SUPPORTING WOMEN IN MEDICINE SINCE 1915

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

"Six Feet Apart"
Karen Poirier-Brode, MD
AMWA Artist in Residence 2020-2021

American Medical Women’s Association
THE AMERICAN MEDICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION IS DEDICATED TO ADVANCING WOMEN IN MEDICINE, ADVOCATING FOR EQUITY, AND ENSURING EXCELLENCE IN HEALTHCARE

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

2021 was a year that brought hope -- though that hope was tempered with the realization that despite groundbreaking vaccines, we may never return to life as it was. The war on COVID-19 now included the challenges of new viral variants, the politicalization of healthcare, and the spread of misinformation.

Again, healthcare workers rose to the challenge, often at the expense of their own well-being. Demands on women physicians, both as healthcare practitioners and caregivers, were stretched unimaginably. (needs edits)

The importance of AMWA's role in supporting women in medicine became clearer than ever before. The voice of women physicians is integral as our country moves forward to address unprecedented levels of burnout, persistent healthcare disparities, and worsening chronic health conditions. Learn more about our work in 2021 to address the needs of women in medicine.

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

COVID-19

Our members worked on the front lines as COVID-19 cases surged, promoted vaccination efforts, and fought against vaccine misinformation. AMWA was a founding member of the COVID-19 Community Corps and a partner of Made to Save and the COVID-19 Vaccine Education and Equity Campaign. We convened a global network of women physician leaders to share insights through the webinar series, One World, One War Against COVID-19: Women Physicians Come Together. We continued to raise awareness of the importance of understanding sex and gender differences and the impact of those differences on COVID-19 prevention and disease.

ADVANCING WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

AMWA remains committed to fixing the gender gap in healthcare leadership and advancing women in medicine at all stages of their careers. To that end, we have launched AMWA ELEVATE, our signature year-long leadership program, partnered with Korn Ferry Health to bring more leadership programs to our members, and enhanced partnerships with executive degree programs, including the Carnegie Mellon Masters in Medical Management Scholarship.

AMWA joined the Women's Wellness through Equity and Leadership (WEL) project, and our Leadership Council established the AMWA Inspire Awards to recognize women physicians who have made an impact on others. In honor of Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell's 200th Birthday, we celebrated the career achievements of our past 77 Blackwell Medal Awardees through an on-line exhibition and film.

Recognizing that leadership needs allyship, we are building a community of allies through the Henry Blackwell Circle, named...
after the brother of Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell and the husband of Lucy Stone, a prominent 19th century suffragist and abolitionist.

On the trainee level, we launched AMWA EVOLVE (for residents and fellows) and AMWA IGNITE (for medical students) and honored 590 graduating medical students with the Glasgow Rubin Award.

**JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION**

Our Diversity and Inclusion Section was renamed the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Council to ensure that all AMWA programs reflect our commitment to justice, inclusiveness, and diversity.

AMWA formed an Anti-racism Committee and joined the Collective Action Against Racism to mark February 28-March 1 in recognition of Anarcha, Betsey, Lucy, and other en-slaved Black women for their contributions to the field of obstetrics and gynecology. We held a series of work-shops to raise awareness of race-based bias and discrimination in healthcare. Our premedical division focused on outreach to HBCU's with subsidized membership to help increase diversity within the pipeline of women in medicine.

Another group we are working actively to support are International Medical Graduates (IMGs), who now comprise 25% of all U.S. physicians. IMGs often encounter significant barriers to entering medical training here in the U.S.

Words matter. Thus, we have begun an internal review of our documents to be sure that the language is inclusive of all groups.

**GENDER EQUITY**

AMWA partnered with She Leads Healthcare and Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) in a campaign to advocate for gender equity in medicine. #GiveHerAResonToStay in Healthcare was an initiative to recognize and support the vital, yet underrecognized contributions of women physicians. Gender inequity is one of the many reasons that women leave healthcare, so we are investing in programming and coaching to tackle this directly.

The Linda Brodsky Memorial Grant was launched this year to promote programs and research on aligned with Dr. Brodsky’s passions for gender equity, medical student success, clinical research and the advancement of women physicians. Two awards were presented this year.

AMWA partnered with Physician Just Equity on webinars to address workplace challenges. AMWA's Revolution by Resolution is working to introduce gender equity resolutions within state medical societies. On a national level, we increased advocacy efforts focused on family leave policies, vaccine mandates, reproductive rights, maternal health, and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

**PHYSICIAN FERTILITY**

AMWA held the first Summit on Physician Fertility and launched the SPACE research trial to better understand the impact of infertility on physicians which is diagnosed in up to 1 in 4 women physicians,
A rate double that of the general population. Plans for large scale education and advocacy efforts are underway to improve fertility benefits coverage across the country. Be sure to catch our 2022 conference series -- Turning Fertility Challenges into Change.

**SEX AND GENDER SPECIFIC HEALTH**

AMWA continues to be a champion for women’s health. We co-organized the 3rd Annual HPV Prevention Week and aligned with the WHO mandate for global cervical cancer elimination by 2030. We've began developing *Check in on Menopause*, a telehealth program focused on addressing menopausal issues.

We co-organized the 4th Sex and Gender Health Education Summit which highlighted the intersectionality of sex, gender, race, and social determinants. These efforts will translate into better care, not just for women, but for all individuals. These efforts will continue with working groups and initiatives through AMWA’s Sex and Gender Health Collaborative.

**PHYSICIAN WELL-BEING & MENTAL HEALTH**

AMWA helped support the passage of the Lorna Breen HealthCare Provider Protection Act which ‘aims to reduce and prevent suicide, burnout, and mental and behavioral health conditions among health care professionals’ and organized the third annual #Light4Docs campaign during Physician Suicide Awareness Day. The initiative *Humans Before Heroes* continues to work with state medical boards to reframe medical licensure questions that pose barriers for physicians seeking mental health care.

**GLOBAL HEALTH**

AMWA is an affiliated organization with the United Nations Department of Global Communication (UN DGC). During the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, AMWA held a parallel event - Fixing the Gender Gap in Healthcare Leadership: Multisectoral panel of women physician leaders. AMWA was represented in meetings throughout the year, including a World Health Day Briefing in partnership with the UN DGC.

The American Women’s Hospitals Service (AWHS) supported humanitarian relief efforts around the world, including $23,000+ raised for oxygen concentrators during India’s COVID-19 surge and $15,000+ for basic food and medical necessities for the people of Afghanistan. We developed Menstrual Equity. Period. and a partnership with the First Lady of Suriname and Days for Girls to address period poverty through the production of reusable menstrual pad packs.

Four new Anne C. Carter Global Health Fellows began their term in AMWA, with interests ranging from global health equity to HIV/AIDS to poverty and disability.
INVESTING IN AMWA BUILDS A BETTER FUTURE FOR WOMEN

REVENUES
Grants, sponsorships, and memberships enable AMWA's work to advance women in medicine and improve equity.

EXPENSES
Strategic investments in program platforms & staff support improve member benefits & resources

An anonymous donation of $100,000 to the Vivian E. Shih Medical Education Fund will support programming to improve the education and well-being of residents and medical students.

"Every woman physician should be a member of AMWA"
-- Dr. Karen Nichols, Author of Physician Leadership: The 11 Skills Every Doctor Needs to be an Effective Leader

"Keep the ties to AMWA..."
-- Dr. Lila Wallis
(1921-2022)

Consider Lifetime Membership!

AMWA Executive Director Dr. Eliza Chin sharing the AMWA Centennial Book with Dr. Lila Wallis in 2016 during her 95th birthday celebration.
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WE ALSO HONOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NUMEROUS COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS, REGIONAL GOVERNORS AND DIRECTORS, AND LIAISONS WITHOUT WHOM OUR WORK WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE. A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF OUR LEADERS FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT TO AMWA.

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