



American Medical **Women's** Association

## **New President and President-Elect Assume Leadership of the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA)**

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The American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) installed **Connie Baum Newman, MD as President** and **Roberta E. Gebhard, DO as President-Elect** at its meeting gala on March 24, 2018.

### **Connie Baum Newman, MD, FACP, FAHA, FAMWA**

Connie B. Newman, MD, the 2018-2019 President of the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA), is an endocrinologist and Adjunct Professor of Medicine at New York University School of Medicine and Academic Visitor at the University of Oxford, UK. Dr. Newman is a physician-scientist and leader in the fields of hypercholesterolemia and cardiovascular disease, and drug safety. She is an FDA appointed consultant to the Endocrine and Metabolic Drugs Advisory Committee. Dr. Newman chairs the task force for the Endocrine Society clinical practice guideline on the management of high cholesterol, and the Writing Group for the American Heart Association's Scientific Statement on the safety of statins. She is also committed to education about sex and gender differences in disease, and is working on a medical textbook on this topic.

Born and raised in Passaic, N.J., Dr. Newman decided to pursue a medical career in the early 1960's, a time when few women were physicians. She was inspired by the example of her father, a pediatrician who worked in "contagious disease" hospitals during the polio epidemic in the 1940's, and by a handful of women physicians in her home town, among them Dr. Laura Morrow, President of AMWA from 1968 to 1969. Dr. Newman graduated from Wellesley College in 1974, as a Durant Scholar, Trustee Scholar, and member of Phi Beta Kappa, and from Weill Cornell Medical College in 1978. After completing internal medicine training at Beth Israel Hospital, New York, NY and a fellowship in endocrinology and metabolism at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, she joined the full time faculty of NYU School of Medicine in 1984. Motivated by the precept "primum non nocere" ("do no harm") her clinical research has focused on the concept of benefit/risk and the assessment of drug safety, including the statins, which are taken by 25 million people in the U.S. She has published and lectured on statin safety and/or statin intolerance for many years. She is a member of the Cholesterol Treatment Trialists' Collaboration, which conducts meta-analyses of long term statin cardiovascular disease outcome trials including over 170,000 participants. She co-authored the paper evaluating cancer in 27 trials, and has conducted analyses of the safety data of several individual trials. She also was a member of the Steering Committee of CARDS (Collaborative Atorvastatin Diabetes Study), a landmark clinical trial that demonstrated that statins reduce heart attack and stroke in adults with type 2 diabetes.

Dr. Newman is an advocate for women's rights and access to reproductive healthcare globally. She serves on the National Medical Committee of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, as well as the Global Advisory Board and the Leadership Council. On the local level, she is a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of Planned Parenthood of Northern, Central and Southern New Jersey.

Dedicated to helping other women pursue a medical career, Dr. Newman mentors pre-medical and medical students, and young physicians through AMWA, Wellesley College, Weill Cornell Medicine, and New York University School of Medicine. In 2011, she founded Wellesley in Medicine, a network of over 1,000 Wellesley students and alumnae health care professionals that discuss diverse topics in medicine including medical training, career paths, work-life balance, gender bias, and advances in disease management.

Within AMWA, Dr. Newman has co-chaired several committees including the Preventive Medicine Task Force, the American Women's Hospital Service (AWHS), and the Fellowship Committee. As President of AMWA, she will support all AMWA initiatives, including physician wellness and resilience, gender equity, humanism in medicine, sex and gender education, preventive medicine, PATH (physicians against the trafficking of humans), and gun violence prevention. She will continue to work with other AMWA leaders on education about obesity, its comorbidities, pathophysiology and management, and on the launch of an opioid addiction task force. Dr. Newman looks forward to leading AMWA in its mission to improve health and advance women in medicine.

### **Roberta E. Gebhard, DO**

Dr. Roberta Gebhard is the newly elected President-Elect of the American Medical Women's Association. She is 2010 founder and current chairwoman of AMWA's Gender Equity Task Force. The mission of AMWA GETF is to accomplish gender equity as a fact of life for women physicians. Dr. Gebhard and her AMWA GETF Co-chair Dr. Linda Brodsky were awarded the prestigious Women Physicians Congress Josephine Giambalvo Scholarship for the 2012/2013 grant cycle to fund their research on the work habits of women physicians. The paper from this research was recently submitted to The Lancet for publication. Under her leadership, the AMWA GETF published an article Workplace Bullying Among Family Physicians: A Gender Focused Study, in the Journal of Women's Health in September of 2016.

Dr. Gebhard has been very active in AMWA during her career, receiving the AMWA Bertha Van Hoosen Award at the 2015 AMWA Centennial Meeting for her dedication to the mission and vision of AMWA. She served as National Secretary 2014 through 2016 and 2017 through 2018. She has been Vice President of Membership, Regional Governor, National Program Committee Chair and has served several terms on AMWA's Board of Directors. She is currently the AMWA representative to CARE and Vision 2020. CARE is an international non-government organization dedicated to the empowerment of women and girls around the world. Vision 2020 is a Drexel University initiative committed to achieving women's economic and social equality. She has also represented AMWA/MWIA (Medical Women's International Association) to United Nations Women for the past four years. In September 2014 Dr. Gebhard was recognized with the AMWA Commitment to Excellence Award.

A Board Certified Family Practitioner and Educator, Dr. Gebhard is on the University at Buffalo Medical School Admissions Committee where she has served since 1998 in various capacities. She is a Society of Teachers of Family Medicine member, and previously served as the STFM Group-On Women Co-chair,

was on the STFM Group-On Procedures, and was author of two chapters in the current edition of Pfenninger and Fowler's Procedures in Primary Care: Treatment of Burns, and Use of the Woods Lamp. She also co-authored an article: Required Procedural Training in Family Medicine Training: A Consensus Statement, which was published in Family Medicine in September 2008.

Dr. Gebhard was born in Buffalo New York and graduated from Westfield Academy and Central School in Westfield, NY in 1976. She attended State University of New York College at Fredonia, and graduated 1980 with a BS in Biology and a BA in Psychology. She attended graduate school at SUNY Buffalo Roswell Park Memorial Institute in the Natural Sciences Department 1980-1982, and graduated from University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1986. She completed an Osteopathic Rotating Internship at Normandy Osteopathic Hospital's in 1987, and an Allopathic Family Medicine Residency at Mid-Hudson Family Medicine Residency Program in 1990 where she received the LITZ Foundation Award for Outstanding Participation in Community Practice at graduation.

After graduation, Dr. Gebhard worked for the Indian Health Service in Wolf Point, MT where she received the Employee Personnel Management Systems Award for Excellence. She later transferred to the National Health Service Corps in Kenton, Ohio where she served until 1995. Dr. Gebhard then relocated back to western NY working at Health Care Plan, a staff-model HMO in Grand Island, NY until accepting a position at SUNY at Buffalo Family Medicine Department where she worked as Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine for 12 years. She received the Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award at the Upper West Side Family Health Center in 2005.

She accepted a position at the VA in Erie, PA as Hospitalist, and later at WCA Hospital in Jamestown, NY where she worked as a Hospitalist for seven years. She recently left a position as Associate Director of the Masonic Care Community in Utica, NY to move back to Grand Island to be closer to family, and devote more time to AMWA.

Dr. Gebhard is active politically and advocates in Washington, DC for women's rights and gender equity, as well as funding for women and girls throughout the world. She is happily married to Greg her soul-mate of 34 years who is a man of good conscience; she is proud of her three adult sons who are also men of good conscience, and her daughter who is a women's rights activist as well as a senior at SUNY College at Geneseo.

In addition, **AMWA's new board members** include: Lynda Kabbash, MD as Secretary and Wendy Bernstein, MD, Dana Sue Hardin, MD, Fatima Fahs, MD, and Amanda Xi, MD as new Members at Large.

### **About AMWA**

The American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) is an organization that functions at the local, national, and international level to advance women in medicine and improve women's health. We achieve this by providing and developing leadership, advocacy, education, expertise and mentoring and through building strategic alliances. Founded in 1915, AMWA is the oldest multi-specialty organization of women physicians. As the vision and voice of women in medicine for over a century, AMWA empowers women to lead in improving health for all, within a model that reflects the unique perspective of women.