AMWA Supports Dr. Foster

Despite an increased opposition to the nomination of Henry W. Foster, Jr., MD, as the next U.S. Surgeon General, AMWA has continued to express support for the nominee.

AMWA member Anne Colston Wentz, MD, obstetrician-gynecologist, joined eight of her medical colleagues to support Dr. Foster's nomination on February 10, 1995 at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. Following a brief statement by Dr. Foster at the beginning of the press conference, Dr. Wentz delivered a powerful message and was interviewed by several of the more than 30 journalists who attended the briefing.

"As an organization concerned about the quality of women's health care, AMWA applauds Dr. Foster's abilities for providing the full range of reproductive health services that comprise the routine and legal medical care of an obstetrician-gynecologist," said Dr. Wentz.

Interim Meeting Highlights Managed Care

Managed care and the role of medical students in AMWA are two highlights of the 1995 Interim Meeting to be held June 23-25 at The Washington Court Hotel in Washington, DC.

"With managed care increasingly becoming an important part of health care in America, AMWA believes that it is critical for our members to understand how it affects both women physicians and women's health issues," said Diana L. Dell, MD, FACOG, AMWA President.

The three-hour managed care seminar will be held Sunday morning followed by a guest speaker addressing women's health issues.

In addition to the managed care seminar, AMWA members will spend Saturday afternoon discussing the role of medical students in AMWA.

"This is a crucial issue for AMWA to address at this time," said Carolyn A. Webber, MD, AMWA's Director of Students. "We need to explore various ways to enhance

AMWA's Women's Health Book Published

To improve the consumer information on women's health issues The Women's Complete Healthbook, written by the American Medical Women's Association, will be available in June 1995.

Chosen as an offering by five book clubs, the 720-page publication is a comprehensive health book written by women professionals for women consumers. The five book clubs include Prevention, Psychotherapy, Book of the Month, Quality Paperback Club and Homestyle. Fifty-eight multi-speciality authors contributed to the 39 chapters which address critical women's health issues.

Topics
Being a savvy health care consumer is discussed in a section called "keeping yourself healthy." This section covers diet, nutrition, exercise, living and working in a healthy environment, overcoming chemical dependencies, mental health, stress, preventing violence against women, aging and sexuality.

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AMWA member, Anne Colston Wentz, MD, joins colleagues at a press conference in support of Henry W. Foster, Jr., MD, as U.S. Surgeon General. (L to r): Howard Shapiro, PhD, ACP; Ralph Hale, MD, ACOG; Dr. Wentz; William Brown, MD, NMA; Dr. Foster; Steele Stewart, MD, ASRM; Roger Bulger, MD, AAHC; Jordan Cohen, MD, AAMC; and Deborah Zarin, MD, APA.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Sweet Sorrow

Diana L. Dell, MD, FACOG
AMWA President

For the last few weeks I have been in active denial. But time has passed and I must really say good-bye to someone who has been very special to AMWA. And even more special to me.

My mind drifts back to 1990 when I attended my first AMWA Board of Directors meeting in Washington, DC. We talked a great deal about a strict new anti-choice law being debated in the Louisiana legislature. The 1991 Annual Meeting was slated to be in New Orleans, and the Board of Directors was uncertain about meeting there.

There was one tall woman with black hair who had a name I could not pronounce. She seemed to know more about those events than I did, even though I lived and worked in Louisiana. She was intense and vitalized by this issue. Her fury and contempt for this legislative assault was contagious, and I caught her fire. During the next few weeks, she would also share her courage, her wealth of information about this issue and even some protective cautions.

In a very real way, Lois Schoenbrun literally changed the course of my life. I had written a paper about Roe v. Wade in 1973, but had never again found a channel for expressing my own feminist rage.

When I went back to Louisiana, I left the safe harbor of my busy practice and went to the committee rooms of the Louisiana Senate. During the next year’s elections, I led a women’s political group that supported women and pro-choice candidates. And the following summer, worked on a steering committee that planned Baton Rouge’s defense when Operation Rescue came to town. When I moved from Louisiana in 1993, a lot of that decision was about this issue.

During those years, Lois was my mentor. I must have talked with her a million times. I would come to know her as a vital and courageous woman; I would learn about the time she spent as a clinic administrator; and hear how she felt when her office at the National Abortion Federation (NAF) was bombed. She has been my “source” — for information, encouragement, guidance and strength.

Some people come into our lives and leave indelible marks where they have been, so that we are never again the same as we were. Lois Schoenbrun has been such a person for me and for AMWA. I will miss her now, as our paths diverge. I wish her well, and sure footing on her own new course.

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student involvement.”

“AMWA is one of the few organizations that extend full membership benefits, including a seat on the Board of Directors and voting privileges to students,” said Jen Schroeder, National Student Coordinator. “I think it is imperative that students are included as active participants in the discussion that will shape the future role of students in AMWA.”

According to Director of Residents, Cheryl Weinstein, MD, the role of residents also will be discussed.

The three-day meeting also includes board of directors meetings and AMWA committee meetings. A highlight of the weekend will be a reception on Saturday evening.

For hotel accommodations, contact The Washington Court, 525 New Jersey Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001; Phone: 202/628-2100. For more information about the meeting contact AMWA.
The reproductive health section covers genetics counseling, fertility, the reproductive system, pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

In a broad section of The Women’s Complete Healthbook, the symptoms, conditions, diseases, diagnoses and treatments are included in chapters focused on emergencies and traumas, the nervous system, eyes, breasts, respiratory system, the circulatory system, the endocrine system, the digestive system, the immune system and allergies, infectious diseases, and the urinary system. Other chapters in this section are devoted to the musculoskeletal system, skin, hair and nails, reconstructive and cosmetic surgery, cancer in women (prevention, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment), pain evaluation and managing medication.

To Order
Published by Delacorte Press, a division of Dell Books, the book will be promoted nationally and locally to women consumers. The introductory price of $29.95 will be offered for the first printing of 25,000 books.

Ordering information will be available in the June newsletter.

Creative Ideas to Promote AMWA’s Book

As an AMWA member, we want you to promote the book as a means for the physician to provide additional information to their patients. Here are some specific methods you can use to publicize the book:

As a physician:
- promote the book to your colleagues at your place of business
- highlight a section at an AMWA branch meeting
- invite and sponsor an author at a medical or hospital meeting.

If you are in private practice:
- place a copy for perusal in your waiting room
- have order forms available in your waiting room.

If you are in academia:
- tell your medical students AMWA has published this book
- invite an author to speak to your students, residents or faculty.

Contact Sheri Singer at AMWA for more information.

The cover of The Women’s Complete Healthbook, written and edited by AMWA. Look for the book in stores this summer.
Annual Meeting Topics Announced

Culturally rich and scenically beautiful Seattle is the site for AMWA’s 80th Annual Meeting to be held October 31 to November 5, 1995 at The Westin Hotel.

The theme for the meeting, Women Empowering Women: Planning Our Global Family, chosen by AMWA President, Diana L. Dell, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics-Gynecology at Duke University Medical Center, will highlight women’s reproductive health issues.

National and international experts will discuss various elements of women’s reproductive health care during the four-day conference.

This year, a special emphasis has been placed on career development issues and the annual meeting reflects this focus by including workshops on women’s specialty organizations, how to recognize and change career paths, how to develop an individual career plan and the need to reform medical education materials.

In addition, the results of the AMWA/YWCA survey on gender equity in medicine will be released.

Combining career development with the reproductive theme, the conference will offer an innovative workshop on how women physicians and medical students can explore their personal ethics regarding abortion.

AMWA’s 80th Annual Meeting also showcases some of the association’s grant projects with workshops on tobacco control, osteoporosis, coronary heart disease in women, and breast and cervical screening.

For medical students, AMWA offers seminars on choosing a specialty/residency, maternity and medicine, the stresses of medical school and residency training, and the transition to residency.

Student sessions also include elections, branch development and orientation.

Other women’s health topics include the U.S. testing and development of RU486, women and stroke, issues surrounding silicone breast implants, understanding obesity in women, death, dying and grieving, lesbian health issues, and AIDS and women.

Detailed information regarding the meeting and registration forms will be mailed in June.

The Republican-controlled U.S. House of Representatives voted in January to abolish legislative service organizations, including the Congressional Caucus for Women’s Issues.

The former committee staff has created a new organization called Women’s Policy, Inc., to continue the Caucus services.

Women’s Policy, Inc., will publish a weekly newsletter, a quarterly magazine, and special reports. Future plans include a fax bulletin service and on-line services.

But for Women’s Policy, Inc., to operate, they must obtain support from private organizations and individuals.

In fact, the House Oversight Committee has ruled that congressional members are barred from subscribing to Women’s Policy, Inc.’s publications until the group demonstrates that the majority of their support is from outside congressional offices.

This action defies both history and fairness — historically, members of Congress have enjoyed near total discretion to pay for subscriptions from their official allowances; and fairness — other service suppliers are not required to demonstrate that most of their support is from outside of congressional funds.

To compensate, Women’s Policy, Inc., is seeking financial support.

The names of the first 50 “friends” who make contributions of $1,000 will be released at a reception in late April. At the same time, the names of corporate “patrons” and foundation “benefactors” will be announced.

“Friends” also will receive a complimentary one-year subscription to the group’s informational services.

For more information on how to contribute or how to support this new organization, contact Women’s Policy, Inc., 409 12th Street, SW, Suite 705, Washington, DC 20024.
Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Seminars Set

As part of AMWA’s Breast and Cervical Cancer Education Project for Primary Care Physicians, a Master Faculty of 20 AMWA members will present CME seminars for physicians across the U.S. Some of the seminars scheduled during the next few months include:

April 28
Incarnate Word Hospital
American Heart Association
St. Louis, MO
Valerie Ulstad, MD

April 29, 8-9 a.m.
Delaware City Memorial Hospital
Medical Grand Rounds
Delaware City, PA
Leslie Poor, MD

May 4, 2-5 p.m.
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA
Susan Stewart, MD

May 6, 9-10 a.m.
Kansas Medical Society
Doubtreee Hotel
Overland Park, KS
Linda Gereon, MD

May 24, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
New Jersey Medical Society
Livingston, NJ
Susan Fox, MD

May 26, 3:30-5 p.m.
American College Health Association
Marriott Hotel in Downtown Chicago
Chicago, IL
Christine Mueller, MD

June 13, 12:30-1 p.m.
Jefferson City Medical Society
Jefferson City, TN
Susan Souther, MD

June 16, 12 noon-1 p.m.
Maricopa Medical Center
Medical Grand Rounds
Phoenix, AZ
Barbara Prian, MD

June 17, 8:45-9:35
American Society of Cardiovascular Professionals, Annual Meeting
Deerfield Beach, FL
Anne Blenke, MD

Oct. 20, 10-11 a.m.
American College of Osteopathic Internists
Marriott Harbor Beach Hotel
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Anne Blenke, MD

Nov. 1995
AMWA Annual Meeting
The Westin Hotel
Seattle, WA
Debra Judelson, MD

For more information, contact Janice Tracey at AMWA.

Tobacco Project Update

Moving forward with its tobacco grant project, AMWA has created a coalition of women and girls’ organizations called The Strategic Coalition of Women and Girls Against Tobacco.

The Coalition will attempt to reduce the number of women and girls using tobacco products, thereby decreasing illness and death related to tobacco use. To accomplish this goal, the Coalition will launch consumer educational efforts and work with the media to raise the public awareness of this health threatening issue.

Coalition members also will work within their local and state communities to increase the public’s knowledge of this issue. AMWA members are encouraged to join the Coalition. To request a packet of information, contact Liz Pejeau at AMWA.

Coronary Heart Disease Workshop Update

Continuing its successful efforts on AMWA’s Education Project for Coronary Heart Disease in Women, the following workshops represent just a few of those scheduled during the next few months:

April 8, 12 noon-4 p.m.
AMWA Branch Meeting
Albany, NY
Susan Stewart, MD

April 12, 7-8 p.m.
Los Angeles Medical Women’s Association
Los Angeles, CA
Debra Judelson, MD

April 27, Evening
Harris Methodist Health System
Arlington, TX
Nina Radford, MD

Enduring CME Program Under Development

To enable primary care physicians to be better equipped to provide care for their women patients, AMWA’s Enduring Continuing Medical Education (CME) Program on Health Care for Mid-Life and Mature Women is being developed.

The program, funded by an unrestricted education grant from Bristol-Myers Squibb, is a stand-alone CME series developed from lectures at AMWA’s Advanced Curriculum on Women’s Health, Part I, held in October 1993 in New York.

AMWA’s Enduring CME Program on Health Care for Mid-Life and Mature Women will be developed as a series of 12 modules which are delivered monthly. Each module in the series will include a 20-page illustrated manual containing transcribed and edited text of the original lecture plus all required CME testing and evaluation materials. Modules also
will include an audiotape of the lecture.

Suggested topics include coronary heart disease, osteoporosis, hormone replacement therapy, breast and cervical cancer, mental health, menopause, substance abuse, smoking cessation, nutritional needs, fitness, and women and violence.

AMWA’s Enduring CME Program is expected to be distributed to primary care physicians and ob-gyns practicing in pre-selected HMOs. The goal of the program is to reach 5,000 physicians in the initial pilot version. Following the anticipated success of the pilot program, the CME course is expected to be expanded.

AMWA Co-Sponsors Tobacco Control Campaign

In conjunction with AMWA’s Tobacco Control Project, the association is co-sponsoring INFACT’s national challenge to tobacco industry leaders and congressional leaders to act responsibly for the public’s good.

Similar to the goals of AMWA’s Tobacco Control Project, INFACT’s campaign is designed to draw attention to the fact that the tobacco industry markets their products to children and young adults, so that the public will demand that these targeted marketing efforts cease.

As part of this program, INFACT is asking sponsoring organizations to gather as many as 8,000 photographs depicting people who have died as a result of tobacco related illnesses, or currently suffering from a tobacco illness.

The photograph display, titled Face the Faces, will be used to challenge government leaders and tobacco industry lobbyists to ensure regulation of the industry; and to present to the leaders of Philip Morris and RJR Nabisco leaders at their Annual Shareholder Meetings.

As an AMWA member, here is how you can help further INFACT’s goals:

• Send a photograph (black and white, color, any size) of a patient, friend or relative who has or has had a tobacco-related illness to Holly Segal at AMWA.
• Ask your patients if they know of anyone who has died or is suffering from a tobacco-related death to send a photograph to INFACT.
• Post a sign in your waiting room, hospital or teaching facility informing your patients and colleagues about this project.

For more information, contact Holly Segal at AMWA.

Bylaws Revisions Due

Proposed revisions to the AMWA Bylaws are due to the AMWA Bylaws Committee by May 31, 1995. Address your recommended changes to Christine M. Mueller, MD, Chair, Bylaws Committee, AMWA, 801 N. Fairfax St., Suite 400, Alexandria, VA 22314.

The Bylaws Committee will review the proposed amendments at the Interim Meeting in June.

The compilation of proposed bylaws amendments will be distributed to the AMWA membership in late August, and considered by AMWA’s House of Delegates at the Annual Meeting in Seattle next November.

AMWA Nurtures Leaders

Carolyn A. Webber, MD

AMWA strives to nurture its students and to encourage them to be leaders. This year, it is an honor to be associated with Christina Nicolaidis, MD, Resident Representative; and Jennifer Allen and Jen Schroeder, National Student Coordinators.

I felt like a proud parent at the January 1995 President’s Retreat where all three functioned as active Board of Directors members proposing creative solutions to the challenges AMWA faces during the next year.

When I look at photographs of students at past AMWA functions, I realize they are all potential leaders. The talents of our AMWA student leaders and all other student members are valued and needed. I want to thank all of you for your ongoing contributions that make our organizational experience so rich.

To continue to develop your lead-
ership skills, I recommend two books. The first is Principle-Centered Leadership by Stephen R. Covey, author of the bestselling book The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. The second book is Influence Without Authority by Allan R. Cohen and David L. Bradford, authors of Managing for Excellence. Both books contain valuable information on developing leadership and management skills.

On a personal note, I would like to congratulate AMWA graduating seniors on your residency choices and persistence.

Remember to look up AMWA members in the city or hospital where you will be continuing your medical education. You may find a mentor.

AMWA members in my own new home town have made me feel welcome. It is an advantage to be an AMWA member during residency and beyond. I look forward to your continuing participation.

**STUDENT SENATE**

**Student Update**

*Jennifer Allen and Jen Schroeder*

*National Student Coordinators*

Hello everyone. We hope that your studies are going well and that you are taking time out to enjoy life. We did at the President’s Retreat held in January in Alexandria (near AMWA’s national office). Because this meeting was so intense, we cannot possibly put it all in this column. We will touch on the highlights of the meeting.

AMWA conducted meetings with member and nonmember women physicians to assess their needs in regard to joining, being active or not joining an organization such as AMWA. The focus groups elicited interesting responses including that women physicians might consider joining or being active with AMWA, if career development issues were a primary focus of the organization. Participants expressed a desire for leadership training and mentoring and said they wanted meetings held in their “backyards” for example, at their hospitals.

The focus groups included practicing physicians, but students also can benefit from more professional development and leadership training. These efforts may involve upper-class students, residents or physicians discussing practical applications of information for the future.

Some of those applications might include a seminar on how to present a patient at rounds, or research at a professional meeting. This training is offered during AMWA’s annual meetings and often at the local level. These types of interactions help foster mentoring relationships.

Also, please note two page 1 articles in this newsletter of relevance to medical students. The first is an article about how the role of students will be discussed at AMWA’s Interim Meeting. The second is that AMWA has published The Women’s Complete Healthbook. Look for it in your local book store this June.

**JAMWA Features Double Issue on Women and HIV**


Featured articles include women and syringe exchange, family-centered care, custody planning, the 076 trial (with commentaries on prenatal screening policies), community-based services for women, barriers to HIV prevention, integration of contraceptive and STD services, gender and condom distribution in high schools, violence and partner notification, patient perspectives, and evidence regarding lesbian transmission.

This double issue replaces the May and July issues of JAMWA.

**MEMBERS IN THE NEWS**

Karen S. Fountain, MD, FACP, New York City, an associate professor of clinical radiation oncology at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, is the first woman to be appointed to the Committee on Practice Accreditation - Radiation Oncology Accreditation of the Commission on Standards and Accreditation, American College of Radiology. Dr. Fountain also was named a fellow of ACR, an honor granted to only six percent of ACR members.

Lila A. Wallis, MD, was named Woman of the 20th Century in Women’s Health during the 85th anniversary celebration of the Women’s Medical Association of New York City, AMWA’s Branch 14. Dr. Wallis was honored for her vision and leadership in women’s health and medicine.

Lila A. Wallis, MD, (l) accepts Branch 14’s Woman of the 20th Century in Women’s Health Award from Clarita Herrera, MD.
AMWA Thanks Members

AMWA wishes to thank the following individuals who have recruited new members in the 1994-1995 Kathryn Sowell Recruitment Campaign:

Tuvana Bain  Catherine A. Henry, MD
Jodi Bayley  Jean Siebenaler, MD
Michelle Brodner, MD  Monica J. Simons
Lisa Christopher  Elizabeth Skirm
Gayani De Silva  Kathryn Sowell
Diana L. Dell, MD  Maureen Stephenson, DO
Ann H. Derani  Angela Stock
Leah J. Dickstein, MD  Jennifer Tash
Christina Ferrone  Laura Torres
Siri Fleibiger, MD  Susan Thrasher, MD
Deborah Friedman, MD  Paula E. Williamson, MD
Lara A. Friel  Leslie Gonzalez
Leslie Gonzalez  Mary P. Gordon
Pamela Schwartz
Gail Granof, MD  Michele Scott

Dr. Elders to Address Region IX

Marjorie Braude, MD, Regional IX Governor, has announced that Joycelyn Elders, MD, former U.S. Surgeon General and AMWA member, is the keynote speaker for its Regional Conference: The Cutting Edge in Women’s Health on Saturday, June 3, 1995 at Shutter’s on the Beach, Santa Monica, California, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Other notable speakers include Diana Dell, MD, AMWA President, and California Assemblywoman Sheila Keuhl. Contact Dr. Braude at 310/476-2055.

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN

AMWA

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