



# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN

# AMWA

Don't Miss  
The 83rd  
Annual Meeting

Volume XIX, Number 1/October–November 1998

## The Woman Physician: Personal & Professional Development

More than 800 women physicians, medical students, and other health care professionals are expected to benefit from the latest knowledge imparted by some of the nation's leading experts at AMWA's 83rd Annual Meeting, November 18-22, 1998, at the New Orleans Marriott. The Annual Meeting will use educational seminars, panel discussions, and symposia to address a range of current and emerging issues affecting women physicians as well as examine cutting edge issues in women's health.

Premiering at the meeting is a new initiative for AMWA, a 12-hour Career Development Institute, focusing on issues that women physicians encounter in their careers and personal lives. Faculty from AMWA and Simmons College Graduate School of Business Management in Boston will discuss these critical topics:

- Quality Management Skills for Physicians
- Business Strategy for Your Practice
- Women, Men, and Power in the Organization
- Negotiating Skills You Should Know
- Real Gender Equity: Mentoring for Support and Progress
- Evaluating Your Whole (more than just your "net") Worth
- Leadership Styles: Which One(s) Works for You?
- Balance: My Life, My Career

On Thursday, November 19, the Opening Ceremony will feature the Keynote Speaker, Mae Jemison, MD, on the subject of "Achieving Excellence." Dr. Jemison made world and U.S. history in 1992 as the first woman of color to go into space when she flew as a mission specialist astronaut aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavor. A physician, astronaut, and scientist, Dr. Jemison founded The Jemison Group, Inc. in Houston which is dedicated to researching, developing, and implementing advanced tech-

nologies suited to the social, political, cultural, and economic context of the individual. She leads projects such as a satellite-based telecommunications system to improve health care delivery in West Africa and an international science camp to increase science literacy for high school students.

On Saturday, November 21, AMWA's Plenary Session will focus on professional career achievements of women in medicine. Featured speakers for this panel include Frances Conley, MD, an author and Professor of Neurosurgery from Stanford University School of Medicine; Barbara Ross Lee, DO, Dean, Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine; and Carolyn Robinowitz, MD, Dean for Academic Affairs, Georgetown University School of Medicine.

More than 30 educational workshops will be offered during the 4-day meeting on a wide range of women's health issues, including chemoprevention of breast cancer, estrogen research, arthritis, coronary heart disease, reproductive health, tobacco, and many others. Registrants will also learn about the latest advances in women's health care delivery at an exhibition of more than 40 industrial and scientific exhibits on Friday and Saturday.

To register, contact Gwen Miller, Director of Meetings, at the national office (703-838-0500).

### AMWA Member Giving Critical to Foundation Coffers

AMWA leaders can look forward to a strong and vibrant Foundation if they will help by making a personal gift to the Foundation in 1998. Appeals have recently been mailed to both leaders and members urging them to support the Foundation.

"The Foundation has been instrumental in providing support for me during my Presidency to experiment and innovate new programs. This can only happen if all of us will support it by writing a personal check," said AMWA President Sharyn A. Lenhart, MD.

The Foundation has maintained AMWA's historical commitment to helping medical students finance their education and supporting clinics around the world that assist the medically underserved. In recent years, the Foundation has been instrumental in financing continuing medical education for physicians and beginning new initiatives. For more information about making tax deductible gifts, bequests, and donations of stock, please contact Ellen Morgenstern, Development Consultant, at the national office (703-838-0500).

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### AMWA Delegation Visits China

Sharyn A. Lenhart, MD, President

In June a delegation of over thirty AMWA members, members of the Federation of the Medical Women of Canada (FMWC), and friends, traveled to China under the auspices of the People to People Citizen Ambassador Program. The ten-day visit included stops in Beijing, Guilin, and Shanghai, and focused on women's health, health care delivery, alternative medicine, and the status of women. Each site visit included professional meetings and networking receptions. Roundtable discussions enabled participants to hear presentations and ask questions of urban and rural physicians, medical school faculty, alternative medicine practitioners,



national and regional health care policy makers, government leaders, and dignitaries including the former First Lady of China, who



AMWA members shown meeting with representatives of the Chinese Medical Women's Association, including a former First Lady of China, He Jiesheng.

was a practicing physician. During each discussion a visual presentation of AMWA was given along with AMWA books, journals, and other organizational materials. Dr. Mano Murty, President of FMWC also presented information and materials from the Canadian group. Site visits included medical schools, urban and regional women's hospitals, urban and rural neighborhood clinics, an orphanage, and alternative medicine hospitals and clinics. AMWA leaders networked with the founders and leaders of China's national women's physician organizations and the Ministry of Health and the Shanghai Women's Medical Society, the oldest women's physician organization in China. Delegations from both the Shanghai and national organizations are planning to attend AMWA's Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

Touring included sites such as government jade and cloisonne factories, carpet and silk showrooms, the Ming Tombs, the Summer Palace, the Great Wall, cormorant fishing and a river valley, and a night market tour of Guilin. Social times allowed for networking between AMWA and the Canadian Federation members.

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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Susan Ivey, MD, MHSA

The Government Affairs Committee has been extremely active since the Interim Meeting in June. Below are some of the legislative issues that AMWA has addressed:

AMWA signed on to a letter supporting S 1890 and HR 3605, the Democratic "Patient's Bill of Rights." Our letter stated that AMWA supports all efforts to preserve or ensure patients' rights to responsible, accountable, and coordinated care.

AMWA wrote letters to Rep. Newt Gingrich and Sen. Trent Lott about the Republican versions of the Patient's Bill of Rights, HR 4250 and S 2330, expressing AMWA's position regarding patients' and physicians' rights and pointing out that there are provisions in these bills that remain to be addressed.

AMWA wrote a letter in support of the nomination of Jane E. Henney, MD as the next commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration.

AMWA sent a letter endorsing HR 4028 and S 2154, bills calling for more research on the safety of silicone breast implants.

AMWA signed on to a letter opposing a provision included in the FY 1999 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill that would require written parental notification or consent for contraceptive services received by adolescents in clinics funded by Title X, the national family planning program.

AMWA sent a letter to the American Medical Association, along with other organizations, asking that the AMA rescind their endorsement of HR 1122, otherwise known as "The Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 1997."

AMWA signed on to a letter opposing any amendments to the FY 1999 Agricultural Appropriations bill that would restrict the FDA's ability to research, develop, and approve drugs for the chemical inducement of abortion.

AMWA signed on to a letter in support of the effort to ensure that Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) plans provide adequate access to prescription contraceptives.

AMWA signed on to a letter opposing HR 3789, The Class Action Jurisdiction Act of 1998, that would help tobacco companies to evade full responsibility for the harm they have caused millions of Americans and their families.

AMWA signed on to a letter supporting HR 3868, the Bipartisan No Tobacco For Kids Act, that represents an opportunity to decrease smoking among all Americans while not providing special immunity for the tobacco industry.

For more information on AMWA's legislative activities, please contact Kelli Mills, Director of Government Affairs and Public Relations, at the national office (kmills@amwa-doc.org).

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## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

On July 16, 1998, AMWA President Sharyn A. Lenhart, MD, participated in a press conference on Capitol Hill. The topic of the press conference was, "Women, Girls, and the Threat of Tobacco: An Appeal for Global Action." The event was well attended by both reporters and representatives on Capitol Hill.

AMWA Region II Governor Clarita Herrera, MD, traveled to the 150th anniversary of the First Women's Rights Convention at Seneca Falls this past July where she had the opportunity to meet First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Past President of AMWA Doris G. Bartuska, MD, FACP, FACE, received The Award for Outstanding Achievement in a Chosen Profession from the Alumni Association of Bucknell University on May 30, 1998. Dr. Bartuska was also re-elected to the Board of Trustees of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE), of which she is a founding member.

National Student Coordinator Tanya Warwick has been the subject of several recent news articles. Both the *Herald Dispatch* of Huntington, WV and *Women's World Magazine* have published articles on Ms. Warwick's acceptance and success in medical school. In addition, Ms. Warwick had a letter to the editor published in *The Parthenon*, a publication of Marshall University.



AMWA member Clarita Herrera, MD, meets with First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

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### Interim Director of Students

*Nancy R.G. Church, MD*

As the recently appointed interim Director of Students, I would like to take a moment to express my sorrow about the death of Elizabeth Karlin, MD. Her vital energy will be greatly missed. I have been asked to serve as the Director of Students until the elections at the Annual Meeting in November. In this time of transition, I am available to answer any concerns you may have. Please contact Tangie Newborn at the national office with any questions, concerns, or comments (phone: 1-800-995-AMWA or e-mail: member@amwa-doc.org).

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## AMWA Award Winners

AMWA proudly announces the 1998 Award Recipients. Congratulations to these distinguished individuals. Awardees to be recognized at this year's Annual Meeting at the New Orleans Marriott, November 18-22, 1998 include:

Leah J. Dickstein, MD and Tina Strobos, MD - AMWA's highest honor. The Elizabeth Blackwell Award recognizes a woman physician who has made the most outstanding contribution to the cause of women in the field of medicine.

Elinor T. Christiansen, MD - the Bertha Van Hoosen Award for exceptional leadership and service to AMWA.

Edel Hondl, MD, the Camille Mermod Medal for outstanding service to AMWA. The award is presented to a non-physician or, on occasion, a physician member whose service is unrelated to her capacity as physician.

Elizabeth Barrett-Connor, MD - the Woman in Science Award for exceptional contributions to medical science.

Adaline P. Satterthwaite, MD - the Lila A. Wallis Women's Health Award for lifetime achievements and enthusiasm for women's health care that reflect the influence and achievements in women's health exemplified by Lila A. Wallis, MD, MACP.

Emily C. Culbert - the Janet M. Glasgow Essay Award for the best essay by a student member about a woman physician who has been an exceptional role model and mentor. Emily is a second year student at the University of Washington School of Medicine.

Rina Iofel - the Carroll L. Birch Award for the best research paper by a student member. Rina is a first year student at Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

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### Updated Gland Central Activities

AMWA participated in an Alliance Breakfast on Wednesday, June 3 in Washington, DC. The Alliance Breakfast was attended by Washington, DC area representatives from a number of health-related associations. AMWA representatives included AMWA Past President Debra Judelson, MD; Pamela Allweiss, MD; and Michele Bloch, MD. The breakfast was well attended and after the morning talks, a free TSH screening was provided. The meeting helped raise the awareness of thyroid disorders and the need for education on this often undiagnosed problem that disproportionately affects women.

On Saturday, September 12, the Gland Central campaign participated in Congressman Jim Moran's 7th

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## GRANT PROJECT UPDATE

### Attention All 4th Year Medical Students

AMWA still has many RHI elective opportunities available. To take advantage of this, contact Abbe Bartlett at the national office (Phone: 703-838-0500 or E-mail: abartlet@amwa-doc.org).

### RHI Workshop to be Held at the Annual Meeting

Don't forget to attend the RHI workshop at the 83rd Annual Meeting. It will be held on Sunday, November 22, 1998, from 8:00 - 10:00 am. Please check the final Program for location.

### Quarter of a Million Dollar Bequest Made to AWHS

American Women's Hospitals Service (AWHS) was recently the beneficiary of a most generous bequest by philanthropist Clare Hoover who died earlier this year in San Francisco, California. The \$273,000 bequest came as a surprise since she was not an AMWA member, but obviously believed strongly in the goals and programs of the organization and specifically in the efforts to support clinics around the world.

Clare Hoover left an estate valued at over \$8 million with the majority going to a variety of non-profit organizations and educational organizations. The AMWA Foundation Board/AWHS Committee will meet in November in New Orleans to discuss the possible uses for this most generous and memorable gift.

### DoD Breast Cancer Project Phase II Comes to an End

As the saying goes, "all good things must come to an end." As of September 30, 1998 AMWA's Breast Cancer Education for Department of Defense (DoD) Primary Care Managers Project completed its mission to train approximately 6,000 DoD primary care managers (PCMs) in breast cancer screening, diagnosis, and treatment, and to train 70 of those PCMs as Master Faculty. Between May and September of 1998, six DoD Master Faculty Training workshops were conducted; five in the US with the sixth training taking place in Heidelberg, Germany.

AMWA's Breast Health Subcommittee Chair, Laura Morris, MD, conducted the six Master Faculty training workshops which, just as the PCM workshops, received rave reviews from the attendees. According to one of the

### RHI Bolstered By Grants!

AMWA is pleased to announce that RHI received a \$10,000 unrestricted educational grant and a \$10,000 grant from The Irving Brooks Harris Foundation as well as a \$10,000 grant from The Naomi and Nehemiah Cohen Fund, to continue the success of the Reproductive Health Initiative (RHI). These grants, as well as contributions from AMWA members that are going toward the Marjorie Braude, MD matching grant challenge, have ensured that RHI will continue through 1998 (and with more generous contributions...into 1999!). If you would like to contribute to the project or to find out more about it, please contact Susan Eisendrath, MPH, Project Director (seisen@amwa-doc.org) or send your check to: AMWA Foundation-RHI, 801 N. Fairfax St., Ste. 400, Alexandria, VA 22314.

The efforts of our summer intern, Anjali Kumar, third-year medical student from University of Washington School of Medicine and AMWA Regional Student Coordinator, have resulted in AMWA establishing a partial list of international clinic sites where medical students interested in reproductive health care services can receive training. Through a joint project with Medical Students for Choice (MSFC),

RHI will develop a directory of these sites for use by medical students. Ms. Kumar also helped develop an excellent bibliography of articles and books on reproductive health topics that will be available on the MSFC Web site (<http://www.ms4c.org>). AMWA is pleased to announce that Carolyn Kalinowski, a first year masters student in George Washington University's public health program will be continuing this important work as a part-time RHI intern.

This fall, RHI will develop and pilot-test an educational program designed to assist medical schools to teach medical students condom use patient education. Ten medical schools will be involved in the pilot-test and will be surveyed on how patient education on this topic is currently covered during the course of medical school. This component of RHI is supported by a grant from The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Menlo Park, California.

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### AWMA Kicks-Off Arthritis Education Initiative at 83rd Annual Meeting

An estimated 40 million Americans have some form of arthritis or other rheumatic condition. That number is expected to climb to 59.4 million, or 18.2 percent of the population by the year 2020, according to a new report published as a collaborative effort between the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Arthritis Foundation, and the American College of Rheumatology.

Thanks to a generous educational grant from Searle, AMWA has the opportunity to develop an Arthritis Education curriculum which will, through a series of continuing medical education (CME) workshops, provide a

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## **"Nutrition and Heart Disease" Loaner Kit Applauded**

Over 30 members have used the loaner kit to present talks to lay and professional audiences, for class lectures at medical schools, and for AMWA Branch Meetings. The loaner kit, which is available to AMWA members for two months free of charge, is a user-friendly slide lecture complete with talking points and the brochure, "Guide to Heart Healthy Eating," which can be duplicated and handed out. One member commented - "Great content - both the brochure and the binder have wonderful information."

The loaner kit and the "Guide to Heart Healthy Eating" can be obtained by contacting Abbe Bartlett, MA, CHD Project Director, at the national office (Phone: 703-838-0500; E-mail: abartlet@amwa-doc.org). The brochure can also be downloaded from AMWA's Web site (www.amwa-doc.org). Both of these are part of AMWA's Education Project on Coronary Heart Disease in Women, a CME program covering the state-of-the-art in preventing, treating, and diagnosing CHD in women. The CME program will be presented next at AMWA's 83rd Annual Meeting in New Orleans - hope to see you there!

AMWA's Education Project on CHD in Women is funded by unrestricted educational grants from DuPont Pharma Radiopharmaceuticals and the National Association of Margarine Manufacturers.

## **Smoking Cessation Project in Final Stages**

The Robert Wood Johnson Grant for Smoking Cessation, begun last October, is heading into its final stages. The grant was aimed at increasing the number of physicians who effectively counsel their patients to stop smoking, and to promote the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) Guidelines for Smoking Cessation. AMWA, together with the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists, trained 13 physician trainers in smoking cessation intervention. These physicians have since been busy giving presentations of their own throughout the country. We wish to thank the many AMWA members who have generously given of their time to this project. For more information about the project, or to receive materials on smoking cessation, contact Beth Feldpush at the national office (Phone: 703-838-0500 or E-mail: bfeldpus@amwa-doc.org).

## **AMWA's Tobacco Control & Prevention Project**

AMWA members, mark you calendars! Plan to attend the Tobacco Control & Prevention Workshop during AMWA's 83rd Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA. The workshop will be held Friday, November 20 from 8:00-10:00 am. This year's topics are culturally sensitive smoking cessation guidelines and successful counter advertising techniques. Materials useful for both you and your patients will be available. Also, plan to visit the tobacco control exhibit which will be on display during the entire week. For information on the workshop, contact Elizabeth Tramer, Project Associate, at the national office (Phone: 703-838-0500).

Also, the National Coalition FOR Women AGAINST Tobacco received a briefing on the 1998 Surgeon General's Report on Minority Tobacco Use. The training was conducted by Alvina Bey Bennett of the National Medical Association. Ms. Bennett's training included overheads which provide all the report's statistics on women. The overheads are available through the Tobacco Control and Prevention Initiative.

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*Gland Central Activities continued from page 3*

Annual Women's Conference in Alexandria, Virginia. The event was scheduled in the hopes of motivating women to take charge of their own health. Gail Devers, three-time Olympic Gold Medalist and AMWA spokesperson, talked about her struggle with a thyroid disorder. The campaign chose to visit Alexandria due to its large concentration of seniors and women, the two groups most at risk for developing thyroid disease.

AMWA participated in the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) meeting in San Francisco on Thursday, September 17 and Saturday, September 19. AMWA member Susan Ivey, MD, MHSA, served as the physician representative. Attendees at the AAFP meeting were provided with a free TSH test during the conference.

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*President's Message continued from page 2*

AMWA also met with representatives from one of our US pharmaceutical sponsors to discuss the possibility of international education programs in women's health.

A second AMWA delegation with similar goals will visit Scandinavia. Both ventures will allow AMWA to expand into the global women's health arena and network with women physicians worldwide. A second International Advanced Curriculum on Women's Health, an AMWA delegate visit to Asia, and several collaborative activities with the United Nations are planned in 1999.

### **AMWA Welcomes New Staff**

AMWA is pleased to announce that Beth Feldpush has joined the national office staff as the Government Affairs and Public Relations Associate. We are also pleased to announce that Elizabeth Tramer has joined AMWA as the Project Associate of the Tobacco Control and Prevention Initiative and Stephanie Woodard has been hired as Project Manager for the PHD and CHD projects.

## Looking For Writers

Are you a writer? Have you had an experience in your medical profession that could benefit another AMWA member? In a recent survey, members have expressed a membership benefit need. Our members want information on several areas of expertise such as: How to choose a specialty; What is residency like?; How do I manage my medical career and family?; How to negotiate a contract with an HMO?; and Medical School Survival Skills.

Member Services needs physicians, residents, and students who are willing to write articles and papers on subjects with which you have experience to assist an AMWA colleague walking in your footsteps. If you are interested, please contact Tangie Newborn, at the national office (1-800-995-AMWA or email: [member@amwa-doc.org](mailto:member@amwa-doc.org)).

## The Key To AMWA's Success — 1999

Congratulations to all AMWA Members who have been busy recruiting members as a part of the 1998 Member-Get-A-Member Campaign.

The new millennium is approaching and *"The Key to AMWA's Success"* is *you*. You are vital to AMWA's recruitment efforts as we continue to be a leading women's health organization.

We encourage you to participate in the 1999 Member-Get-A-Member Campaign. Simply contact Member Services and request special MGM applications to distribute to your non-member colleagues. This year's top winners will win valuable prizes such as a complimentary registration for the 2000 Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA or a one-year complimentary AMWA membership.

## Our Gratitude to Dr. Natalie Shainess for Her Generous Bequest

AMWA member, Natalie Shainess, MD, has designated AMWA as a beneficiary of \$50,000. She has requested that upon her death her generous bequest be used to establish the Natalie Shainess Merit Fund which will grant \$5,000 annually to a woman physician to further her medical research.

Dr. Shainess is a member of New York's Branch 14 and has been recognized by AMWA with a Community Service Award for her years of service and contributions to Branch 14's Financial Assistance Fund which grants loans to medical students attending schools in the New York metropolitan area. Dr. Shainess is an internationally renowned psychoanalyst and philanthropist. She is considered a pioneer in the field of psychology of women.

AMWA thanks Dr. Shainess for what will be the first opportunity AMWA has been given to establish a grant to financially support the research of an outstanding woman physician.

## Calling All Student Branches

The Membership Committee challenges all student Branches to participate in a special Branch Member-Get-A-Member Campaign. The student Branch that recruits the most new members by September 30, 1999 will receive one complimentary AMWA student membership to use as a door prize at your Fall kick-off Branch meeting.

## Have You Moved?

When preparing your next residential or employment move, please be sure to include AMWA on your checklist. To assure that you will not miss out on vital information, *JAMWA*, newsletters, etc., call Member Services to update your mailing address, e-mail, or telephone number.

## It's Time To Renew Your 1999 Membership

We value you as an AMWA member - please do not miss out on the values that AMWA has to offer you as a woman physician. Membership Renewal Notices are in the mail. Don't delay! Renew your 1999 membership by December 30, 1998 and receive a \$25 coupon to be used towards the purchasing of AMWA products, 1999 Annual Meeting Registration, or your membership dues for the year 2000. To renew by phone (Visa or MasterCard payments only), please contact Member Services (1-800-995-AMWA).

## Questions??

If you have questions regarding membership, member services, or dues, please contact Member Services (1-800-995-AMWA or email: [member@amwa-doc.org](mailto:member@amwa-doc.org)).

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*Breast Cancer Project continued from page 4*

Master Faculty participants, a surgical oncologist from Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii, "the information was presented in a clear manner. The literature was covered concisely, bringing out several teaching points which I will incorporate into my own presentation. This was an excellent course and I would, without question, recommend it to my colleagues."

With the conclusion of this project AMWA bids farewell to Lorna Macaluso, Project Associate, and Andrea Jackson, Project Assistant, who provided dedicated support. Brenda Johnson, Project Director, will remain on staff at the National Office to support the Arthritis Education Initiative.

In the area of Breast Cancer as well as other diseases and disorders, AMWA continues to pursue new opportunities to educate health care providers and to promote issues which relate to women's health.

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## STUDENT SENATE

### NSC's Message

Ellie Hirshberg, National Student Coordinator

As my term and Tanya Warwick's term as National Student Coordinator comes to an end, we want to encourage students to do four things.

First, **COME TO THE ANNUAL MEETING!** We made an effort this year to respond to the students requests from last year, but in order to continue improving, we need your support. There is no better place to share ideas for new local projects and network with your colleagues. This year's workshops will help frame your approach for building your career and establishing a professional identity.

We recognize that funding for travel is a challenge, but encourage each Branch to raise money by asking for physician sponsors and hosting local activities. The second thing to do is make sure you have submitted a student House of Delegates (HOD) representative and alternate to the national office to represent your school by October 30, 1998. The HOD is an important time to make your opinions about issues heard. Each delegate gets a vote to decide AMWA's position on the newest issues. All meeting attendees, not just delegates, are welcome to come and participate in the discussions and debates over AMWA policy.

When you arrive at the meeting, the third thing to do is plan to attend all the student events. Look for a special insert highlighting the student meetings with your registration packet. We will provide a disc copy of a slide show for membership recruitment, helpful guidelines for starting a new Branch, and ideas for enhancing your local activities. Remember to submit a poster which creatively displays the unique nature of your Branches activities. The contest will give you a chance to share your accomplishments, influence others to do the same, and possibly win a prize.

Finally, we recommend each of you consider running for Regional Student Coordinator for your area or National Student Coordinator. Leadership positions provide a window into accomplishing a limitless number of personal and national projects. To run, please prepare a personal statement and CV and send it to Member Services. Feel free to contact either of us by e-mail if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting.

A final note, with the new partnership between AMWA and AMSA's WIM committee everyone should sign up on the WIM list serve. This provides a network for common questions and is a great way to keep up on what is happening in legislation. To sign up, send the message "subscribe igwim" and send it to major\_domo@www.amsa.org.

I hope to hear from you.

## Past Presidents Fund Archival Project

The Council of Past Presidents took on a project that was long overdue at the national office. AMWA had amassed a collection of CV's, press releases, newspaper clippings, and memorabilia of its AMWA leaders dating back to its founding that had been inadequately stored and maintained. The collection, begun years ago in AMWA's New York offices, desperately needed attention to assure its preservation.

With financial support from the Council for a student intern, for the purchase of archival quality materials such as acid free paper, folders, and mylar envelopes for photographs and a lateral file, the project was completed in August of this year.

AMWA is most grateful for the Council's generous donation that made this project possible. AMWA has always been proud of the accomplishments of its members and now can boast that its collection telling of the achievements of its leaders is of archival quality and lives on for generations to come.

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*Arthritis continued from page 4*

much needed educational opportunity for health care providers.

Through the Arthritis Education Initiative, AMWA hopes to reach as many primary care providers as possible including physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners in the family practice, internal medicine, and ob/gyn specialties. The latest discoveries concerning diagnosis, treatment, and prevention will be discussed—with particular emphasis on the treatable aspects of arthritis, especially as it affects women.

Leading this project are AMWA members Maria Greenwald, MD, and Leslie Kahl, MD, who along with a six-member advisory group, have spent the last six months developing the curriculum. The project will kick-off at AMWA's 83rd Annual Meeting in New Orleans with media coverage and a two-hour presentation on Friday, November 20, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm.

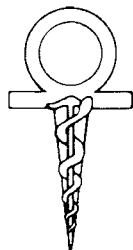
Our goal is to conduct 20 workshops by August of 1999 at or around major medical meetings throughout the country. We are recruiting and training 20 physicians from our membership to serve as Master Faculty. Once trained, each member of the Master Faculty will provide training for at least one workshop.

If you are interested in serving on the Master Faculty or have suggestions for presentation venues, please contact Brenda Johnson, Project Director, (E-mail: bjohnson@amwa-doc.org) at the AMWA national office.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN

# AMWA



**AMWA**

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## New Video About Death and Dying Available

*Jean Fourcroy, MD, PhD, AMWA Past President*

I recently had the opportunity to participate in a film discussing death and dying. It starts with the premise that too often issues of death and dying are not included in our traditional education. The Vanishing Line film was aired on PBS stations across the country in July, 1998. Approximately twenty discussion participants were included - the biographies and remnants of the discussion can be found on the PBS Web site ([www.pbs.org/pov/](http://www.pbs.org/pov/)). Also included are comments from other viewers.

The discussion from the participants included per-

sonal experience; good death; spirituality and dying; representing death; can life become a fate worse than death; economic and other considerations; improving end-of-life care; illumination; and comments about the film.

As part of my commitment to this project, I would be glad to arrange a special facilitated discussion in your Branch or hospital setting around these critical, ethical issues. E-mail me ([sjlfbehr@aol.com](mailto:sjlfbehr@aol.com)) if you would like to set something up. A copy of this tape is \$75 plus \$10 for shipping from: First Run/Icarus Films, 153 Waverly Place, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10014.

## Calendar

**November 18-22, 1998**

AMWA's 83rd Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA

**January 5, 1999**

Awards Nominations Deadline

**January 22, 1999**

Proposals for Workshops for 1999 Annual Meeting Due

## Newsletter Committee and Staff

Sharyn Lenhart, MD, AMWA President  
Mary Guinan, MD, Co-Vice President, Communications  
Carolyn Webber, MD, Co-Vice President, Communications  
Donna Shelley, MD, Chair, Publications Committee  
Nancy R.G. Church, MD, Director of Students  
Ellie Hirshberg, Tanya Warwick, National Student Coordinators  
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