

January 15, 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). AMWA Moves to Philadelphia

American Medical Women's Association

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



AMWA Annual Meeting
In conjunction with
Women's Health 2009:
The 17th Annual Congress
March 27-29, 2009
The Williamsburg Lodge, Williamsburg, VA

In collaboration with Journal of Women's Health and VCU Institute for Women's Health. For more information, and a list of presentations, [Click Here](#) Book now! Visit the website below to reserve your room. [Click here to view the AMWA events here.](#)

Countdown to Universal Access

WomenCount

We are excited to tell you about an important new effort we have joined – and we are asking for your support and participation. Women have been at the center of the conversation during the election, and **it's our job to make sure that's where we stay**. Along with WomenCount, a non-profit grassroots organization, we are calling on President-elect Obama to create a Presidential Commission on Women in his first 100 days. The new Commission will bring together the best thinkers across all political parties, generations, backgrounds, ethnicities, and industry sectors to make change happen where we know we need it. For more information, view the [commission FAQ](#).

With your help, WomenCount will make sure that the Commission's work is carried out. Your part, now, is to **sign the petition**, and then **forward it to your friends and family** with a personal note.

Help us make this happen. It's our time!

Obama Administration Asks for Ideas

The Obama Administration is asking us to submit ideas on health care reform - what we want in a new health care system. This is an opportunity for women to make sure the new administration hears our voices.

Donate to AWHs

Help AMWA maintain and expand vital programs by supporting the American 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:









The administration's website, *HealthCare -- Of the People, By the People* asks:

Tell us your story, why health care is important to you, or what you'd like to see an Obama-Biden administration do and where you'd like the country to go.

The Center for Policy Analysis and Rekindling Reform, two major health reform organizations in the country have put forth a concise and a thoughtful proposal, ***A First 100 Days Health Agenda: Toward Equitable, Quality, Universal, Affordable Health Care***. To begin the First 100 Days we need to:

- Expand coverage now;
- Protect public health care programs;
- Rein in private insurance;

Their proposal includes 19 action steps within the following categories:

1. Extend and expand health coverage and access.
2. Halt erosion of traditional, public Medicare.
3. Improve access to affordable medicines.
4. Build the basis for more effective efficient financing and delivery of health care.
5. Beyond the First 100 Days . . .

Read the proposal, add your own thoughts and ideas, and send it on to the administration.

Policy, Legislation & Oversight

Medicaid funding cuts unresolved as new administration takes office

Three Bush administration rules limiting federal Medicaid spending will go into effect on April 1 without action by Congress and the Obama administration, but three others could be rescinded by the new administration alone -- including a rule ending federal funding for graduate medical education.

The six rules are part of a Bush administration effort to scale back the federal government's Medicaid obligations so the program covers only what President Bush contends is required by law. The new policies would reduce federal spending by at least \$12.4 billion over five years. Health care organizations affected by the reductions have argued that the White House and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services are overstepping their authority.

Citing a need to review the changes further and maintain services, Congress in late June 2008 placed a moratorium on the six rules until April 1. A seventh Medicaid rule narrowing the scope of outpatient hospital services eligible for federal funds was published as a final rule in early November 2008. It is not covered by the moratorium.

Three of the six rules could be withdrawn by the Obama administration without action by Congress because they are only in proposed form, according to Charles Luband, an attorney for the National Assn. of Public Hospitals and Health Systems. One of those rules would end federal Medicaid GME funding, a move that would cut at least \$1.3 billion worth of medical education funding over five years.

"Those can easily be blocked by the new administration just by either withdrawing the proposed rules or by not finalizing them," Luband said. The



moratorium also prevents CMS from finalizing the three proposed rules before April, said CMS spokesman Peter Ashkenaz.

The three rules that already have become final but are not in effect can be reversed without action from Congress if the Obama White House goes through the entire rulemaking process all over again, Luband said. But the administration would need at least 90 days to do this and thus could not finish before the moratorium expires on April 1, he said. Those rules could be delayed further or reversed at any time if Congress is able to approve a new measure that receives the new president's signature.

[Click here for the full article.](#)

Take action today! Contact Senate Finance Committee members about Medicaid Funding to States and Children's Health Insurance!

Medicaid Funding to States

Across the country, low-income women and families are facing potential state cuts to Medicaid funding as Governors cope with budget deficits. The federal government can help by temporarily increasing the amount of federal matching funds (known as FMAP) sent to states.

The Senate Finance Committee is convening TODAY to determine the funds allocated for FMAP. The committee is considering cutting back on the amount they originally had considered so please take a minute RIGHT NOW and urge members of the Committee to support at least \$100 billion for FMAP!

Simply call and say "Our state needs enhanced FMAP funding. I urge you to commit at least \$100 billion for FMAP."

For contact information for Senate Finance Members, please go to the website link below, scroll down, click on the Senator's name, call his/her office, and ask to speak to the HEALTH staff. [Click here for website.](#)

2) Children's Health Insurance that includes immigrant children

While you're on the phone with the office of Senate Finance Committee members, urge swift action on the State Children's Health Insurance Program, with an additional step to include legal immigrant children. SCHIP is the same program President Bush vetoed twice last year. This legislation expands health care for kids who are in working families that make too much to qualify for Medicaid, but who don't make enough to afford private insurance.

It is anticipated that the House bill, which will include lifting the 5-year ban on health care for documented immigrant children, will move quickly and pass. While hopeful, passage in the Senate will be more difficult. A major stumbling block is the Senate Finance Committee where there is disagreement over the issue of documented immigrant children.

According to our colleagues at NILC, under current law, legal immigrant children and pregnant women must wait five years before they become eligible for federally funded Medicaid and SCHIP. Americans believe this waiting period is wrong and want it eliminated. Congress can address this inequity by including the Legal Immigrant Children's Health Improvement Act (ICHIA) in the 2009 SCHIP reauthorization bill. Moreover, in these difficult economic times, Congress should be finding ways to help America's working families and states with tight budgets. ICHIA would provide fiscal relief to families as well as states and would be a key component of a strong health reform foundation. [Congress needs to pass ICHIA now, and demonstrate its commitment to children and a health care system that works for all Americans.](#)

[Senate Finance Committee members and their positions on](#)

reauthorization of SCHIP including documented immigrant health care provision:

Supportive and will vote yes:

Jeff Bingaman, NM
John D. Rockefeller, WV
John Kerry, MA
Blanche Lincoln, AR
Charles E. Schumer, NY
Maria E. Cantwell, WA

Position not yet determined:

Ken Salazar, CO
Jon Kyl, AZ
Jim Bunning, KY
Mike Crapo, ID
John Ensign, NV
John E. Sununu, NH

Olympia Snowe, MESA supportive in the past, no confirmation given this year:

Max Baucus, MT
Kent Conrad, ND
Ron Wyden, OR
Debbie Stabenow, MI

Will oppose the bill with documented immigrant health care provision included:

Chuck Grassley, IA
Orrin G. Hatch, UT
Pat Roberts, KS

Thanks to our colleagues at the National Health Law Program, Families USA, Community Catalyst and Faithful Reform for the information used in this alert! For more information visit: www.raisingwomensvoices.net

Health & Wellness

For Privacy's Sake, Taking Risks to End Pregnancy

For women from certain cultures and religions that are adamantly anti-abortion, the legality of abortion in the US may not ensure their access to the procedure. The stigma of having an abortion can be so great that many women refuse to seek out professional medical care to end a pregnancy, and instead turn to home remedies. In some Dominican communities, women report a common practice of taking misoprostol, an FDA-approved prescription pill for treating gastric ulcers, in large doses in combination with malta, a molasses-like extract. New studies show that home remedies such as an improper use of certain drugs, a combination of malted beverages and aspirin, salt, or nutmeg, throwing oneself down the stairs, being punched in the stomach, and drinking teas of avocado leaf, pine wood, oak bark, and mammon fruit peel are all popular in anti-abortion cultures. Each of these remedies have varying degrees of success in inducing abortion, and have a myriad of potential side-effects, some of which can be fatal. For women who take large doses of misoprostol, possible side effects include rupture of the uterus, severe bleeding and shock. Women cite various reasons for seeking abortion methods that can be carried out at home, including cost, immigration status, and the taboo of being seen entering an abortion clinic. While the consequences of a home abortion may be dangerous, the consequences of visiting an abortion clinic may seem worse for some women.

Read the full story on nytimes.com

Keeping That Diet Resolution

With the new year upon us, many Americans are resolving to lose weight and lead a healthier lifestyle in 2009. For those looking for some support for their weight loss goals, several websites offer tips and tools for success. **A Better Food Pyramid**, offered by Harvard nutritionists, encourages plant-based foods over red meat and grains. **Dr. Gourmet** and **Cooking Light** can help dieters plan healthy but delicious meals, while **3FatChicks.com** offers a community forum to share stories and find support from other dieters. **Weight Watchers** offers a one-week free trial followed by a paid monthly subscription to try their diet plan. **South Beach Diet** is a popular alternative to the Atkin's Diet, but emphasizes "good carbs." The site is also offering a one-week free trial, followed by a weekly membership fee.

Read the full story on nytimes.com

Study Links Osteoporosis Drugs to Jaw Trouble

Researchers now believe that the number of people taking oral osteoporosis drugs who will develop a troublesome jaw condition may be higher than previously estimated. Osteonecrosis of the jaw (ONJ) is characterized by pain, soft-tissue swelling, infection, loose teeth, and exposed bone. Previous studies showed that the risk of ONJ from taking oral bisphosphonates were negligible, but new research shows that the risk is much higher. The most commonly prescribed oral bisphosphonate prescribed in the US is Fosamax (alendronate), which is used to reduce the risk of bone fracture and increase bone mass in patients with osteoporosis. ONJ is now being seen in patients who have been taking Fosamax for as little as a year, and most commonly develops after routine tooth extraction. Merck, the company that makes Fosamax, has released a statement that calls the new study flawed and unreliable. Meanwhile, some dentists are beginning to screen all patients on their use of bisphosphonates.

Read the full story on [washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)

Prenatal Nutrition, Postnatal Allergy Protection

The old adage "an apple a day keeps the doctor away" may apply two-fold to pregnant women, who can see health benefits from apple consumption for both themselves and their unborn children. New research suggests that pregnant women who eat apples may lower their children's risk for developing asthma. A study showed that women who ate more than 4 apples a week during pregnancy gave birth to children with a 37% lower chance of asthma than the children of mothers with low apple consumption during pregnancy. Additional research shows a correlation between eating fish during pregnancy and a lower risk for childhood eczema. More and more, researchers are discovering that influences in utero have lasting consequences. Consequently, pregnant women should carefully consider what they choose to put into their body while they are carrying a child. Avoiding cigarettes and drugs is crucial, while some experts believe that avoiding nuts, peanuts, and shellfish during pregnancy can protect a child from developing food allergies. Eating a healthy and well-balanced diet during pregnancy can help ensure the good health of your child.

Read the full story on [washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)

AMWA News

Annual HPV and Cervical Cancer Summit

Lila Nevrekar, MD, FACOG attended Women in Government's fourth Annual HPV and Cervical Cancer Summit in Washington DC, on Nov.20-22, 2008 as the AMWA representative and advocacy partner. She gave a brief presentation on AMWA and its efforts on HPV and cervical cancer prevention as an introduction for ECCA and other new partners. If you are interested in viewing this presentation, please contact AMWA headquarters at info@amwa-doc.org.

Subsequently, there were lectures on cervical cancer, HPV infection, and across the globe access to Pap smear, HPV vaccine, and prevention of cervical cancer.

Women in Government with ECCA discussed the Pearl of Wisdom campaign to prevent cervical cancer and make Pearl of Wisdom pin worldwide symbol for cervical cancer prevention. More information on this project can be found here: www.pearlofwisdom.us.

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 and CARE

Holiday Gifts that CARE celebrate International Women's Day 2009 with A POWERFUL NOISE Live

Plan to join CARE (www.care.org) and more than 120,000 people gathering in 400 theaters across the United States to celebrate International Women's Day 2009. On the evening of **March 5**, CARE is hosting an unprecedented one-night event featuring the theatrical premiere of "A Powerful Noise", an acclaimed documentary that follows three extraordinary women – Hanh is an HIV-positive widow in Vietnam, Nada is a survivor of the Bosnian war, and Jacqueline educates girls in Mali. The film takes you inside the lives of these women to witness their daily challenges and significant victories over poverty and oppression. Immediately following the film, theatergoers will participate in a town hall meeting broadcast live from New York, with renowned activists and experts including Nicholas Kristof and Christy Turlington Burns, to discuss how we can help empower women around the world.

AMWA members across the country can plan to attend the event with friends and colleagues, and **AMWA branches and student branches can make A POWERFUL NOISE Live their own official International Women's Day program for 2009**. Simply visit <http://www.apowerfulnoise.org/guides.html> to download a step-by-step planning guide for how local women's groups can participate in this exciting event.

To learn more about the film, or for theatre and ticket information, visit www.apowerfulnoise.org.

AMWA members across the country can plan to attend this exciting event with friends and colleagues, and **AMWA branches and student branches can make A POWERFUL NOISE Live their own official International Women's Day program for 2009**. Simply visit <http://www.apowerfulnoise.org/actionkits.html> to download a step-by-step planning guide for how local women's groups can participate in this exciting event.

To learn more about the film, or for theatre and ticket information, visit www.apowerfulnoise.org.

AMWA Joins Operation Medical Libraries

Operation Medical Libraries is a grass roots program that provides much needed medical textbooks and journals to medical schools and hospitals in Iraq and Afghanistan. These remote areas often lack electricity and internet access. In addition, limited funds and governmental regulations have made it difficult to acquire medical textbooks. Originally founded as Books Without Borders, Operation Medical Libraries seeks to establish permanent medical libraries in these regions.

What to send:

Textbooks need to be new or gently used, contain current information, and published after 2001. Journals published from 2005 to present are being accepted. Complete annual sets are more useful than single issues.

How to send:

Instructions for shipping the books can be found on the website:

<http://opmedlibs.medalumni.ucla.edu>

The cost is approximately \$.50 / pound.

Testimonials:

Afghanistan is one of the most impoverished countries. The education of Afghan students is always hampered by a scarcity of resources. As such, the medical textbooks sent by Operation Medical Libraries will be an invaluable asset to Afghan students and will enrich their medical education. I thank all of the schools and organizations that contributed to this book drive.

~ Khaled Hosseini, M.D., author of Kite Runner

Blue Trunk Libraries

The Blue Trunk Library has been developed by the Library of the World Health Organization for installation in district health centers in Africa as a means of compensating for the lack of up-to-date medical and health information.



The collection, which is organized according to major subjects, contains more than one hundred books on medicine and public health.

In order to make it easier to transport and store, the collection has been packed into a blue metal trunk fitted with two shelves on which the cardboard boxes containing the books are arranged.

Among the works chosen, priority has been given to practical manuals (especially those published by WHO) offering easily accessible solutions to the medical, public health and management problems medical staff may have to face. Differing levels of education among district medical staff have also been taken into account. The same topic may be addressed in different publications from a different point of view: that of the physician, the nurse, the nursing auxiliary or health worker.

The collection, which has been deliberately kept small, is not exhaustive. Other suitable local material is available at district level and should be added.

For more flyers and newsletters, please [click here](#).

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.

wowOwow.com

AMWA was recently profiled on wowOwow.com on its "Change the World" page. According to the site's founders, wowOwow.com is a party disguised as a Web site. It is created, run and written by 16 independent-minded women, including Candice Bergen, Liz Smith, Whoopi Goldberg, Peggy Noonan and Lesley Stahl.

[Click here](#) to see AMWA's profile on wowOwow.com.

AMWA partners with Joining Forces

HealthPartners Institute for Medical Education (IME) and the American Hospital Association (AHA) are pleased to announce they have partnered with more than a dozen national organizations to promote Joining Forces – an initiative designed to help meet the healthcare needs of returning US troops.

As more and more troops return home from overseas deployments, we've learned much about their unique medical needs. Through the Joining Forces program, participating organizations will help generate greater awareness of these issues among non-military medical professionals and others whom returning military members may turn to for support and help.

For more information, visit: <http://www.joiningforcesonline.org/>.

Professional Development

CALL FOR POSTER ABSTRACTS

The 1st International Symposium on Advancing Prevention Technologies for Sexual and Reproductive Health:

**A Strategy Symposium
March 24 - 25, 2009
Berkeley, California, USA**

Existing prevention technologies to support sexual and reproductive health are inadequate in ways that are detrimental to global health.

Enhancing and expanding novel prevention options will require innovation and collaboration.

Unsafe sex is one of the highest risk factors for disability and death worldwide. Every year, 340 million people acquire one of the four primary curable sexually transmitted infections, another 4.3 million become infected with HIV, and unknown numbers acquire chronic viral and bacterial infections. In addition, recent research estimates that over 200 million women in developing countries have an unmet need for effective contraceptives. There is an urgent need to develop safe, effective, and accessible multi-purpose technologies that will prevent pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and other common reproductive tract infections.

SYMPOSIUM GOAL:

Accelerate development of multi-purpose technologies and strategies to prevent pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and other common reproductive tract infections.

SYMPOSIUM OBJECTIVES:

1. Provide a common forum to review the status of multi-purpose sexual and reproductive health (SRH) prevention technologies.
2. Explore strategies for further developing multi-purpose SRH prevention technologies.
3. Discuss methods for integrating multi-purpose SRH prevention technologies into existing delivery strategies.
4. Identify critical research and development priorities in the area of SRH prevention technologies.

POSTER ABSTRACTS ARE INVITED FOR EXISTING AND NOVEL MULTI-PURPOSE PREVENTION TECHNOLOGIES IN THE FOLLOWING THEMATIC AREAS:

1. Devices (e.g., female condom, diaphragm, etc)
2. Vaccines
3. Microbicides
4. Integration of technology with advocacy, policy, community, and program implementation (e.g., cost effectiveness, fluid mechanics, delivery/roll out, advocacy, etc)

POSTER ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- Poster abstracts must be no more than 250 words
- Poster abstracts will undergo peer review by the Scientific Program Committee
- Both quantitative and qualitative research will be considered
- Evaluation criteria: 1) quality and originality, 2) potential significance, 3) timeliness, 4) clarity of writing and presentation, 5) stage of research, 6) relevance to theme

Deadline for Poster Abstract submissions: January 31, 2009

Poster Abstract submission form online at www.rdlent.com

If you have questions about the symposium, abstract submissions, or scholarship applications, please contact Ann Hamilton at, ann@rdlent.com or (916) 443-0218.

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The National Osteoporosis Foundation is pleased to announce the 8th International Symposium on Osteoporosis (ISO8) to be held April 1-5, 2009 in Washington DC.

ISO8 is a forum for the exchange of current findings in osteoporosis and bone health. Information is communicated and disseminated through lectures, meet-the-professor sessions, clinical case studies and scientific poster presentations.

The meeting attracts attendees from all over the world and provides educational and networking opportunities for healthcare professionals with an interest in osteoporosis and bone health across the lifespan, including those working in family practice, endocrinology, rheumatology, obstetrics/gynecology, radiology, physical and occupational therapy and research. These include: physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, dietitians, radiology technicians, physical and occupational therapists and pharmacists.

Meeting Highlights

The ISO8 program has been developed around five themes.

- **Primary and secondary osteoporosis.** Sessions on secondary causes of bone loss; medication, disease and bone loss; disease and therapy-induced bone loss; osteoporosis in men; and early premenopausal women and bone
- **Clinical considerations and therapeutics.** Sessions on low peak bone mass; fundamentals and pitfalls of DXA interpreting; kyphoplasty and vertebroplasty; the role of NPs and PAs in prevention and identification of osteoporosis; and FDA-approved therapies
- **Socio-behavioral medicine, nutrition, education.** Sessions on the role of exercise in maintaining strong bones; patient and professional education; and non-pharmacological issues in osteoporosis management
- **Epidemiology, pathophysiology, genetics.** Sessions on skeletal development; premenopausal women and osteoporosis; and the genetics and pathogenetics of metabolic bone disease
- **Emerging science.** Sessions on new concepts in the physiology of skeletal health; nutrition and osteoporosis; and emerging therapies and diagnostic techniques

2009 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: WWSF PRIZE for women's creativity in rural life

The Women's World Summit Foundation WWSF cordially invites you to submit nominations for its 16th annual edition of the **PRIZE for women's creativity in rural life**, honoring creative and courageous women and women's organizations working to improve the quality of life in rural communities around the world.

Since inception of the prize program in 1994, **344 Laureates have been honored for their creativity** (as of 2009 US\$ 1000 per laureate and US\$ 3000 for established organizations in Africa). All Laureates and their profiles are published on our web site <http://www.woman.ch/home.php> . **A travelling exposition and a global poster is giving visibility to all the prize winners.**

Given your experience, interest and perspective with regard to issues of development, human rights, micro-credit, peace building and empowerment of women, we greatly appreciate your participation and thank you in advance for sending us your candidates For 2009. Prize winners will be selected from complete nominations that include all the required documents mentioned in the attached nomination guidelines. **Incomplete nominations** will not be considered.

Your candidates should arrive no later than **31 March 2009** preferably by mail to the address below:

Elly Pradervand
WWSF Executive Director
WWSF Women's World Summit Foundation
11 Avenue de la Paix 1202 Geneva, Switzerland
Email: wrd@wssf.ch www.woman.ch

CardioCareLive

CardioCareLive (<http://www.CardioCareLive>) is a Free medical conference held entirely online which brings together cardiometabolic experts with cardiologists, primary care physicians, endocrinologists, nurses, diabetes educators and other healthcare professionals in an interactive virtual environment. This online event offers Free Continuing Medical Education (CME), **Improving Cardiometabolic Patient Outcomes**, accredited through the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). The event is Tuesday, March 3rd and Wednesday, March 4th, 2009.

Register now and login on March 3-4 to attend live.

CardioCareLive delivers all the benefits of a physical medical conference, with live keynote presentations, lectures, peer networking and an exhibit floor, to the convenience of a computer making it easy for busy healthcare professionals to participate from their office or home.

Register now

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.

Membership Updates

Finally – Scrubs & Lab Coats for Female Clinicians

Lara Manchik, PA-C

Graduating from PA school in 1999, almost a decade of wearing frumpy scrubs and lab coats became a twisted comedy of getting "ready" for work in a pajama-like uniform. I've always been somewhat into fashion and style. At one point, I calculated that I was spending 30% of my week wearing scrubs. I was so used to it, but why?? Surely there must be a better option for female clinicians. And when I couldn't find one - I was fueled with motivation to change that.

The goal was simple – to source the highest quality fabrics and trim, with a focus on comfort and quality. More difficult of a task – was to maintain the traditional features of unisex style scrubs and lab coats, yet to introduce professionally appropriate feminization and modern functionality. "Finally!" seems to be the most common, welcomed response. This gives me tremendous pride – to be able

to offer my colleagues scrubs and lab coats with abundant upgrades and a flattering, professional appearance. We all deserve that.

Medelita proudly supports AMWA in its mission to advance women in medicine and improve women's health. AMWA members will receive free shipping and embroidery on their www.medelita.com orders by entering the coupon code **AMWA** at check out. Medelita will donate 10% of all AMWA sales 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: Free E-Subscription, Podcasts and Vodcasts on Demand and COMING SOON...Doctor's Digest ON THE IPHONE/IPOD TOUCH!!!

Doctor's Digest provides information and expert advice written by thought leaders and experts on topics that really matter to us, such as Personal and Professional Growth, Consumer-Driven Healthcare and Small Practice Survival. AMWA members and subscribers receive a free e-subscription to *Doctor's Digest*, access

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