AMWA Annual Meeting 2004

AMWA's 2004 Annual Meeting was a great success, with over 500 attendees in San Diego, the meeting received high praise from many of our members. The Program Committee, chaired by Roberta Gebhard, DO, succeeded in providing high-quality educational programs while meeting our dual mission of addressing women's health and career development issues. The results of our national elections were announced, and we are pleased to introduce the members of our Board of Directors (listed on the left) for AMWA and the AMWA Foundation.

This year’s meeting emphasized the contributions made by women physicians. Our Awards luncheon recognized achievements in scientific research, service to the community and overall leadership in the field of medicine. We were proud to present our highest honor, the Elizabeth Blackwell Medal to Dr. Mary Jane England, President of Regis College in Massachusetts.

See Annual Meeting on page 5

Drs. Susan Love, Vivian Pinn, Mary Jane England, and Lynn Epstein. Dr. Love received the 2004 Lila A. Wallis Women’s Health Award. Dr. Pinn was presented with a President’s Recognition Award.

AMWA President, Diane Helenjaris, MD, and AMWA Foundation Chair, Cathy Henry, MD.

Over 45 women physicians recognized by Members of Congress as a Local Legend in their state were able to join AMWA at the Annual Meeting. A Web site dedicated to recognizing their achievements (www.locallegends.org) will be expanded this spring.

AMWA Board of Directors (2004 - 2005)
Diane Helenjaris, MD – President
Carolyn Webber, MD – President-Elect
Lynn C. Epstein, MD – Immediate Past President
Susan Sisk, MD – VP of Career Development
Susan Ivey, MD – VP of Communications
Clair Callan, MD – VP of Finance
Violet Boodaghians, MD – VP of Membership
Diana Galindo, MD – VP of Program
Wendy McCurdy, MD – Director of Residents
Terri Tuckman, MD – Director of Students
Wendy Braund, MD/Jennifer Heath, MD – Resident Representatives
Sarah Friedman – National Student Coordinator
Natalie Gallant – National Student Coordinator
Susan Black, MD – Speaker, Meeting of the Members
Katherine Keller, DO – Vice Speaker, Meeting of the Members
Elinor Christiansen, MD – MWIA National Coordinator
Catherine Henry, MD – AMWA Foundation Representative
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Madeleine White, MD
Laurel Waters, MD
Margaret Palmquest, MD
Linda D. Hallman, Executive Director

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Linda D. Hallman, Executive Director
Nearly 25 percent of all physicians today are women, as are 50 percent of all medical students. The pace of change has been exhilarating—and daunting.

Published surveys and studies show that the rigors of medicine create many challenges for women. Whether choosing a specialty, balancing work and family, or cracking the glass ceiling, the professional and personal issues that women physicians face require real-life, gender-based guidance from seasoned women professionals.

**AMWA to launch new Web site**

Linda D. Hallman, Executive Director

As announced in the AMWA News Flash, we will debut our redesigned Web site later this month. We are confident this will be an improvement for members and non-members alike who are looking for information about AMWA, our various programs and services, and the most relevant topics in women's health as a whole. Much thought has gone into the new look and feel of the Web site with the ultimate goal of making your Web navigation easier and more rewarding. Our partnership is with Velopers in Newport News, Virginia, and our valued print publishing consultants with the AMWA Connections newsletter and the Journal of the American Medical Women's Association. The new Web site has a number of new additions, including:

1. Improved navigation and quick links
2. Real-time purchasing and conference registration
3. An advanced search feature
4. Easy-to-navigate calendar of events
5. Coming this summer! Additional online CME and membership directory

As is typical with a new Web site, there will be instances after the initial launch when the Web site will be down for limited periods of time. Please be patient with us as we work to eliminate any bugs in our system.

We are treating our new Web site as a work in progress. We appreciate your patience as we continue to move content from the old site to the new site. We will continue to add information to the site on a daily basis in an effort to make it as comprehensive as possible. Thank you for visiting the new site and for continuing to turn to AMWA for answers on the most pressing issues facing you, your career, and women's health today. You can help us continue to improve the quality and content of the Web site by sending your comments, concerns, and questions to info@amwa-doc.org.

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**BE A DELEGATE TO THE MWIA CONGRESS**

Represent AMWA as a Delegate to the MWIA Congress in Tokyo. E-mail Marie Glanz (mglanz@amwa-doc.org) to request a Congress brochure.

Jean Fourcroy, MD, AMWA Past President, is a candidate for MWIA Vice President of North America, and Clair Callan, MD, AMWA Past President, is a candidate for MWIA Treasurer. They would appreciate your support at the meeting.
AMWA membership also includes MWIA membership

Our Sister Physicians
Diane Helentjaris, MD

Our world is rapidly shrinking. Globalization, along with fostering political change, is altering US medicine. Like it or not, what happens as far away as Guangdong Province can have a direct impact on our responsibilities as physicians in the United States. SARS, West Nile virus, avian flu – what will be next? New immigrants, many fleeing from war and deep poverty, challenge our need as women physicians to provide effective and sensitive medical care. And, our American-born patients are traveling everywhere providing new potential diagnoses to consider for our differential.

As a public health officer, more and more of my time is spent working on issues embedded in globalization, despite my rural location. And it’s not just me and it’s not just here. Family doctors may now find themselves needing to perform an adequate pelvic examination on a circumcised woman who speaks nos English. Emergency medicine physicians must revamp their triage system to address potential SARS. Pediatricians may need, for the first time in their practice, to calculate doses for a two-year-old child with active tuberculosus. It’s a new, smaller earth. And it’s the wise woman physician who takes the time to become more familiar with the world beyond our borders.

AMWA physician members do have one special benefit putting them closer to the rest of the world. Their AMWA membership also includes membership in the Medical Women’s International Association (MWIA).

What is the MWIA? In the fall of 1919, AMWA members (already trailblazers!) held a dinner in New York at the first international congress of women doctors. Over 140 guests from around the world celebrated together to honor medical women relief workers returning from France. This dinner was a catalyst to action. With the horror of World War I still fresh, the women physicians united efforts to benefit humanity while sharing ideas.

Today, MWIA includes women doctors from 88 countries and five continents. Headquartered in Dortmund, Germany, it has consultative status with the United Nations and official relations with the World Health Organization. Scientific congresses addressing issues of special interest to women physicians are held every three years. Smaller regional meetings are held around the globe each year with all MWIA members invited.

2004 happens to be the year for MWIA’s International Congress. The theme is Medicine in a New Life Style – Education, Research and Practice. From July 28 to August 1, medical women from around the globe will gather in Tokyo. They will share new science, learn from each other, and continue to work toward a healthier world through particular attention to the needs of women.

By tradition, AMWA presidents have taken a summer trip with interested AMWA members. This year, my trip will be to the MWIA International Congress in Tokyo. I welcome all interested AMWA members to come and experience the special synergy of an MWIA meeting. Contact the AMWA national office for more information.

Not your year to go overseas? Keep abreast of MWIA news at http://www.mwia.net or e-mail the Secretary-General Waltraud Diekhaus, MD, at secretariat@mwia.net.
Workshop on Reproductive Health in Medical Education: New Delhi, India

The Commonwealth Medical Trust (Commat) and the Reproductive Health Initiative of the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA-RHI) will co-host a meeting in India, April 26-29, 2004, to discuss strategies for integrating reproductive health content into pre-service medical education internationally.

The meeting will bring together representatives from medical schools in ten developing countries, interested international organizations and NGOs, the Indian Medical Association, India's Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The primary objectives of the meeting are to: 1) emphasize a rights-based approach to reproductive health medical education; 2) identify obstacles to introducing reproductive health content into medical school curricula and identify obstacle reduction strategies; and 3) document the need for strengthening reproductive health content in medical school curricula. Results of the meeting will include: 1) reviewing the status of reproductive health in medical education in select medical schools; 2) creating an annotated list of resources applicable to reproductive health curricula development; 3) developing advocacy strategies to promote reproductive health medical school curricula in developing countries; and 4) developing implementation plans for specific medical schools.

Advancing Your Career in Medicine: online CME series coming this summer!

In February, the AMWA Foundation approved a $25,000 grant to support the creation and implementation of a career development pilot project, Advancing Your Career in Medicine: online CME series. This project will create a model for AMWA to address the career development educational needs of our members.

The project's goal is to provide women in medicine with easily accessible educational information to expand their business expertise, communication and leadership skills, and ultimately, to support them by offering knowledge and skills to have more successful careers. The online CME series will launch this summer.

In Memoriam
Laura Ehrlich Morrow, MD, AMWA president 1969
Clarita E. Herrera, MD

Laura Ehrlich Morrow, MD, president of AMWA in 1969, died January 13, 2004, in West Orange, New Jersey. She was a highly respected and beloved leader through her long service on the Board of Directors of AMWA. She led the effort to secure the issuance of US Commemorative Postage honoring women in medicine, which resulted in the Elizabeth Blackwell, MD, stamp.

Dr. Morrow's long and distinguished career as a practicing psychiatrist demonstrates her deep devotion and indefatigable advocacy for her patients' health and their mental well being. She served with admirable leadership capacity on numerous boards and professional associations in New Jersey.

In 1974, Dr. Morrow received AMWA's highest honor, the Elizabeth Blackwell Medal, "for innovative ideas and untiring public relations leadership."

RHI celebrates 10 years of improving medical education

AMWA's Reproductive Health Initiative (AMWA-RHI) celebrated a milestone and developed plans for the future of RHI. At AMWA's 88th Annual Meeting, February 5-8, 2004, in San Diego, RHI held a reception to commemorate its 10th anniversary and honor RHI supporters, staff, and Advisory Committee members for their work and commitment to RHI's goals. The RHI Advisory Committee and staff discussed plans for expanding and sustaining RHI's projects well into the future. Medical students enthusiastically endorsed RHI's work and the RHI Model Curriculum during the session "Playing Our Part in the Reproductive Health Movement," presented by AMWA's National Student Coordinators, Dawn Ogawa and Gillian Baty. The RHI Model Curriculum will be released in its second edition in July 2004. The Curriculum is available free at http://www.amwa-doc.org/Education/RHI/Curriculum/main.htm.
Women in medicine

Barbara H. Roberts, MD, FACC, director of The Women's Cardiac Center at the Miriam Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island, was listed in the February issue of Good Housekeeping as a "Top Doc" for cardiac care.

Sexual Harassment and Gender Discrimination: Psychological Consequences and Clinical Interventions by AMWA Past President, Sharyn Lenhart, MD, will be published soon. The book is the first to address the psychological impact of sexual harassment and gender discrimination from both a clinical and theoretical perspective.

Susan Love, MD, (a keynote speaker at the 2004 AMWA Annual Meeting) is a 2004 National Women's History Month Honoree. The National Women's History Project states that "Love's greatest impact has come through her two best-selling books. Dr. Susan Love's Breast Book has been called 'the bible for women with breast cancer' and has armed women worldwide with hope and understanding. Dr. Susan Love's Menopause and Hormone Book is equally authoritative on issues concerning menopause. These books have gained the trust of women worldwide and have instilled awareness, understanding, and hope.'"

Martha S. Gerrity, MD, PhD, is a new co-editor of the Journal of General Internal Medicine. Dr. Gerrity is an associate professor of medicine at the Oregon Health & Science University School of Medicine and a staff physician at the Portland VA Medical Center.

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AMWA Annual Meeting 2004

The capstone event of the meeting was the Opening Banquet honoring Local Legends, nominated by members of Congress for their contributions to medicine and the community. By supporting woman physicians, through both professional development and recognition of women physicians, AMWA continues to promote the advancement of women in medicine. We invite you to get involved in the upcoming year by nominating your colleagues for an award, getting involved with your local branch, responding to an advocacy alert, and saving the date for AMWA's 2005 Annual Meeting, January 27-30, 2005, in Washington, DC.

AMWA Committee Chairs 2004-2005

Archives: Eliza Chin, MD
Awards: Delores Shieffoon, MD
Bylaws: Elinor Christiansen, MD
Career Development: Margaret Palmquest, MD
Executive: Diane Helentjaris, MD
Leadership Development: Claudia Morrissey, MD
Nominating: Nancy Church, MD
Resolutions: Marjorie Braude, MD
Senior Physicians: Satty Kaewani, MD
Student Loan and Scholarship: Leah Dickstein, MD
Women's Health: Susan Stewart, MD, and Cheryl Weinstein, MD
Advocacy: Janet Freedman, MD
American Women’s Hospitals Service: Roberta Rubin, MD
Continuing Medical Education: Cheryl Weinstein, MD
Finance: Claire Callan, MD
Membership: Allison Dean, MD
Program: Roberta Gebhard, DO
Publications: Jean Foucray, MD

Resolutions passed at the Annual Meeting

On February 6, the Meeting of the Members passed the following new resolutions for the Association.

AMWA opposes all laws and regulations that restrict the open, worldwide exchange of scientific information by submitting a resolution to the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). The OFAC ruled that publications of scientific papers from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, and Cuba were prohibited under the US trade embargo.

AMWA supports the placement of the Reproductive Health Initiative (RHI) Advisory Committee Chair on the AMWA Foundation Board to increase communication between the Committee and the Boards. RHI is a major AMWA educational project and has raised funds and supported project activities for ten years and continues to do so. Communication and decision-making at AMWA and the AMWA Foundation level affects the capacity of RHI to achieve project goals, necessitating this resolution.

AMWA reaffirms its leadership role in women's reproductive health, in a woman's right to make her own reproductive decisions, and in universal access for health care for all legal residents of the United States; and therefore, advocates for inclusion of these principles as platform issues in national elections.

A number of other resolutions were reaffirmed at the Meeting; these resolutions are online at www.amwa-doc.org/publications/amwapub.html. Resolutions provide the foundation of AMWA's advocacy efforts. All AMWA members are invited to submit resolutions for consideration in 2005.
Reflections on a year as AMWA Connections student editor
Francesca Cimino, USC Keck School of Medicine, MSIII

Approaching its 90th year as an organization devoted to the nurturance of women physicians and women’s health, AMWA recognized a pioneering group of women honored in the Changing the Face of Medicine exhibition featured at the recent Annual Meeting. AMWA now looks ahead, with a recent image update and a redesigned Web presence, marking an important step in the process of aging gracefully.

When I joined AMWA three years ago, I was inspired by an important national agenda focusing on reproductive health, smoking cessation, universal health care, domestic violence, and breast cancer. I saw an opportunity for mentorship and leadership. I have not been disappointed. Every AMWA member I meet is making an impact on the world around her.

AMWA is now on a journey of self-discovery. I challenge you to join in the effort. I personally found fulfillment as a part of AMWA, learning from my colleagues, listening to other women’s stories. I found a group of people who concern themselves with many of the same issues that concern me. Affirm for yourselves why you found meaning in AMWA. Tell us about it, and tell others. Together, we can help AMWA truly embrace its mission to provide the well-being it promotes.

It has been a pleasure to serve as student editor, bringing a more consistent student presence to AMWA’s publications, just as it is my pleasure now to introduce your new student editor, Mary Jo Hessert (MJHessert@yahoo.com). Mary Jo is a third year student at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine.

“Be aware... care”
Natalie Gallant, Co-National Student Coordinator

Returning from the 88th AMWA Annual Meeting, I felt inspired and empowered. I was amazed by the achievements of Vivian Finn, MD, Susan Love, MD, and the many Local Legends. Their work has led to significant progress for the advancement of women in medicine and for women’s health.

Women comprise more than 50% of my second-year class, similar to most medical schools in the country. More female physicians are entering specialties historically dominated by men. Funding for women’s health issues has increased tremendously. It is easy to see that we have come a long way, yet we still have a long way to go. Our challenge is to make students and physicians aware of the issues facing us, and to inspire them to care enough to join and support AMWA.

Sarah and I are honored to be your newly elected National Student Coordinators. We are eager to tackle this challenge. In the upcoming year, we aim to increase both student and physician membership on a local and national level. We believe that students and physicians are both vital to AMWA. By working together, we hope to not only make the medical community aware of, but also to care about, the issues facing women in medicine and women’s health.

Sarah Friedman was born and raised in Staten Island, New York. She received a BA in history from The College of Staten Island, City University of New York, and is currently a third year at SUNY Downstate. She is interested in the history of women in medicine and plans to go into OB/GYN. She will serve as NSC for a one-year term.

Natalie Gallant is originally from Encino, California. She received a BA in philosophy from University of Pennsylvania and is currently a second year at Keck USC School of Medicine. She is interested in melanoma and breast cancer. She will serve as NSC for a two-year term.
New Investigator Grant on Violence Against Women

Through a generous bequest to the AMWA Foundation, the Kathryn C. Bemann New Investigator Grant on Violence Against Women in the amount of $3,000-$5,000 supports a physician early in her/his career to pursue research on violence against women.

CRITERIA:

1. Recent graduated physician (within five years from graduation)
2. Serious interest in researching violence against women
3. Ability to pursue an independent career in research

Proposals are judged on scientific quality, research facility, significance to the specialty, and existence of other support grants, scholarships, and awards.

The grant recipient will receive transportation, one-night’s hotel accommodation, and complimentary meeting registration for AMWA’s 2005 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, at which time the recipient will be recognized.

For more information on the grant guidelines and for a copy of the 2004 application, visit www.amwa-doc.org/foundation or contact Julie Dogil (jdogil@amwa-doc.org). Completed grant applications must be postmarked by April 30, 2004.

The grant was presented for the first time this year to Anika A. H. Alvanzo, MD, of Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. The primary aim of Dr. Alvanzo’s research entitled, Determining the Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence Using the Violence Exposure Questionnaire, is to establish by using this new questionnaire, the current and lifetime prevalence rates of intimate partner violence (IPV) among female patients attending a specific clinic. Its secondary aim is to use the instrument to assess the risk for severe IPV among those patients who screen positive.
## AMWA Calendar

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 2, 2004</td>
<td>Residency Fair: Choosing the Residency That Is Right for You. Hosted by the AMWA Chapter at LINC-Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 25, 2004</td>
<td>March for Women’s Lives. Join the AMWA delegation of medical women as we show our support for comprehensive reproductive health services! Washington, DC</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 26-29, 2004</td>
<td>Incorporating Reproductive Health Care into the Medical Curriculum in Developing Countries. Co-hosted by FHI and Commonwealth Medical Association Trust, Delhi, India</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 30, 2004</td>
<td>Awards Nominations Deadline. Recognize your colleague’s achievements!</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 10, 2004</td>
<td>Rhode Island Medical Women’s Annual Dinner (Branch 29), Providence, RI</td>
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<td>June 7, 2004</td>
<td>5th Annual Women’s Health Research Coalition’s Capitol Hill Day. AMWA is a member of the Women’s Health Research Coalition. Join us as we lobby Congress to encourage coordination and funding for women’s health research. Washington, DC</td>
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<td>June 25, 2004</td>
<td>AMWA Foundation’s International Women in Medicine Hall of Fame Gala. Washington, DC</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 25-27, 2004</td>
<td>AMWA’s Interim Meeting. Washington, DC</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 28 - August 1, 2004</td>
<td>2004 President’s Trip/AMWA’s 26th International Congress - Medicine in a New Life Style - Education, Research, and Practice. Tokyo, Japan</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 27-30, 2005</td>
<td>AMWA’s 89th Annual Meeting. Save the Date for AMWA’s 90th Birthday! Washington, DC</td>
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## AMWA Connections

**Committee and Staff**

- Diane Helenjaris, MD, AMWA President
- Linda D. Hallinan, Executive Director
- Susan Ivey, MD, Vice President, Communications
- Jean Fourcroy, MD, PhD, Publication Chair
- Mary Jo Hessert, Student Newsletter Editor
- Meghan Kissell, MSW, Director of Communications and Advocacy
- Adair Heyl, PhD, Editor
- Pam Johnson, Assistant Editor
- John W. Prince, Art Director

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