Women’s Curriculum Comes to Life

Billed as “the CME event of the decade,” the AMWA Advanced Curriculum on Women’s Health is ready for its national debut, after years of planning and national discussion. Register now for the first course, Women in the Mid-Life and Mature Years, scheduled for October 30 - November 2, 1993 at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City.

Designed to help fill the gaps in physicians’ knowledge of women’s health care, the Curriculum offers an innovative and interdisciplinary approach to studying women’s health by life phases. “For the first time in the history of medicine, women’s health issues have been classified and systematized in a fashion responsive to women’s needs,” says Lila A. Wallis, MD, FACP, the course director who has long advocated better medical training in women’s health.

AMWA wants the course to attract both women and men physicians, particularly those in primary care, says Dr. Wallis. “All professionals can learn the latest developments in women’s health, as well as gain insight and develop skills that have been omitted in the traditional curricula of medical schools and training programs.”

One goal of the program is to end the fragmented approach to women’s health care. For example, Dr. Wallis hopes that the Curriculum’s interdisciplinary design will help gynecologists acquire better knowledge of organ systems outside the reproductive tract; internists to learn office gynecology skills; psychiatrists to understand life-phase health problems that influence mental health; and

Continued on page 2

AMWA Blankets Washington

Medical women held top-level strategy sessions with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), talked to the White House about health care reform, and lobbied Capitol Hill in record numbers, as AMWA members convened in Washington on June 25-28 for the 1993 Interim Meeting.

Members capped the event with a memorable discussion of women’s issues by Congresswoman Constance A. Morella and Professor Anita Hill.

AMWA President Leah J. Dickstein, MD, led a 12-member AMWA contingent that met with Carol Scheman, FDA Deputy Commissioner for External Affairs, and other top FDA officials on June 28, to discuss how AMWA can help the FDA address women’s health.

Deputy Commissioner Scheman stated that the FDA Commissioner has made women’s health a leading concern. The group discussed a variety of women’s health issues, including tobacco regulation; labeling of contraceptives for STD prevention effectiveness; Depo-Provera, Norplant and RU 486; gender analysis in drug trials; enforcement of the recently enacted Mammography Quality Standards Act; and the inclusion of women physicians on FDA advisory boards.

The FDA representatives also expressed their willing-
Annual Meeting Preview

Make plans now to join 1,000 medical women for the 78th AMWA Annual Meeting, scheduled for November 3-7, 1993 at the Marriott Marquis in New York City.

Women Promoting Women’s Health: Prevention Through Research and Education is the theme of this year’s meeting, which “could not come at a more auspicious moment,” says AMWA Program Chair Diana L. Dell, MD. Women will analyze critical issues as “health care reform tops the list of national priorities.”

Here are a few of the week’s highlights:

Guest Speakers and Honorees

Yoshiye Togasaki, MD, of California, receives AMWA’s highest honor, the Elizabeth Blackwell Award, for her years of service in public health. Alexa Canady, MD, the first African-American female neurosurgeon in the U.S., receives a President’s Achievement Award.

Holly G. Atkinson, MD, medical correspondent for the NBC Today Show, and Senior Vice President of Programming and Medical Affairs for Lifetime Medical Television, is the Keynote Speaker.

Plenary Speakers include Martha Katz, MD; Jimmie C. Holland, MD; The Honorable Nita Lowey, (D-NY); Anne Geller, MD; Louise P. Tyrer, MD; Joyce I. Wallace, MD; and Veva H. Zimmerman, MD.

Educational Sessions

The plenary and workshops provide up to 25.75 hours of category I CME credits. Topics include infertility, AIDS, reproductive health, heart disease, breast and cervical cancer screenings, osteoporosis, health care, maternity and medicine, sexual harassment, and much more.

Special Events

See up to six Broadway plays; tour the Upper West Side, Lincoln Center, the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, and Greenwich Village; and sample the food of the “melting pot,” among many other activities.

AMWA Business

Amid board and committee meetings, delegates will elect new officers, bid farewell to President Leah J. Dickstein, MD, and induct a new President, Kathryn C. Bernmann, MD, of Wisconsin.

Pre-register by September 22, and receive up to $70 off the registration fee. Send in the registration form mailed to AMWA members in July, or call Lisa McLendon or Landon McCue, at 703-838-0500.

Women’s Curriculum…Continued

family physicians to strengthen their skills in women-centered care.

Mid-Life and Mature Years, which precedes the 1993 AMWA Annual Meeting, will consist of lectures, participatory exercises, and hands-on workshops. Participants earn 25 credit hours and an additional 3.5 credit hours for an optional workshop. Curriculum topics will include:

- Life Cycle Issues that Affect Health
  - Changes of Menopause
  - Pharmacokinetics
  - Aging and the Immune System
  - Health Screening Assessment
  - Reproduction and Changing Sexuality
  - Mental Health/Violence and Abuse
  - Developing a Patient/Physician Partnership

- Hands-on Workshops:
  - PAP Plus Speculoscopy
  - Cervical Screening
  - Endometrial Biopsy
  - Physician/Patient Communication
  - Improved Techniques of Breast and Pelvic Examination

The second course, Women in Early and Young Adult Years, will takes place in the fall of 1994.

The Advanced Curriculum on Women’s Health was made possible by a generous seed grant from the Upjohn Company of Kalamazoo, Michigan. The curriculum was developed in cooperation with medical specialty organi-

Continued on page 5

The AMWA Nominees

The AMWA Nominating Committee has selected the following slate of candidates for 1992-93 AMWA officers. Elections by the AMWA House of Delegates occur at the Annual Meeting on November 4, 1993.

President-Elect: Diana L. Dell, MD
Vice President of Career Development: Suzanne A. Widrow, MD
Vice President of Communication: Sharyn A. Lenhart, MD
Vice President of Program: Anne E. Bernstein, MD
Speaker of House of Delegates: Donna L. Moore, MD
Director of Students: Karen Anderson, MD
Director of Students: Diane Helentjaris, MD
Speaker of House of Delegates: Jo-Ellyn M. Ryall, MD
Vice Speaker of House of Delegates: Christine E. Haycock, MD
Resident Representative: Carolyn A. Webber, MD
Resident Representative: Kathy G. Keller, DO
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

AMWA Blanks... Continued

ness to accept AMWA medical students as interns. (See interns, page 5.)

Drs Dickstein and Silva, and AMWA staffers Eileen McGrath, Lois Schoenbrun, and Alice Kirkman also met on June 28 with Marilyn Yeager, Special Assistant to President Clinton. They reviewed AMWA’s role in helping assure that full reproductive health services and parity for nondiscriminatory mental health and substance abuse services remain covered in any health care benefits package. AMWA offered to build support for the confirmation of Joycelyn Elders, MD, Surgeon General-Designate.

Lobbying the Hill

The AMWA members who gathered for the Interim Meeting — more than 150 — gained important insight into their power as active constituents. Monday’s Lobby Day drew nearly fifty participants, the highest number in AMWA’s history, who lobbied members of Congress from thirteen states.

AMWA members had received updates on the latest legislation, and pointers on how to communicate their messages to Congress in Sunday’s legislative program.

Marilyn North Arnold, Medical Relations Manager with the Upjohn Company, gave tips on effective verbal and nonverbal communication with lawmakers. Heather Howard, a legislative aide to Representative Nita Lowey (D-NY), a scheduled speaker for the 1993 Annual Meeting, outlined plans to draft a bill offering monetary incentives for medical schools to develop women’s health curricula. Other speakers covered topics including violence against women, abortion rights, and tobacco controls.

Debating Reform

Sunday morning was devoted to health care reform, with a spirited panel discussion of the leading reform plans and a brainstorming session on ways to increase the number of primary care physicians.

Guest panelist Linda Bergthold, PhD, special consultant to the White House Task Force on Health Care Reform and Co-Chair of the Health Benefits Work Group, predicted that the Clinton reform plan would propose a health system that is “as good as — or better — than what is available now.” Three areas in particular would receive improved coverage, she noted: prevention, women’s health, and children’s health.

On the issue of physician autonomy, Bergthold noted that one goal was to reduce unnecessary “long distance review,” such as restrictive accountability to distant third-party payors. Instead, she hopes to see physicians more accountable to patients and each other — through better physician standards.

Carolyn Clancy, MD, Past President of Physicians for a National Health Program, was a forceful advocate for a universal health plan: “Health security should be like Social Security — everybody gets it.” She noted that American physicians “now have more authorities looking over our shoulder than in any other system in the world,” and challenged the notion that a universal plan would increase restraints on decision making.

Talking with Morella and Hill

The highlight of the weekend was the luncheon event on June 26, with special appearances by Representative Constance Morella (R-MD) and Professor Anita Hill.

As Keynote Speaker, Representative Morella outlined her efforts — most recently, as a chief sponsor of the pending Violence Against Women Act — to protect American women from violence on the streets and in their homes. She also discussed the need for her legislation protecting abortion clinic staff and patients from anti-choice violence.

President Dickstein presented the congresswoman with a plaque commending her “extraordinary commitment to the health, safety and equity” of women. AMWA members gave Representative Morella a rousing reception, and expressed their willingness to further involve the medical community in many of her key issues.

Anita Hill, the University of Oklahoma law professor who brought the issue of sexual harassment to national attention during the 1991 Supreme Court confirmation of Clarence Thomas, received an AMWA President’s Achievement Award. President Dickstein noted that medical women have strong concerns about harassment and inequities in medicine, and recognized Professor Hill for her “commitment to a gender-fair environment for American women.”

Professor Hill spoke eloquently about the issues facing women in professional life. She discussed the importance of improving public understanding of fairness in the workplace and praised AMWA’s commitment to uniting women of different generations, ethnic backgrounds, and professional paths.

When asked a question about her feelings during the Thomas hearings, Professor Hill cautiously noted that two years ago she made a decision to devote her public statements to a discussion of women’s issues, rather than a critique of her personal experience. AMWA members later gave her a standing ovation.

Getting Involved

If you would like to get more involved in public affairs activities, join AMWA’s legislative network by calling Legislative Assistant Gillian Thomas at 703-838-0500.
STUDENT SENATE

Lobby! Lobby! Lobby!

by Sofia Ali and Rachel Curtis
National Student Coordinators

Lobby! Lobby! Lobby! That's what 23 AMWA student members did at the AMWA Interim Meeting held in Washington, DC, on June 25-28. The title of our meeting was “Women Promoting A Women's Health Agenda,” and over 150 AMWA members gathered to do just that. We were informed of the latest legislation affecting women’s health and welfare, which included briefings by the experts on such areas as health care reform, reproductive health, medical school curriculum, excise taxes on tobacco, and domestic violence. Marilyn North Arnold, Medical Relations Manager for the Upjohn Company, then taught us how to lobby — with videotaped rehearsals and tips on the major Dos and Don'ts — all in preparation for visits with our senators and representatives on Monday morning.

As students, we can be proud! Many senators and representatives were seen only because a student was there to participate. It is so important that our legislators realize that women medical students exist, that we think, and most important, that as future health care professionals of America we care about the content, quality, implications, and possible ramifications of current legislation.

We urge you — as student members of AMWA — to get involved! Visit your local, state, and national legislatures, write letters to your congresspeople, support those candidates who support your issues. VOTE! As members of a profession that seems alien to those not in it, it is our responsibility to keep our elected officials informed.

On a lighter note, students also participated in numerous committee meetings and once again, high student attendance translated into student input on committee actions. If you are interested in what transpired at these meetings, please call your Regional Student Coordinator, or Rachel at 915-585-1925 or Sofia at 612-225-1062, and we will make sure that you get a copy of the minutes. Also available soon will be the Students Committee Meeting minutes, where we discussed not only the current goings-on in AMWA regions, but also the national student newsletter, the transition to residency cards, and the undergraduate mentoring program. Again, call Sofia or Rachel for the minutes.

The time has come for us to think about the Annual Meeting, convening at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City on November 3-7, 1993. Currently, the Regional Student Coordinators for Region II, Amy Ferry and Kristen Savola, are working diligently with us to find ways to make this meeting more affordable for students. In the works are alternative housing for those students unable to afford the Marriott and reduced-price tickets to Broadway theaters. One very important way that a student may lower the cost of registration by $25 is by serving as a facilitator at the meeting. Please contact Kristen at 212-740-0378 or Amy at 212-923-3937 for more information.

Remember also to keep an eye out for airline price wars and “buddy” tickets — this is a great way to get cheap tickets for your branch. Also, please remember that the national meeting is THE place to get involved with AMWA at the national level: many committee spots, as well as the positions of Regional Student Coordinator and National Student Coordinator, become available during this time. Start thinking now about how you could become involved! More information will be included in the next edition of The Rag, AMWA's new student newsletter.

Now to some really good news. The John Merck Fund of Boston has given AMWA $150,000 to launch the Reproductive Health Initiative, a program that will include the development of workshops in family planning and abortion to be presented at medical schools. The goal is to eventually get such workshops included in medical school curricula. (See special story on page 5.) Once again, this confirms that other organizations look to AMWA for expertise and innovative ideas in the field of women’s health.

Lastly, we would like to end by giving Maria Dizon, MSIV of Texas Tech University, a special “Thank You” for a job well done on The Rag. Also, we remind everyone that we have many upcoming events that should be of great interest to students: the Region X Conference on September 10-12 in Cannon Beach, Oregon; AMWA's Women's Health Curriculum on October 30 - November 2 in New York City (see page 1); and the above-mentioned Annual Meeting on November 3-7 in New York City.

Again, if you have any questions or comments, please contact us. We hope to see you in the "Big Apple!"

Note
National Student Coordinator
Saluting Interns

AMWA’s governmental affairs department has come to rely on the important help of Student Legislative Interns, medical students who work for one or more months at the AMWA national office.

In recent weeks, interns have assisted in negotiations with a new federal administration, helped plan AMWA’s Reproductive Health Initiative, written congressional testimony, and consulted with political leaders.

A special thanks goes to the following interns: Elizabeth Jacobs, MD, a resident in internal medicine at Boston’s Brigham and Women’s Hospital, who worked in May 1993 during her fourth year at the University of California, San Francisco; Stacy Nichols, MD, a graduate of UCLA now in a pediatric residency at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, who assisted in June; Teresa DePineres, a second-year UCLA medical student who interned in July; and Sonia Ramamoorthy, an MD/PhD student at Boston University who will intern in August.

In addition, Jennifer M. Tuteur, a fourth-year medical student at the University of Missouri, is currently interning at the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers.

AMWA also thanks physician members Jean L. Fourcray, MD, PhD, and Dean Nancy Gary, MD, for their contributions in housing student interns, and also AMWA members Marjorie Braude, MD, Jean E. Hayward, MD, Debra Judelson, MD, and Eugenia P. Marcus, MD, who helped interview applicants.

Students interested in an internship and medical schools wishing to support this program should contact AMWA Legislative Assistant Gillian Thomas at 703-838-0500.

Reproductive Health News Bulletin!

As this issue of What’s Happening in AMWA went to press, AMWA had a major announcement. Thanks to the foresight and generosity of The John Merck Fund, AMWA is launching The Reproductive Health Initiative — a multi-year program to improve reproductive health training, including family planning and abortion, in medical schools and to train physicians in the latest reproductive health developments.

The news was announced at the Interim Meeting by Kaaren A. Nichols, MD, Chair of AMWA’s Reproductive Health Subcommittee. “Of particular concern to AMWA members is the high rate of unintended pregnancy in the United States, combined with the growing shortage of abortion providers,” she said. AMWA is proud to have this opportunity to do something tangible about it.

The three-year program will include the following projects:

- Reviewing current medical school curricula in reproductive health — including infertility, contraception, abortion, and sexually transmitted diseases;
- Identifying a model curriculum;
- Providing a one-day reproductive health program at medical schools and encouraging schools to adopt the program in their own curriculum;
- Developing a one-month, fourth-year student elective in reproductive health and identifying clinics and hospitals where training can take place;
- Granting AMWA awards in reproductive health to honor outstanding abortion providers. Awards will include $1,000 gifts at the local level and a prestigious national award of $10,000;
- Publishing a special JAMWA issue on reproductive health.

The launching of The Reproductive Health Initiative was made possible by The John Merck Fund’s $150,000 start-up grant to the AMWA Foundation, said Anne L. Barlow, MD, Foundation Chair. She thanked the Fund for its vision and support in a critically needed area of medicine. Established in 1970 as a charitable trust by its founder and donor, the late Serena S. Merck, the Boston-based John Merck Fund has expanded its programs in recent years to include population policy.

Congratulations are also in order to AMWA medical students for their help in identifying issues: in a study conducted at the 1992 Annual Meeting, many students detailed how they were getting insufficient training in reproductive health.

Elizabeth Karlin, MD, chair of AMWA’s Women’s Health Committee, has already started to help: in the last six months, she has traveled to student branch meetings to offer seminars on abortion and family planning. (See June issue of Newsletter.)

Women’s Curriculum...Continued

ations through a joint retreat, cross specialty consultations, and a multi-member Task Force.

Watch your mail for a registration flyer or, for more information, contact Marge Adley at the Center for Continuing Education, University of Nebraska Medical Center, which administers the course. Telephone 402-559-4152; fax 402-559-5915.
RESIDENT ROUNDS

Helping Residents Get Away

by Kathy G. Keller, DO
Resident Representative

How to assist residents in getting to national AMWA meetings was a hot topic at the recent Residents Committee meeting, held during the 1993 AMWA Interim Meeting.

I just returned from the Interim Meeting in Washington, DC, which was a blend of committee work, board meetings and education on health care reform. There were great speakers, the most famous being Anita Hill. Not many residents attended, but there were quite a few medical students.

There are only a handful of residents at annual meetings, but we are a vocal minority and get a lot out of it. The upcoming AMWA Annual Meeting is in New York City on November 3-7, and the preliminary program is really exciting. The time to start planning is now.

I have found there are generally two stumbling blocks to traveling to an annual meeting: time and money.

Time is the least flexible of the two, and is dependent on the amount of conference/vacation time available in your own residency program. Try rearranging your call schedule well in advance so you can at least attend the weekend sessions, and perhaps not need any time away from work at all.

I urge you to try an AMWA meeting next time, instead of your specialty society. You will be amazed how empowering the meetings are: I always return refreshed after my AMWA “fix.”

Money is slightly easier because there are more options. A few ideas I have found helpful in the past:

1. Ask your Department Chair for some Money. First try a direct verbal request, then follow it with a letter including a statement of estimated expenses and a copy of the preliminary program. Emphasize the opportunity of using AMWA meetings for recruitment. There will likely be 500-600 medical students in New York: volunteer to distribute some brochures for your residency program.

2. Ask the Residency Director. Use the same arguments as above, plus mention the CME credits and development of leadership skills.

3. Seek Special Contributions. Some pharmaceutical companies donate money to medical schools or residency training programs, within the AMA guidelines for such contributions, to allow medical students and residents to attend educational meetings. Check with your residency program.

4. Contact the AMWA National Office for Names of Local Physician Members. Write letters (preferably handwritten) requesting a few dollars so you can attend. Our physician members have been remarkably generous in the past, and every little bit helps.

5. Share a Room. AMWA coordin-

Emily Note: 13 months, one and a half teeth, climbing, running, and I still think she’s too short to be walking!
BULLETIN BOARD

Our Thanks

AMWA wishes to thank the following AMWA members, who recruited 51 new members during the period April 1-May 31, 1993:

Sofia Ali; Jeanne F. Arnold, MD; Eve Balash, MD; Maureen Behr; LeClair Bissell, MD; Marian Butterfield, MD; Selma Calmes, MD; Nancy R.G. Church, MD; Debra Davis; Leah J. Dickstein, MD;

Mary Fontana, MD; Gerrie Gardiner, DO; Mary Guinan, MD; Diane Helentjaris, MD; Mary Jackson, MD; Ellen Lazarus, MD; Eunice Lee; Frances Murphy, MD; Kaaren Nichols, MD;

Kathy Parker; Jane Petro, MD; Martha Regan-Smith, MD; Bernice M. Sachs, MD; Eileen Schweickert, DO; Jean Siebenaler, MD; Susan Stegman, MD; Susan C. Stewart, MD; Carrie Sylvester, MD;

Mary Tarail; Pauline Titus-Dillon, MD; Jennifer Utley; Cheryl Weinstein, MD; Judith Weisman, MD; and Lana Zarlinga.

AMWA Staff Updates

AMWA welcomes two new staff members, and bids goodbye to a third.

Peter Green is AMWA’s new Controller. Peter, a CPA with several years of association experience, is already streamlining AMWA’s accounting and financial systems... Dhulsini deZoysa, who recently received her MPH, is Project Manager for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Education Project, which will train physicians in the early detection and control of breast and cervical cancer... Alice L. Kirkman, JD, Public Affairs Director and Managing Editor of What’s Happening in AMWA, is moving to the Public Information Office of The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Alice bids “a fond farewell to the entire AMWA family,” and looks forward to hearing about AMWA as it makes news in the months ahead.

MWIA News

Note these meetings of the Medical Women’s International Association (MWIA):

The Citizens Ambassadors Program of People to People International will hold a meeting on October 8-22, 1993 in Russia, Lithuania, and Latvia, with a tour lead by the MWIA Secretary-General. Contact: Jerry Smith, Medical Programs, Citizens Ambassadors Program, at 509-534-0430.

An MWIA regional meeting in Nairobi, Kenya is set for November 29 - December 3, 1993, and the 23rd MWIA International Congress occurs May 7-12, 1994 in The Hague. To respond to the Kenya call for papers, or to obtain other MWIA information, contact Marie Glanz at 703-838-0500.

Membership Alerts

Contest Deadline. Remember that September 30, 1993 is the deadline for the 1992-93 Lillian Gonzalez-Pardo, MD, Recruitment Campaign, with grand prizes including free airline tickets. If you recruit new members, make sure your name is on the “referred by” line of their application form, which must be postmarked by September 30.

Renewals. Have you paid your 1993 dues? If you are unpaid as of September 30, your membership will lapse and services will be cut off, so send that check today.

Needed: State Directors. AMWA is looking for State Directors in the following states: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Hawaii, Kentucky, Mississippi, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, and Wyoming. If interested, contact the AMWA Membership Department at 703-838-0500.

Medicine as a Second Career.

Several AMWA members want to talk to medical women who chose medicine as a second career: AMWA hopes to provide workshops or other services that meet your needs. Contact Nancy R.G. Church, MD, c/o AMWA National Office, 801 N. Fairfax Street, Suite 400, Alexandria, VA, 22314.

AMWA Ambassadors Program. AMWA is looking for leaders to participate in this program that disseminates information about AMWA and medical women. For more information, contact Regina Sanborn at 703-838-0500.

A Salute to Aetna. AMWA welcomes Aetna Health Plans of Hartford, Connecticut as AMWA’s first Organizational Member, a new membership category that allows organizations interested in women’s health to support the purposes of AMWA.

A JAMWA Announcement

Kathryn E. McGoldrick, MD, Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of the American Medical Women’s Association (JAMWA), is stepping down from that position after eleven years of valuable service to AMWA. Dr. McGoldrick’s tenure coincided with a period of tremendous growth in literature by and about medical women.

Dr. McGoldrick plans to continue her many other responsibilities as a professor of anesthesiology and the director of an ambulatory surgical clinic at Yale University. AMWA is indebted to and thanks Dr. McGoldrick for her contributions to the work of medical women.

As this newsletter went to press, a search process had begun for a new Editor-in-Chief. AMWA members with appropriate experience are urged to apply. The Editor-in-Chief will be paid a stipend and serve a term of five years. For a job announcement or application information, contact Jackie DeSarno in the AMWA national office at 703-838-0500. The deadline for applications is October 1, 1993.
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 10-12, 1993
AMWA Region X Conference
Cannon Beach, Oregon

October 30 - November 2, 1993
AMWA Women's Health Curriculum
New York City

November 3-7, 1993
AMWA Annual Meeting
New York City

June 24-26, 1994
AMWA Interim Meeting
Washington, DC

November 2-6, 1994
AMWA Annual Meeting
Orlando, Florida

AMWA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME ____________________________

ADDRESS ____________________________

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PHONE (H) ______________________ (W) ____________

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SPECIALTY(S) ____________________________

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AMWA

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