

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION



*Secretariat : 27 Skidmore Rd
Pleasant Valley NY 12569 USA
www.mwia.net*

15 March 2020

Dear colleagues,

I bring you greetings on behalf of the MWIA exco as we face challenging, and we have to say, unpredictable times with the Covid 19 pandemic. Despite all of this, I trust that this communication will bring encouragement to us all.

Let me first of all commiserate with all families who have lost loved ones and all who have been affected. Indeed, we have all been impacted one way or the other.

As frontline healthcare professionals at the epicentre of the response, we have been exceptional. And though we are being overstretched and overwhelmed, we must lock arms more firmly together to weather the storm. The Covid 19 storm has brought with it death, devastation, incapacitation, isolation, resulting in socio- economic disruptions, travel bans, postponements and in some cases outright cancellations of events and activities.

How do we brace up to the storm and ride the waves?

By doing what we know to do best, "to heal with the love of a mother", in all circumstances including these very adverse times.

It would mean continuing to deploy a commonsense approach whilst making adjustments ranging from reprioritising to making more sacrifices.

We are called to do as we have done in more demanding times, to be more caring, more compassionate and more generous. We must however strike a balance and make no apologies to observe self -care even as we carry out this noblest of assignments.

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MWIA has sent out an advisory and we have asked our members to step up the Women's Rights To Health Information (WORTH) Campaign. In other words, we have been tasked to reach out to our communities and to provide lifesaving health information especially to women who are the bearers, rearers and carers in their households. We know how the pandemic would have further affected women's access to health care especially in rural and hard to reach populations.

As you know, it is usual for us to have our quarterly MWIA update in which we communicate with one another about our activities. The March update will be slightly delayed this year in view of the global crisis. We are also looking at a new paradigm of innovative virtual interaction.

In the meantime, we have relaxed the deadlines for the submission of committee reports and work plans. We will however look to our scientific committee to provide us with reports of response efforts, the impact of the pandemic and a compendium of research breakthroughs as part of their workplan.

Remember every storm has an expiry date. We will ride out this particular storm together as we look forward to seeing the rainbow on the other side of it.

Above all on behalf of the executive committee of MWIA we request you all stay safe and take care of yourselves while continuing your dedication to your duties during these challenging times. We pray for the accelerated containment of the Covid 19 pandemic.

With warm regards,

Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi
President - MWIA