

July 2, 2009

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Join AMWA Today!

AMWA's Donor Members include contributors who believe in AMWA's mission and goals through advocacy and our charitable programs. Donation categories are variable and affordable. To Donate Now, [Click HERE](#). For those interested in Voting Membership categories, annual dues are as follows: Member, \$225; Discounted & Non-Physician Member, \$150; Resident Member, \$100; Medical Students, \$75 (one time fee); and Undergraduate Students, \$25 (one time fee).

Donate to AWHs

Help AMWA maintain and expand vital programs by supporting the American

American Medical Women's Association

This message contains graphics. If you do not see the graphics, [Click here to view](#)



Dr. Elinor Christiansen autographs her book Doctor Lois, Woman Surgeon of China, for an Annual Meeting attendee.

AMWA News

AMWA Board of Directors Nominations

Interested in becoming more involved with AMWA? We have several leadership roles open for the 2010/2011 AMWA Board of Directors.

- President-Elect
- Treasurer
- Director (3)

Required for nominations:

- **Completed Profile Questionnaire**
- CV (resume)

Email completed Profile Questionnaire and CV to associatedirector@amwa-doc.org. Deadline for nominations is July 31, 2009.

2010 Award Nominations

Nominations for the 2010 AMWA Awards are now being accepted for the awards below.

Elizabeth Blackwell Award

This award, initiated in 1949 by Elise S. L'Esperance, M.D., is granted annually to a woman physician who has made the most outstanding contribution to the cause of women in the field of medicine.

Bertha Van Hoosen Award

This award is named in honor of the Founder and first President of AMWA, and honors a woman physician who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and service to AMWA, and has been an active member for at least five years.

Lila Wallis Women's Health

This award is given in the name of one of AMWA's most beloved Past Presidents.

Women's Hospitals Service. AWHS supports medical clinics for the underserved and international travel grants for young women physicians and medical students. Your gift to AWHS is fully tax deductible, and you will have the comfort of knowing that each AWHS-supported clinic's service and quality of care is monitored by AMWA physicians. You can see the stories of our clinics and read stories told by students who have received our travel grants posted on our website, www.amwa-doc.org. To order AWHS logo note cards, [click here for an AWHS Note card Order Form](#)

AMWA thanks our Corporate Partners for their continued generous support:









Each year, the award is given to an individual whose lifetime achievements, accomplishments, motivation, mentorship, energy and enthusiasm for women's health, education, and research reflect the trailblazing achievements and influences in women's health exemplified by Dr. Lila A. Wallis.

Woman in Science Award

This award is given to a woman physician who has made exceptional contributions to medical science, especially in women's health, through her basic and/or clinical research, her publications and through leadership in her field.

Anne C. Carter Leadership Award

This award honors the memory of Anne C. Carter, MD, and is in recognition of a national student leader in AMWA. *The award honors Dr. Carter's dedication to the welfare and success of all women medical students. Dr. Carter's life was a celebration of what women can achieve and contribute to others. For many years, Dr. Carter was Trustee of the Financial Aid Fund of AMWA's New York Branch 14, served as Chair of the Student Loan and Scholarship Committee, and on the AMWA Foundation Board.*

Email nomination and CV to associatedirector@amwa-doc.org by December 31, 2009.

AMWA Resident Members- New Rate

AMWA Resident Members- the rate for our members in residency is now \$100 for the duration of your residency. If you are currently a Resident member, please email your anticipated completion year to associatedirector@amwa-doc.org so we can extend your membership. If you are a Medical Student about to graduate, or have already graduated, don't forget to renew your membership at the new level

AMWA Bed and Breakfast Program

Remember when you were a medical student? Would you like the opportunity to connect with one and offer your support and wisdom? Then sign up to be a part of the Bed & Breakfast Program! When AMWA medical students interview for residencies, costs for travel can quickly pile up. By allowing them to stay with you for a night, you can help defray this expense while having the opportunity to get to know a student AMWA member. You do not need to have a spare room or provide a breakfast buffet; students happily sleep on couches and enjoy a bowl of cereal in the morning. They know you are a busy physician with things to do, too! If you are interested in participating in this unique opportunity, please provide your name and contact information (home address, phone number, and email address) to amwastudent@gmail.com. Thank you SO much for paying it forward! We are confident that participating students will one day do the same.

Save the Date!

AMWA will again team up with the Institute for Women's Health for the 2010 meeting. It will be held at The Crystal Gateway Marriott in Crystal City, VA. The dates will be Friday, March 26 through Sunday, March 28.


Join Us! - Call for Committee Members

Interested in getting more involved with your AMWA membership? Join one of our **14** committees, and donate your time and enthusiasm to grow AMWA as an association.

Choose one or more: American Women's Hospitals Service, Awards and Nominations, Annual Meeting/Program, Communications, Fundraising, Global Outreach, Membership, Physician Branch Affairs, Policy and Advocacy, Resolutions/Position Papers, Senior Physicians, Student Affairs, Women's Health, and Career Development.

Email your interest in a committee or questions to associatedirector@amwa-doc.org.

AMWA Legacy Fund



Help preserve AMWA's legacy for future generations. Funds are needed to support AMWA's permanent exhibit in the lobby of Drexel University's new building for the Institute for Women's Health and Leadership (Philadelphia, PA). The institute is also the home for the Archives & Special Collections on Women in Medicine, the largest collection of material pertaining to the history of women in medicine, including AMWA's historical documents and photos from the founding meeting in 1915 to the present day. Donations of \$2,500 and above will be individually recognized in the lobby's "Wall of Fame" display. [Click here to donate now!](#)

AMWA Branch Activities

In May, AMWA Branch 30 hosted a Women in Medicine dinner event at Kilalo, a local massage studio in Oakland, CA. In addition to meeting new colleagues and enjoying a 10 minute massage, we were inspired by the story of Costa John and the journey which ultimately brought him to Ground Zero and Hurricane Katrina where he became an integral part of the relief efforts there. By the end of the evening, we found our own spirits refreshed and uplifted. For more information about upcoming AMWA Branch 30 events, please contact ElizaChin_md@yahoo.com.

We welcome reports from AMWA branches around the country. Please send updates to associatedirector@amwa-doc.org.

Are you involved in a local AMWA branch?

AMWA headquarters is updating the branch listings, so please email your branch name and contact information to associatedirector@amwa-doc.org.

Medpedia.com

In order to raise the professional profiles of our members, facilitate group dialogue and increase the networking potential of the AMWA, we've joined Medpedia, the new technology platform for the global health community.

Medpedia is a long-term project, launched last week, that includes three features: a collaborative knowledge base, a professional network and directory for health professionals and organizations, and communities of interest in which medical professionals and non-professionals can share information about conditions, treatments and lifestyle choices.

By joining Medpedia, physicians and PhDs will have the opportunity to create and edit medical articles, or opt to oversee content on a specialized topic and receive credit for it. Each member of our group can set up their own professional profile, viewable by the public, and participate in the AMWA discussion forum. We hope that this will open dialogue within our organization, and that you'll post questions or comments to the community on Medpedia.

[Follow this link to join the group.](#)

Policy, Legislation & Oversight

Dr. Omega Silva Attends a White House Meeting

June 18, 2009---Dr. Omega Silva attended a White House meeting with physicians on healthcare in the context of prevention and cutting costs with Drs. Zeke Emanuel, Bob Kocher, Kavita Patel and Dora Hughes co-moderating the discussion. Dr. Silva's suggestion on preventing obesity by having retired physicians engage children in discussions to educate them about nutrition and health with the eventual goal of changing attitudes about food was recorded at HealthReform.gov. She commented on the difficulty of treating obesity.

New York State Allows Payment for Egg Donations for Research

State officials have ruled that stem cell researchers may use state research funds to pay women who give their eggs for studies. Previously, researchers have relied on unused embryos created during the in vitro fertilization process or reprogrammed skin cells for their research. Donated fresh eggs are much more viable harvesting grounds for stem cells than discarded embryos. New York is the first state to allow payment for egg donation for research, although women around the US are routinely paid for donating their eggs directly to infertile couples. New York has approved compensation up to \$10,000 per women. Stem cells are the origin of all cells in the human body, and have the potential to transform the future of medicine by providing new ways to treat various diseases. Those in favor of compensation for egg donation say it is a necessary measure to procure stem cells for research, while detractors fear it is an exploitation of women's bodies.

[Read the full story on nytimes.com](#)

Health & Wellness

Doctors Say More Ovary Transplants Possible

Researchers have discovered two new techniques for preserving and transplanting ovaries, which may give women the edge over their biological clocks in the battle to have children later in life. Ovarian transplants have been costly and risky in the past, and only performed on women with ovarian cancer. New advancements for preserving and implanting ovaries may reduce the cost and risk of ovarian transplants, making them more widely available. With these advancements, women in their 20s or 30s would have to elect to have an ovary removed and frozen, to be re-implanted years later when they were ready to bear children. Although previous ovarian transplant efforts have faced problems in restoring the ovary's function, new methods have overcome this roadblock by dividing the transplant into two procedures. The concept of removing a healthy woman's ovary is still controversial, however, and studies will have to continue to prove the success of such transplants before mainstream ovary removals and preservation are performed.

[Read the full story on washingtonpost.com.](#)

New Cancer Treatment Shows Promise in Testing

Researchers in Australia have developed a new method of attacking cancer cells that has proven surprisingly effective in animal tests. The researchers aimed to address two of the biggest drawbacks of standard chemotherapy: lack of specificity and the resistance that cancer cells often develop to treatment. So far, the treatment has been successful in mice implanted with human uterine tumor and dogs with advanced brain cancer. Cancer experts not involved with the study are interested in the new method, but also wary - the majority of new cancer research that has proven successful in the past in animal testing have not proven effective in humans. Because of the resilience of cancer cells, multiple approaches to killing off the deadly cells are needed. The Australian team plans to begin testing their research on human patients in a Melbourne hospital later this summer.

[Read the full story on nytimes.com](#)

Bone Therapy May Not Always Need Monitoring

Many cancer patients take high-dose antioxidant supplements such as vitamins C and E, beta-carotene, and selenium with the thought process that boosting other aspects of their health will help them fight off their cancer and get through chemotherapy or radiation treatment. However, these supplements may actually be interfering with their cancer treatment. Radiation and some chemotherapy treatments generate free radicals, which antioxidant supplements may then "clean up," preventing the free radicals from attacking the cancer as they are supposed to. Some studies have also shown that antioxidants help cancer cells thrive, just as they help healthy cells thrive. Despite experts' concerns about the interaction of antioxidants and cancer, a recently published report shows that 60% of breast cancer patients surveyed who were undergoing chemotherapy,

hormone, or radiation treatment were simultaneously taking antioxidant supplements. Seventy percent of those women were taking high-dose supplements, defined as doses higher than those found in a normal multivitamin. The American Cancer Society advises patients not to take vitamins and supplements during cancer treatment, but given the results of this study, clinicians should remind patients of the hazards of supplements while they are being treated for cancer.

Read the full story on healthday.com

Professional Development

MWIA Conferences

All AMWA members are also members of MWIA (Medical Women's International Association).

The Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) wants to remind AMWA members that by virtue of their membership in AMWA that they are automatically members of MWIA. MWIA is divided into eight regions—Northern, Central and Southern Europe, North and Latin America, Central Asia, Near East and Africa and Western Pacific. Each region is represented by a Vice President and Dr. Shirley Hovan from Red Deer, Alberta, is the current Vice President for North America.

The executive of MWIA is elected for a three year period and this took place at the International Congress in Accra, Ghana, in August, 2007. Dr. Atsuko Heshiki from Japan is the current President, Dr. Afua Hesse from Ghana is the President-elect, Dr. Gabrielle Casper from Australia is the Past President, Dr. Shelley Ross of Canada is the Secretary-General (secretariat@mwia.net) and Dr. Gail Beck from Canada is the Treasurer.

Each triennium, each region has a regional meeting. In the past few months, Latin America's meeting was held in Puerto Rico and Northern Europe's meeting in Malmo, Sweden. In 2009, MWIA looks forward to three regional meetings: Central Europe in Vienna in May, Near East and Africa in Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania, in July and our very own North American meeting on board ship sailing from Boston through the Canadian Maritimes and Quebec City to Montreal from September 19-26, 2009.

Let me take this opportunity to invite all AMWA colleagues to attend the North American meeting. Let us make it truly international as both Canadians and Americans meet to discuss the theme of ***Taking Care of the Caregiver***, aimed at the health and well-being of physicians. For further information and booking before the early bird deadline of November 30, 2008, please e-mail cruises@seacourses.com. All bookings must be made through this agency.

Comprehensive Breast Centers of Excellence September 30-October 2, 2009, Baltimore, Maryland

Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer in women in the United States and the leading single cause of death overall in women between the ages of 40 and 55. According to the American Cancer Society, nationwide there is a new diagnosis every 3 minutes and a death from breast cancer every 14 minutes. Due to the most recent advances in technology, shrinking reimbursements, economic pressures of managed care and increasing number of baby boomers, most hospitals, physicians and healthcare facilities are starting to see the benefits of defining themselves by comprehensive breast center of excellence. As a healthcare executive, it will be imperative for you to develop the planning and investment strategy to succeed in this highly competitive field and capture the consumer market. Join us for this 3 day strategic business meeting with distinguished speakers covering topics such as:

- Creating a state of the art comprehensive breast center to improve patient care, enhance workflow and efficiency
- New models for achieving operational excellence

- Accreditation programs for breast centers
- Maximizing the competitive advantage by providing innovative, integrated, high-quality and cost-effective care

To learn more, call 414-221-1700 x130 or gbosch@acius.net

Register Today for Reproductive Health 2009

Registration is now open for *Reproductive Health 2009*. This is the cornerstone conference in reproductive health hosted annually by the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals, the Planned Parenthood Federation of America National Medical Committee, and the Society of Family Planning.

Make plans to join us for networking with committed colleagues and cutting-edge sessions on reproductive health research and clinical practice. Many distinguished speakers are already confirmed, including Jacqueline Darroch, senior fellow at the Guttmacher Institute; Henry Gabelnick, executive director of CONRAD; Scott Gilbert, professor at Swarthmore College; Joseph Speidel, Bixby Center director and professor at UCSF; and Beverly Winikoff, president of Gynuity Health Projects.

Reproductive Health 2009 will be held September 30 – October 3 in Los Angeles. Register early for discounted conference rates and first choice of breakout sessions. For more information, visit www.ReproductiveHealth2009.org.

Membership Updates

New AMWA Members Only section

Please be sure to check out the new AMWA Members Only page of the AMWA website. An email was sent out in early April with your user ID and password, so please be sure to test out the new features. You can now update your profile online, renew your dues, and browse the member directory. If you have any questions, or need a user ID and password, please email associatedirector@amwa-doc.org.

High-Performance Lab Coats & Scrubs-For Female Physicians

For the first time ever, healthcare industry lab coats get sophisticated, stain-fighting and wrinkle-resistant properties with the combination of DuPont Dual Action Teflon® fabric protector and HIGH IQ Easycare Plus fabric finish. Designed especially for a woman's physique, Medelita women's lab coats repel and fight stains, while its machine washable fabric maintains a wrinkle free, professional finish.

"We believe that women in medicine deserve a lab coat that works just as hard as they do, and are extremely proud to be the first to design a flattering women's lab coat that is also functional. You can't see or feel the nanotechnology, but it keeps our coats stain-free and sharp, right out of the dryer," says Medelita Founder, Lara Manchik, PA-C.

"Moving freely and feeling comfortable all day in a lab coat 50+ hours per week, while maintaining a fresh, confident appearance is very important to the conscientious modern female clinician."

Made from high-denier, 100-percent brushed cotton, Medelita lab coats are designed with a focus on fit and function. The tailored lab coat has a feminine shaping, collar design and waist detail, a hidden inside pocket, and traditional side slits. Medelita fluid-resistant lab coats are available in 4 styles and 2 lengths in sizes 0 – 16, with optional custom embroidery. High-performance Dri-release® with FreshGuard clinician scrubs are also available in petite, regular and tall sizes.

Medelita proudly supports AMWA in its mission to advance women in medicine and improve women's health. AMWA members receive a 15% discount on www.medelita.com orders by entering coupon code **AMWA** at checkout.

Medelita will also donate 10% of all member sales directly to the American Medical Women's Association.

The STAR Doctor Medical Professional Liability Insurance Program for Women in Medicine

The Star Doctor Insurance Program provides Preferred Medical Professional Liability Insurance for Women Physicians. Coverage is available for most specialties.

The Star Doctor Insurance Program product is backed by an insurer who has provided Medical Professional Liability Insurance for over 35 years and is rated "A XIII" (Excellent) by A.M. Best Company.

Our program for Women in Medicine combines the value of competitive premiums with preferred and specialized features for Women Physicians who need to balance their personal and professional lives. (Some states are not eligible).

STAR Doctor Medical Professional Liability Insurance Highlights

- "Nose" or Prior Acts Coverage is available
- Affordable, part-time rates
- Free, automatic coverage for your locum tenens physician for up to 45 days
- Free, Unlimited Tail protection in the event of death, disability, or retirement (certain conditions may apply)
- Unlimited Tail available
- Legal Defense protection
- No deductible
- Defense expense paid in addition to the limit of liability
- Leave of absence features designed for new parents, illness, continuing education, and caring for family members
- Outstanding claim services

For more information, please contact: Jodie Cole, Senior Vice President, Ext. 222 jodiec@woodinsurancegroup.com.

Journal of Women's Health is expanding its monthly Bulletin Board section to include more information on the following topics. Kindly put JWH@liebertpub.com on your news alerts and/or let us know when there is news or new projects or programs that the women's health community should be aware of, such as:

- Centers of Excellence activities
- Fellowship announcements
- New women's health programs
- New funding opportunities
- Special events
- Advocacy activities

If you are an AMWA member, and you are not taking advantage of your FREE online Journal Subscription, email info@amwa-doc.org and we will send you the instructions on how to receive this great membership benefit!

Doctor's Digest

NOW...Doctor's Digest ON THE IPHONE/IPOD TOUCH!!! iPhone/iPod Touch users can download the Doctor's Digest "Essential Practice Tip" App from the "Medical" category in the Apple® App Store or from the iTunes store. HCPs receive a new tip downloaded twice per week to their iPhone/iPod Touch. **Click here for more info.**

ALSO...FOLLOW Doctor's Digest on Facebook (www.facebook.com) and on Twitter (www.twitter.com/DoctorsDigest)

Doctor's Digest: May/June 2009 Primary Care and the Medical Home

The idea of the primary care medical home is gaining support from payors and

physicians alike. This issue talks about the technology and other tools you'll need to transform your practice, and how to get paid for practicing this type of patient-centered care.

Doctor's Digest: March/April 2009 Accurate Billing and Coding

As claims data is used for quality improvement projects and other purposes beyond reimbursement, getting coding right is more important than ever.

Doctor's Digest: January/February 2009 Time Management

Effective time management can make practices more efficient and profitable *and* improve the quality of physician's lives. This issue will offer practical tips and real-life examples for managing a busy schedule at work and at home.

Doctor's Digest: Free E-Subscription, Podcasts and Vodcasts on Demand

AMWA members and subscribers receive a free e-subscription to *Doctor's Digest*, access to all back issues and practice management podcasts and vodcasts on demand 24/7. Getting your free 2009 e-subscription and accessing the back issues is easy: just go to the ***Doctor's Digest*** page on AMWA's website and click on the link provided. Follow the links on www.doctorsdigest.net for access to the podcast and vodcast series.

AMWA invites you to participate in our continued E-volution by giving us feedback about what you like or don't like about our weekly news and information e-mail. If you have suggestions regarding readability, content, timeliness, etc. send them to amwa@fernley.com.

If you have been forwarded this message and would like to subscribe, please email amwa@fernley.com with your name and "subscribe to e-newsletter" in the subject line.

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