURAL CO-ORDINATOR
Dr Marjorie Cross
Committee Member
Medical Women's
Society ACT &
Region



ACT MSW
Dr Elizabeth Gallagher
President, Medical
Women's Society
ACT & Region



AFMW REP, MWS ACT & REGION
Dr Suzanne (Sue) Packer
Publicity Officer,
MWS ACT & Region



AFMW REP MWS ACT & REGION
Dr Jane Twin
Publications
Secretary, Medical
Women's Society
ACT & Region



AFMW Committee
Professor Gabrielle Casper
Past President,
AFMW
+ MWIA
Committee Member
MWS NSW



AFMW REP MWS NSW
Dr Elizabeth (Liz) Rickman
Committee Member,
Medical Women's
Society of NSW



QMWS
Dr Janet Huang
President, QLD
Medical Women's
Society



AFMW REP QLD MWS
Dr Lidia Koval
Committee, QLD
Medical Women's
Society
QLD Rep to AFMW



AFMW Junior Doctor Rep
Dr Namiko Kobayashi
Rep, South
Australian Medical
Women's Society



SA MWS AFMW Student Rep
Ms Lisa Raven
Student
Representative,
South Australian
Medical
Women's Society



VMWS AFMW Rep
Dr Magdalena Simonis
VMWS President,
Victorian Medical
Women's Society



VMWS AFMW Rep
Dr Raie Goodwach
VMWS AFMW Rep,
Past President,
Victorian Medical
Women's Society



AFMW REP
Dr Catherine (Kate) Duncan
Committee Member,
Victorian Medical
Women's Society



WA MWS AFMW Rep
Ms Sophie McCarthy
Student Rep.,
Western Australian
Medical Women's
Society

Projects + Advocacy

The AFMW progresses many projects of importance to medical women, both alone and in conjunction with other groups such as the Australian Women's Coalition (AWC), the Australian Medical Association (AMA) and community groups.

The projects that the AFMW is involved in can be classed into three main areas:

Advocacy

Humanitarian

Socialising and networking

1. Advocacy

The AFMW progresses a variety of advocacy projects from providing leadership skills to medical women to looking at the provisions for flexible training and retraining to young women.

2. Humanitarian

Humanitarian projects include relocating medical goods or services to areas of need both locally and internationally. It includes raising funds for projects such as the Medical Student Aid Project and other causes.

3. Socialising and Networking

One of the AFMW's important goals is to provide support for women in medicine. This is mostly achieved by socialising and networking events at the local level. These often combine education in a social situation and afford medical women the opportunity to socialise with their peers within this environment. The AFMW is particularly interested in supporting medical women in regional, rural and remote areas.

AFMW Thank You Initiative

The AFMW recognises the many physicians who help our members through outstanding teaching, mentoring or instruction. We established the AFMW Thank You Initiative to give our members a way to formally recognise and express their gratitude for the invaluable contributions of their mentors and teachers. The following individuals have been nominated to date as part of the AFMW Thank You Initiative:

Dr Annette Carless (VIC)

Dr Sally Cockburn (VIC)

Dr Kate Duncan (VIC)

Dr Elizabeth Farrell AM (VIC)

Dr Alice Killen (NSW)

Dr Elsie Koadlow OAM (VIC) (dec')

Dr David Leonard (VIC)

Associate Prof Stephen Lew

Dr Merrilyn Murnane AM (VIC)

John Vallance Owen (deceased)

Dr Suchitra Paramaesvaran (NSW)

Dr Gillian Rothwell (NSW)

Dr Emily Teo (NSW)

Dr Desiree Yap (VIC)

Dr Karen Fuller (VIC)

Projects + Advocacy cont'd

Happy Healthy Women Not Just Survivors (HHWNJS) 2010 - 2013

The HHWNJS (2010) identified gaps in undergraduate and postgraduate medical education and in the National Women's Health Agenda in terms of the long-term response to the health and wellbeing of survivors of sexual violence (SV).



This was the first step in an ongoing project to improve the health and wellbeing of survivors of SV. The project has since been presented nationally to Government and internationally at the United Nations, both directly as part of UN CSW 57(2013) and via MWIA resolutions (2010); been the basis of an Australian Family Physician article (2012) and inspired the development of a Violence Against Women (VAW) unit by Professor Gabrielle Casper of the University of Notre Dame in consultation with Dr Raie Goodwach and Dr Eleanor Freedman, teaching about responding sensitively to the immediate and long-term effects of SV.

The AFMW and the VMWS have also been invited to be part of an advisory group for a PACTS project entitled 'An innovative primary care program advancing competency to support family violence survivors' led by Associate Professor Jan Coles.

2013 Conference Participation

International:

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW 57): "Elimination and Prevention of all forms of Violence against Women and Girls" New York March 2013

Dr Raie Goodwach presented the HHWNJS with:

1. Medical Women International Association (MWIA): "Trauma that is buried is not gone: It gets written in the body as symptoms"
2. Canadian Government Mission: HHWNJS: "A long-term model of care for survivors of SV"
3. Australian Government/AFMW Side Event: "HHWNJS: Responding well to the challenges of SV".

The AFMW side event was chaired by Professor Gabrielle Casper who also spoke on "Opening Pandora's Box". Four medical students presented:

- Ms Yolande Fogarty "The medical curriculum"
- Ms Carly Brazel "An indigenous position"
- Ms Caitlin Dallas "In war and peacekeeping"
- Ms Victoria Harris "The medico-legal interface"

Dr Magdalena Simonis presented a project of Women's Health Victoria (WHV) & VicHealth "Take a Stand - Primary prevention of VAW through workplace intervention".

The Draft Conclusions of CSW 57 recognised "the importance of multi-sectoral services for survivors of violence, including for health, psychological support and counselling, social support in the short and long-term" for the first time.

Projects + Advocacy cont'd

National:

7th Australian Women's Health Network conference

The AFMW presentation addressed the need for healthcare to be framed within an understanding of the complex aftermath of SV so that physical and psychological health effects are properly addressed as the needs arise. Medical education about the long-term sequelae is needed to promote optimal treatment, avoid inadvertent retraumatisation, promote routine health checks like Pap smears (often avoided by survivors) and afford secondary prevention.

Discussions with national organisations:

White Ribbon Australia

An abstract for their 10 year anniversary conference was accepted. Their CEO suggested that to further male doctors' recognition of the importance of including teaching about VAW into their curriculae and practice, male heads of departments could be invited to be Ambassadors for White Ribbon. This approach has been helpful in promoting prevention of VAW in sport and workplaces.

beyondblue

Our discussion: As violence is the major social factor that underpins depression in women and is the leading contributor to death, disability and illness for women, this missing link needs to be more widely recognised. Victim/survivors present to doctors more often with a variety of health issues, including depression, risk-taking behaviours and suicide attempts. The overwhelming majority don't disclose their history of violence and tend to be treated symptomatically when doctors don't understand.

beyondblue would consider organising a campaign of raising awareness for survivors when doctors have a better understanding of the links and how to treat optimally.

Contribution to National Centre of Excellence in Research to Reduce VAW Survey.

The critical dissonance between survivors' real healthcare needs over a lifetime and service provision were emphasised based on findings from the HHWNJS project.

2012 Publication

Australian Family Physician: Sexual trauma in women. The importance of identifying a history of sexual violence. S Caroline Taylor, J Pugh, R Goodwach, J Coles. AFP vol 41, 7, pp538-541 based on the research and findings from the HHWNJS project.

Resolutions accepted:

2011:

The "Ending Gender-based Violence in the Asia-Pacific Region" Roundtable at Government house, Canberra endorsed the following AFMW recommendation:

"To ensure that health professionals are trained and supported to recognise and respond sensitively to gender-based violence and the serious physical and psychological sequelae over a lifetime. They should know pathways to care for survivors and support services and be equipped to provide long-term care".

Projects + Advocacy cont'd

2010:

The MWIA International Congress unanimously adopted the following resolutions put forward by the AFMW based on the 2010 HHWNJS project:

In recognition that sexual violence to adults and children has far-reaching medical, psychological and community consequences for survivors and their communities, the MWIA:

- Supports the elimination of all forms of sexual violence
- Supports the education of communities to raise awareness and change attitudes towards sexual violence
- Supports the education of health professionals to recognise, respond to and effectively support survivors of sexual violence and;
- Calls for the provision of long-term integrated counselling and health services to better support the survivors of sexual violence across a lifetime.

Dr Raie Goodwach, Immediate Past President, VMWS & Co-ordinator, HHWNJS Project

Ongoing AFMW projects:

- Leadership Skills Database, 2008-ongoing

Past AFMW projects include:

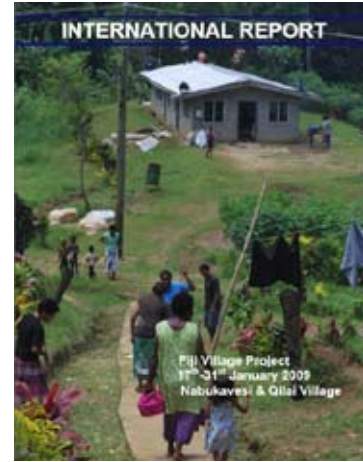
- Happy Healthy Women Not Just Survivors National Report Launch, Sept 2010 (This project was funded by the Australian Women's Coalition Inc, from funding received from the Australian Government, Office for Women)
- Happy Healthy Women, Not Just Survivors National Summit, May 2010 (funded by the Australian Women's Coalition Inc, from funding received from the Australian Government, Office for Women)
- Bridging Leadership Barriers (BLB) Project, 2008-09 (\$89,000 grant Australian Government, Office for Women's 2007-08 Leadership and Development Programme Grants)
- AFMW Author, Dr Jillian Tomlinson received the Australian Virtual Centre for Leadership for Women (CL W)'s 2009 "National Leadership Achievement for Women Award" for her work on the BLB project.
- The AFMW Website, 2008-09 (The AFMW gratefully acknowledges the Commonwealth Government Office for Women Leadership and Development Programme as a source of website funding in 2008-09)
- The Nigeria Widows Project (MWIA)
- Support for Rural and Remote Female Doctors in Australia and Developing CPD & Mentoring For Rural & Remote Women Doctors, 2004-2005 (\$50,000 grant Australian Government, Office for Women's Grants Programme)
- Achieving Gender & Cultural Competence by Australia's Medical Workforce, 2004-05 (\$50,000 grant Australian Government, Office for Women's Grants Programme)
- Women Talk Cancer, 2003-04 (\$50,000 grant Australian Government, Office for Women's Grants Programme)
- Gender Based Medical Education, 2003-2004 (\$50,000 grant Australian Government, Office for Women's Grants Programme)

AFMW State Member Groups

ACT & Region Medical Women's Society (MWS ACT & Region)

The MWS ACT & Region held another successful annual mentoring event for the medical students called 'the juggle' in April. In June they held a midyear Christmas dinner as a fundraiser. They auctioned numerous items and services that had been generously donated. On 19th September the MWS ACT held their 20 years celebration.

In 2012 the MWS ACT & Region reviewed the charities they supported and sought out suitable local charities in order to ensure an even mix of local and international charities. They continue to support the following:



The Fiji Village Project

Women and Environment of the Congo Project (PFE)

PFE is a French programme which was established in 1999 in Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) by an association of women committed to developing socio-economic and environmental initiatives for rural and urban women in Kivu.

The organisation aims to facilitate the socio-economic reintegration of vulnerable women, and assist in their recovery by empowering them through a variety of environmental, social and educational support programs.

NEWPIN

Newpin (New Parent and Infant Network) is an intensive child protection and parent education program that works therapeutically with families under stress to break the cycle of destructive family behaviour and enhance parent-child relationships.

The Fiji Village Project

The Fiji Village Project aims to work with communities in Fiji to improve health outcomes through community empowerment by means of education, training and necessary resource provisions. The MWS ACT & Region has been supporting the Fiji Village Project by conducting fundraising events for the project.

The project is a student-based initiative developed by medical students from the Australian National University (ANU), Fiji School of Medicine (FSM) and University of Auckland. The project involves the provision of water tank systems for selected villages to promote environmental sustainability through rainwater harvesting in the region. Health interventions conducted included baseline screening for the village, a village clean-up campaign, and education about cancer, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

The AFMW embraces social media as a communication tool - for communicating with our members, our patients, the wider community and government and non-government organisations.

AFMW State Member Groups

NSW Medical Women's Society (MWS NSW)

The MWS of NSW was invited to be part of the Australian Arab Women's Dialogue Dinner held in March. The Arab delegates were from diverse backgrounds, all making significant contributions to their emerging democracies and occupying positions of leadership. The discussions were the first to be held here, and explored women's participation in contemporary developments in the Arab world and in Australia. Speakers included Dr Houriya al-Kazim - the first female surgeon trained in the UAE who talked about the momentous changes taking part in the Middle East, and Anna Bligh who spoke about leadership and the importance of young women following on the ground breaking that has already begun in the Arab world.



The MWS of NSW hosted an interesting dinner in early 2013. An impressive number of members were rewarded for their attendance at our April dinner by being privy to three inspiring and thought provoking presentations. The evening opened with a presentation by Associate Professor Hadia Mukhtar. She has been involved with the Medical Association for the Prevention of War (Australia), a society affiliated with the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. She clearly demonstrated that a medical career can take you many places, if you take the initiative to drive it in a particular direction.

Chloe Abbott, a 4th Year medical student at the University of Sydney, spoke about the intern crisis. Currently graduating medical students may not even have the opportunity to begin their working medical career due to a lack of intern positions. Chloe is one of the founding members of the group Medical Student Action on Training (MSAT).

Our final speaker, Dr Elizabeth Feeney an Executive Councillor of the Federal Australian Medical Association (AMA), then explained the AMA's position on the training crisis. The AMA worked with groups like MSAT and the Australian Medical Student's Association (AMSA) last year to assist with obtaining intern positions for all graduating medical students. Our mentorship programme continues and the committee continues to support various appropriate issues as they arise.

We are hoping to increase the number of committee members at our upcoming Annual General Meeting and to look at supporting other projects in 2014.

QLD Medical Women's Society (QMWS)



We opened the year with a well-attended Annual General Meeting (AGM) on February 27th, and welcomed new medical women to the Queensland Medical Women's Society (QMWS). The AGM discussed important business from 2012 and concluded with an election for the QMWS executive committee. This was followed by the first formal dinner of the year. Our guest speaker was Dr Catherine Yelland, a Geriatrician, who did not disappoint us with her very entertaining and enlightening talk on Mentors and Mentees. The QMWS second dinner meeting was held on May 22nd. Our guest speaker, Dr Samaratinga, a Urologist, gave us a rather insightful talk on "It's not just a Man's world: Prostate Cancer and Beyond". Dr Nick Earls, an award-winning novelist, is a confirmed speaker for our next meeting. The QMWS is also planning a "wine and cheese event", which will allow partners to attend. The QMWS is working on its own website, and plans to launch it by the end of the year.

AFMW State Member Groups

SWIM (Supporting Women In Medicine) is a medical student organization and an integral part of the QMWS. This year, it continued to provide academic and social support to the young medical women through career information evenings, tutorials, a buddy program, and various social events.

South Australian Medical Women's Society

Traditionally, the membership base in South Australia has been quite small. There is a saturation of medical student groups in Adelaide, with a strong focus on women in medicine, such as the AdeLadies Society and other student groups running special workshops for women in medicine. There is scope for collaborating with such groups and events in the future. The AFMW is continuing to grow its base in South Australia.



Victorian Medical Women's Society (VMWS)

The VMWS has seen a busy year:

- Students on our committee have acted in shadow roles on the committee, thereby being mentored and trained in new skills.
- Attended the United Nations (UN) 57th Commission on the Status of Women, to end all violence against women and girls, held in New York March 2013. "Take a Stand" presentation delivered by Dr Magdalena Simonis. "HHWNJS project presented by Dr Raie Goodwach.
- Endorsement of the VMWS Female Genital Cosmetic Surgery position statement.
- Memorandum of Understanding with Women's Health Victoria (WHV) signed.
- Dr Magdalena Simonis' involvement and collaboration with WHV on their FGCS issues paper, February 2013.
- Constitution review and incorporation process under way. Successful Pilch submission for pro bono assistance for incorporation process and endorsement for charitable status.
- Article by Dr Magdalena Simonis on 'FGCS, Brazilian Waxes and the GP' was published in the PapScreen April newsletter
- Arab Australian dialogue through the Office for Women brought a delegation of nine Arab speaking women to Australia in March of 2013. Dr Houriya Al Kazim, United Arab Emirates (UAE) first ever female breast surgeon, introduced to BCNA by Dr M. Simonis. Both attended a two hour information session where BCNA offered support and materials to Dr Kazim to take to the UAE and develop there.
- Dr Magdalena Simonis also provided assistance with "Labia Library" website development for young women with questions regarding normality of anatomy and explanation of issues surrounding Female Genital Cosmetic Surgery (FGCS), through focus group discussions.



AFMW member Dr Marjorie Cross presented a paper on a unique Australian project exploring solutions to the problems of workplace violence for health workers...in rural and remote Australia at Seoul, Korea

AFMW State Member Groups

- Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA) partnership - Invitation to participate in discussions regarding research projects into metastatic breast cancer in young women and other research projects, collaboration for NHMRC grants, lobby and educate community.
- Dr Magdalena Simonis invited to speak at the Australasian Sexual Health Conference October 26th Darwin, "Addressing young women's desire for genital beauty"
- Dr Magdalena Simonis' involvement and collaboration on WHV FGCS issues paper.
- VMWS invited to join review panel for the Prevention of VAW position paper, being developed by the Australian Women's Health Network
- Dr Magdalena Simonis invited by BCNA to review, inform and deliver twice yearly Community Liaison Programmes.
- VMWS endorsed grant application submitted by AWC for creation of app aimed to guide youth affected by domestic violence.
- Australian Centre for Leadership for Women published "Take a Stand" presentation in their online journal.
- Human Rights Commission (HRC) - interaction and engagement.
- VMWS supporting the Human Rights Commission's Racism Stops with Me campaign.
- Dr Magdalena Simonis is an official advocate for Women's Health Victoria (WHV) in their Primary Prevention of Violence Against Women working group.
- VMWS members attended MWIA conference Korea Seoul July- August 2013.
- Engagement with external organisations for VMWS participation in research/ survey etc.
- Article provided for the University of Melbourne's 125 years of medical women 'Strength of Mind' publication, detailing the lives of medical women of influence.
- Objection to federal and state treasurer on \$2000 tax cap for professional education expenses.
- Women in General Practice (WIGP) research project via Deakin University medical faculty, regarding female GP life/ work balance and overall satisfaction.
- VMWS 2013 events i) Global Health ii) CV writing and interview skills workshop seminar iii) Lyceum book discussion luncheon with Dr Kate Richards author of Madness a Memoir iv) VMWS & Victorian Women Lawyers joint networking seminar on Femal Genital Mutilation.

Annual Constance Stone Oration

The Constance Stone Oration is awarded by the VMWS annually. The Oration is named in honour of the first woman to be registered with the Medical Board of Victoria and therefore the first woman registered as a medical practitioner in Australia. Recipients of this award are recognised for their significant contribution to the health of women and children. We thank Dr Merrilyn Murnane AM for endowing this prestigious award.

The 2013 Oration has been awarded to Dr Rosalind Terry.

AFMW: Acting for and representing medical women in all matters of mutual interest at national and international levels and, in particular, in relation to the further education of Australian medical women

AFMW State Member Groups

Western Australian Medical Women's Society (WAMWS)

Sophie McCarthy continued as the Western Australian Student Representative for WAMWS in 2013. She was joined by Sarah Opie (3rd year medical student at Notre Dame Fremantle) and Jemma Hogan (2nd year medical student at Notre Dame Fremantle).



The annual Women in Medicine High Tea was once again held to coincide with International Women's Day, on March 10th at the Pagoda Restaurant in South Perth. There were 52 women in attendance, mostly students from UWA and Notre Dame. Professor Christobel Saunders spoke to the guests about her advocacy for flexible training in surgery and other training programs, and Dr Marion Davies told us her story of how she got to where she is in her career, which was an inspiring story. The AFMW representatives got incredibly positive feedback about the speakers as well as the delicious food.

The student representatives would like to continue the High Tea event in the future with the aim to encourage more female doctors to attend. 42 new members joined at the High Tea, bringing the current membership to over 100.

There is continued interest in the WA AFMW Facebook group, with a total of 81 members. We continue to see interesting posts from student representatives, doctors and medical students.



March 2013 High Tea Event



Financial Statements

Audited Financial Accounts

The financial records of the Australian Federation of Medical Women (AFMW) are audited annually by Widdup Barilla Accountants.

The audited reports are appended to this Annual Report. Refer to Attachment A: 2013 Audited Financial Statements of the AFMW.

Dr Sharon Tivey, Treasurer, AFMW



Kate Duncan, Desiree Yap and Deb Colville arriving at the Korean Medical Women's Association Dinner



Deb Colville and Susie Close - Honorary MWIA Members

