

## Help Required -

# In Search of Items for Silent Auction!

Attention all members! As you know, we are holding a Fundraising Gala for the Maude Abbott Research Fund (MARF) on the evening of Saturday, June 23, 2007 as part of our Annual General Meeting & Leadership and Advocacy Workshops. We would also like to hold a silent auction with the hopes of increasing our funds for the MARF.

We were hoping many of you who, not only known to be talented and caring physicians, are also renowned as talented artisans, would consider making a donation of your work for the silent auction. This could be in the form of a painting, a sculpture, a

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Hurry and register now for the June AGM!

From Friday at 4pm until Sunday noon, June 22-24, 2007 participate in one of the best leadership and advocacy sessions ever offered. For registration information see page 7.

## President's Message

*By Gail Beck, MD, CM, FRCPC*



As you know the Federation of Medical Women of Canada has been working diligently on the issue of the new HPV vaccine by attending the HPV Steering Committee meeting back on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006. We then presented a brief at the pre-budget consultations before the Federal Government's Finance Committee on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006 urging the Federal Government to add more money for new vaccines such as the new HPV vaccine. I then participated on a panel on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006 in Montreal at a summit on HPV and cervical cancer prevention.

On March 6<sup>th</sup> in anticipation of the International Women's Day on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007 and the reading of the Federal Budget scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup>, the FMWC organized a media campaign urging the Federal Government one last time to include the moneys in the new budget for new vaccines. I wish to take this opportunity to thank Drs. Yolande Leduc in Montreal, Shirley Hovan in Red Deer and Shelley Ross in Vancouver for helping me with the media interviews and appearances for this media campaign. Hopefully some of you have heard, seen or read some of the media coverage.

On March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007 I was invited as your president to attend the budget lock-up. I was very pleased to see that the \$300 million was put into the budget. Interestingly enough it was put in exclusively for the new HPV Vaccine.

Although we feel very excited about this successful campaign, we are not finished. I appeal to all of you to write to your provincial ministers of health to insure they determine the best method of immunizing our young women against HPV and to move quickly.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## FMWC Mission Statement

The Federation of Medical Women of Canada (FMWC) is committed to the development of women physicians and to the promotion of the well-being of all women.

La Fédération des femmes médecins du Canada est vouée à l'épanouissement des femmes médecins ainsi qu'à la promotion du bien-être des femmes en général.

# Editorial

## FMWC Executive Committee 2006-2007

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### FMWC Newsletter

**Editor:** Dr. Nahid Azad

The FMWC Newsletter is published three times a year and sent to members as a perquisite of membership.

Views and reports appearing in the Newsletter are not necessarily endorsed by the FMWC. Contributions of articles, reports, letters, notices, resource information and photographs are encouraged.

Submissions and membership inquiries to the National Office:

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Web: [www.fmwc.ca](http://www.fmwc.ca)

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## Editorial

### Taking Difference into account

*by Dr. N. Azad  
FMWC newsletter*

Recently, I attended an exciting faculty development workshop by Dr. Blye Frank, a professor in medical education from Dalhousie University. The enthusiastic attendees were all female faculty - which was interesting. Dr. Frank highlighted the fact that our communities are becoming progressively more diverse, and increased attention is critical to the current health disparities among these groups. He emphasized that diversity education should be thoughtfully and thoroughly integrated into medical education, being mindful not to be superficial or to perpetuate stereotypical understanding of diversity. What is often overlooked is that individuals who belong to particular racial, ethnic, religious,

ability, or sexual orientation groups cannot be assumed to represent the complexity of that group. We need to encourage learners to become reflective practitioners who identify and respond to unfairness within the patient-doctor relationship, medical education, and health care delivery. As a result, difficult issues such as discrimination, health disparities, and structural inequities can be addressed for these groups. Therefore, "taking difference into account" involves careful consideration about the ways in which we communicate, and being mindful of the messages we are passing on to others, either overtly or covertly. This issue is a fundamental component of doctor education and professional development.

## Welcome to our New Editor, Dr. Nahid Azad

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Dr. Nahid Azad as the FMWC's new newsletter Editor. Dr. Azad has accepted the challenge and looks forward to working with the National Office in delivering a quality newsletter that will be of interest and benefit to all members. We wish to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Pat Simpson for her work as the past newsletter editor.



### *Auction.... (Continued from page 1)*

piece of jewelry, a quilt, leatherwork, homemade basket of wonderful canned jams/jellies/chutney, a catered party or any other such items you are willing to part with. We would be grateful for any other appropriate new merchandise you may have accessible to you.

Should you wish to donate, please contact the National Office to make the necessary arrangements. You can email the National office at [fmwcmain@fmwc.ca](mailto:fmwcmain@fmwc.ca) or call at 613-569-5881 (Ottawa) or 1-877-771-3777 (toll free).

We look forward to hear from you soon!

***President's... (Continued from page 1)***

Below is a letter that was written by Dr. Shelley Ross to the Minister of Health in British Columbia. Feel free to use part of or, this entire letter to address the issue with your provincial minister of health. Let's work together to make a difference!

Honorable George Abbott  
Minister of Health, Province of British Columbia  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Mr. Abbott:

Re: HPV Vaccine and the Prevention of Cervical Cancer

The Federation of Medical Women of Canada (FMWC) is a national organization of women physicians in existence since 1924. FMWC is a member of the Medical Women's International Association, which includes women physicians from 70 countries. FMWC is committed to the promotion of well-being of all Canadian women and takes an active role to improve the management of women's health issues.

FMWC knows that the development of the HPV vaccine against Human Papilloma Virus will go down in medical history as one of the major breakthroughs in women's health in this century.

Of the approximately 40 different subtypes of HPV, it is types 16 and 18 that account for 70% of cervical cancers and types 6 and 11 cause 90% of genital warts. In BC each year, over 150 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 7,000 with genital warts. In addition to the emotional toll on the individual, there is a financial burden to the public, amounting to \$50 million each year that BC spends on managing HPV related diseases.

There are two HPV vaccines but only Gardasil that protects against subtypes 6, 11, 16 and 18 has already been approved and is in use. The cervical cancer strategy should include vaccine to prevent cancer of the cervix in conjunction with Pap smears to screen for cervical cancer.

In the federal budget, \$300 million has been allotted to the provinces and territories over three years to launch a national HPV vaccine program. FMWC realizes that this amount of money will cover vaccination of two cohorts, likely in conjunction with school-based vaccination programs already in place.

BC has been a leader in cancer prevention and treatment strategies and now has a chance to demonstrate this leadership once again by adding Gardasil to the vaccines that girls get in the school-based immunization programs.

It is our understanding that the Vaccination Committee will be meeting this month to decide on the roll-out of the HPV vaccination program in British Columbia.

Following the recommendations of the Vaccination Committee, FMWC urges the provincial government not to delay but to make sure that the 2007 allotment of federal funding is used. This would mean starting the school-based immunization program with the start of the September, 2007, school year and not waiting until 2008.

Sincerely,

***Shelley Ross, M.D., C.C.F.P., F.C.F.P.***  
***Past President of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada***  
***Immediate Past President of the Medical Women's International Association***

# Student Report

## In With the New...

by Ashley Waddington, MD

FMWC Resident Representative

Wednesday, March 14 marked another Canadian Resident Matching Service Match Day, where hundreds of final year medical students across Canada learned what they would be doing in the next step of their careers (and where they would be doing it!). April 13<sup>th</sup> will be the Match Day for the second iteration of the CARMS match.

What does this all mean? On July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, hundreds of new residents across Canada will begin their clinical duties, their first interactions with patients when they can use their hard-earned title of "Doctor". Congratulations to all new residents! Here are a few thoughts from someone who was in your shoes just one year ago...

-Acknowledge and deal with your feelings about the Match. Especially if you got your first choice of position, you may feel that the people around you will expect you to feel excited and enthusiastic. Even if you are pleased with the outcome of the Match, it is totally normal to also have feelings of regret and anxiety around the

changes that are coming up in your life. If you are disappointed in the outcome of the match, acknowledge these feelings, but try not to spend your time dwelling on what "should" have happened. Help your friends, family and support network to understand the variety of emotions you are experiencing.

This is a good time for self reflection, and some people find it helpful to record their thoughts in a journal, or to come up with a creative outlet for their emotions, both negative and positive. Try scrap booking, create a web log, or take up another creative pursuit to use some of your emotional energy on.

-Make time for self-care. The next weeks and months are a busy time, with studying for the licensing exams, preparing for graduation and, in many cases, preparing for a move to a new home or even a new city. While you may feel overwhelmed at times, it is especially important in these days and weeks to make time for yourself. Exercise, eating as well as you can, and maintaining good sleep hab-

its will help you to be in the best condition possible to manage the number of tasks you have to do. Be realistic: will an extra hour of studying be more likely to make the difference between passing and failing your exam, or could you use that hour to clear your head with a walk or jog, or to get an extra hour of sleep so you can study more effectively tomorrow?

**-Come to the FMWC Annual General Meeting "The Top Ten Reasons I Didn't Save the World This Year", June 23-24 in Ottawa.** Interact with medical women who will inspire and motivate you to get involved in issues inside and outside of your professional life, and provide you with practical workshops on how to make time for the things that matter to you, how to balance a busy life with family and clinical duties and how to use your voice to promote the changes in the world that are important to you. What could be better than starting off residency feeling empowered, motivated and inspired! Hope to see you all there!

## Be Part of the Leaders. Join the FMWC Board!

As we prepare for our 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting to be held on Saturday, June 23, 2007 at the Ottawa Congress Centre in Ottawa, where we will provide leadership and advocacy training, we hope that some of you will consider starting your involvement in organizations by joining the FMWC Board.

Our most urgent need at this time is for someone to be nominated at President-elect for 2007-2008. Anyone interested is encouraged to fill in the nomination form below and to send it by fax to the National office before May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007. The National Office fax number is 1-877-772-5777 (toll free) or 613-569-4432 for the Ottawa area.

### Nomination form for Board of Directors

Positions open at June 2007 AGM are:

**2007-08 President-elect**  
Cowichan Valley Branch Pres.  
London Branch President  
Halifax Branch President

Vancouver Branch President  
York County Branch President  
Hamilton Branch President  
Regional Director- Region II (AB,SK,MB, NWT)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a member in good standing,

am interested in submitting my nomination for the position of

\_\_\_\_\_. I understand that the positions

will be open to the floor during the 2007 AGM on June 23, 2007.

: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fax or mail to National Office  
780 prom Echo Drive, Ottawa, ON K1C 6C1  
fax: (613)569-4432 or toll free 1-877-772-5777

# Form a local FMWC book/discussion group... And also join a national FMWC initiative to write a book on women in the Canadian health care system!

Dear FMWC colleagues,

In keeping with this year's AGM theme – changing the world, that is – have you paused recently to think about the social, economic, political, health and legal status of women in Canada and around the globe? How do you engage with these issues in your personal and professional lives?

A friend and I (in association with the Ottawa branch of the FMWC) recently launched Women of Ottawa Reading Diverse Subjects (WORDS), a monthly reading group for open-minded, thoughtful women in the central Ottawa. The response was overwhelmingly positive with over seventy members. The richness of the group is in its diversity: we are premenopausal, post-menopausal, women with and without children, women who work in the home and outside of the home, women early in their careers, mid-career and retired women, heterosexual, lesbian and bisexual women, women with disabilities, women of various cultures and religions, women of disparate educational and economic backgrounds. We are physicians, medical students, nursing students, midwives, visual artists, filmmakers, computer scientists, social scientists, child care workers, women's studies scholars,

environmentalists. In March we read *Ten Thousand Roses* by Judy Rebick, *Self-Made Man: One Woman's Year Disguised as a Man* by Norah Vincent, and *He Drown She in the Sea* by Shani Mootoo. In April we will read *The Female Thing: Dirt, Sex, Envy, Vulnerability* by Laura Kipnis and *The Birth House* by Ami McKay. We have compiled an impressive list of suggested books for future months. We also keep track of upcoming women's rights events.

Other branches of the FMWC could launch similar reading/discussion groups. It is a wonderful way to build interdisciplinary networks of politically and socially engaged women. We are happy to share our reading list and ideas with you – please write to [ottawafeminists@gmail.com](mailto:ottawafeminists@gmail.com)

Although WORDS was meant to be a reading group, we have also just embarked on an exciting project to write a book. **I invite all FMWC members across Canada to contribute to our book about women's health and the Canadian health care system!**

What are the challenges for women as patients, as care-givers, and as health care providers? Please send us your prose, poetry, photography, art, whatever you like

(but nothing longer than 1000 words). We want the volume to capture your personal and professional experiences as a woman in the Canadian health care system. You've likely been a patient yourself at some point and/or you have cared for your children, your mother, grandmother, your women friends. You also have a privileged perspective on the health care system through your experiences caring formally for other women in your role as a physician. You can talk about positive encounters or challenges, everyday events or extraordinary circumstances.

Anyone who wants to be a co-editor should contact me ([nili.kaplan-myrrh@aya.yale.edu](mailto:nili.kaplan-myrrh@aya.yale.edu)). This is a collaborative project.

Please also pass on the invitation to contribute to the book to any woman you know who has ever, in any way, experienced the Canadian health care system. We need to ensure that marginalized women's voices are heard.

Sincerely,

Nili Kaplan-Myrrh, PhD (FMWC Ottawa branch member, University of Ottawa MD class of 2008, and co-facilitator of WORDS).

## List of Awards now available on FMWC website!

The Awards Committee of the FMWC has compiled a list of awards that are available on an annual basis for our members. Some of these are FMWC sponsored awards (May Cohen Award, Margaret Owen Waite Memorial Fund, Maude Abbott Loan Fund) while others are sponsored by other organizations (CFPC, CMA). Please visit our website at

[www.fmwc.ca](http://www.fmwc.ca) for detailed descriptions of these awards including the application submission deadlines. Please notify Andrée Poirier if you know of any other awards, require further information or assistance with applications forms. She can be reached by email at [fmwcmain@fmwc.ca](mailto:fmwcmain@fmwc.ca) or by phone at 1-877-771-3777 (toll free) or 613-569-5881 (Ottawa area).



# 2007 AGM Plans - The Top 10 Reasons I Didn't Save the World this Year

**June 23 & 24 Advocacy and Leadership workshop**

**June 21 & 22 Pre-conference options**

Through this conference, the FMWC wants to highlight that in 2007, women in medicine have been privileged by our numbers and our strength, and we feel that we have been handed a mandate to improve our own lot and the health of those we care for.

Panacea was the daughter of the great Aesclepius. In the spirit of Greek mythology and its influence on medicine, are we daughters of Aesclepius to be a panacea? Can we save the world? Or even that piece of the world which we touch?

As in the myths there are always obstacles to conquer. The key is to define those areas of our life and work that are within our sphere of influence and over which we can influence positive change. This applies to us as individuals as much as it applies to us collectively. The personal issues we face often turn out to be collective issues. (We learned that the personal is political from our roots in feminism)

Some specific examples of the reality of the obstacles we face as women physi-

cians will be discussed with humour but also with constructive advice on finding time, staying well, avoiding burnout and raising kids while saving the world!

One solid example of these obstacles for women's health might be the daily work we do in responding to health conditions such as cervical dysplasia which we now have the technology to prevent, but do not yet (but almost, in view of recent federal budget announcement which FMWC is very proud to have encouraged) have the means to disseminate. Another example of this might be the daily clinical challenge of responding to the health needs of women in abusive relationships when we have some ideas about how to prevent but do not yet have the ability to effectively distribute that understanding.

Conquering these obstacles is what this conference will address, in practical terms, with meaningful dialogue, useful wisdom and helpful tools. Our impressive list of speakers have vision, wisdom and experience in advocating for change and

in addressing the barriers that prevent us from doing so. Join us for an enjoyable and enlightening meeting!

Come early and attend the SOGC International Women's Health Day on Safe Motherhood on Thursday June 21. Join us Friday June 22 for a pre-conference seminar on HPV and cervical cancer prevention in older women which will open the Annual Board Meeting. But DON'T MISS the Saturday AGM on June 23. Definitely plan to stay on Saturday night for the fun and entertaining fundraising gala where we plan to support the Maude Abbott Research Fund for women's health. Rejuvenate on Sunday morning, June 24 as we wind up our agenda over brunch.

**If you have not yet received your preliminary program and wish to attend, contact the National Office and a program/registration form will be sent or faxed to you. The email for the National Office is [fmwcmain@fmwc.ca](mailto:fmwcmain@fmwc.ca) or call 1-877-771-3777 (toll free) or 613-569-5881 (Ottawa).**

## FMWC participates in World Health Day Challenge

*by Cathy Younger-Lewis*

FMWC was a Team entry in the CPAR 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual World Health Day Challenge, held April 7, 2007 and organized by Canadian Physicians for Aid & Relief (CPAR). CPAR extends a challenge to physicians and health care professionals all across Canada to donate part of their day's income that day to CPAR, in support of its health and development projects in rural African communities. Clinics, groups and associations can also enter teams, setting a fundraising goal for the group members.

Several FMWC members participated, and hope to do so again next year. Participants are sent posters and other promotional material to put up in their work place and wear

on the day. It is a great way to educate the public about world health issues, and it is fun to be part of reaching a goal set by one's own group.



*Many CPAR programs support women's health care in rural Africa. Here a traditional birth attendant assesses health of newborn.*

The extraordinary health challenges facing rural communities in Africa was highlighted this past summer when the International AIDS Conference was held in Toronto. Life is particularly hard for women, and many of the projects supported by CPAR are related to improving women's health.

If you want to know more about CPAR, check out their website, [www.cpar.ca](http://www.cpar.ca), and plan to be part of the FMWC Team entry in 2008!

# 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting - June 22-24, 2007

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Leadership & Advocacy Workshop

## Registration Form

Delegate Information (Please print)

Last name: \_\_\_\_\_ First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Salutation: \_\_\_\_\_

Add: ( ☐ home ☐ office ) \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_, State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip/Postal code: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Indicate any food allergies or special requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

Caregiver required: ☐ yes ☐ no # of children: \_\_\_\_\_ ages: \_\_\_\_\_

Register according to appropriate category & rate

Category	Early bird(May 5 <sup>th</sup> )	After May 5 <sup>th</sup>
Full /Associate	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200
1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> yr prac./Ret./Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$125	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150
Student/Resident	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Non-members **	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> \$275

\*\*Discounted full membership included with this fee. Please complete accompanying application form.

GALA (tax receipt remitted for a portion of cost for Gala) ☐ \$100 x \_\_\_\_\_ tickets

- ☐ Yes! I wish to participate in the pre-conference SOGC International Women's Health Symposium on Thurs. June 21.  
For non-ob-gyn members of FMWC \$100

### Method of Payment

AGM & workshops .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
SOGC Int'l Women's Symposium.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Gala.....No. of tickets\_\_\_\_\_x \$100.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Optional student sponsorship.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Method of Payment

- ☐ cheque (payable to FMWC) ☐ VISA ☐ MC Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to FMWC by fax or mail to 780 Echo Drive, Ottawa, ON K1S 5R7 fax: 613-569-4432 or toll free 1-877-772-5777

### Sponsors (at time of print)

#### Platinum

GlaxoSmithKline (sponsor of Friday's workshop through an unrestricted educational grant)

#### Gold

Merck Frosst Canada Ltd.

#### Silver Plus

Canadian Medical Association  
Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada

#### Silver

Wyeth Pharmaceuticals

#### Bronze

Janssen Ortho Inc.  
Ontario College of Family Physicians  
Schumacher Research and Leadership Group

May Cohen Award Sponsor  
Duchesnay Inc.

# UPCOMING MEETINGS

## MWIA AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS - CONGRESSES AND MEETINGS

### 2007

#### 11-12 May 2007, Ottawa

9th Annual Conference of Canadian Society of Physician Executives  
Westin Hotel, Ottawa, Ontario  
[www.cspexecs.com](http://www.cspexecs.com)

#### 14 - 23 May 2007, Switzerland

60th World Health Assembly, Geneva  
<http://www.who.int/>

#### 14 – 16 June 2007 – Bangkok, Thailand

4th Central Asia Regional Congress, MWIA-TMWA  
Theme: “Women in Medicine, Contribution to Society”  
Congress Venue: Ramada Bangkok Hotel

#### 21- 25 June 2007, Ottawa, Canada

Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada  
63rd Annual Clinical Meeting  
Westin Ottawa & Fairmont Château Laurier  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada  
For further information visit the web site at [www.sogc.org](http://www.sogc.org).

#### 22 – 24 June 2007, Ottawa, Canada

2007 AGM and Scientific Sessions  
The 10 Top Reasons I Didn't Save the World This Year  
Ottawa Congress Centre, 55 Colonel By Drive  
For further information visit the web site at <http://www.fmwc.ca>

#### 24 – 27 July 2007, Singapore, Malaysia

18th WONCA World Conference  
Theme: “Genomics and Family Medicine”  
Please visit the website at <http://www.wonca2007.com>  
for information about abstract submission, registration, accommodation, etc.

#### 31 July - 4 August 2007 - Accra, Ghana

**XXVII. MWIA International Congress**  
Venue: La Palm Beach Hotel, Accra  
Theme: “Women in the world of medicine”  
For further information please look at  
<http://www.mwiainghana.org/>

17 – 20 September 2007 – Belgrade, Serbia  
WHO Regional Meeting for Europe

#### 3- 6 October 2007 – Copenhagen, Denmark

58th General Assembly of the WMA.  
Further information at <http://www.wma.net/>

#### 13 October, 2007 – CMA Leadership Workshop for Medical Women

Ottawa, Ontario

#### 14-15 October 2007 – CMA Leaders' Forum

Ottawa, Ontario

#### 17-19 October 2007 – BCRA – Second International Symposium on the Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Susceptibility Genes

Hotel Delta Montréal, QC  
Information: email – [brca@odon.ca](mailto:brca@odon.ca)

#### 18 – 20 October, 2007 - London, UK

Women Deliver Conference  
Theme: **Invest in Women – It Pays**  
The conference is a major global event bringing together the development and health community on a clear and common goal: improved women's health, safe pregnancy and childbirth. For additional information, visit the conference web site <http://www.womendeliver.org/> or email [info@womendeliver.org](mailto:info@womendeliver.org)

#### 25 – 27 October 2007- Sydney, Australia

International Doctors' Health Conference  
Theme: Wellbeing  
For further information please look at  
<http://www.doctorshealthsydney2007.org/>

#### 16 – 18 November 2007 - Rome, Italy

MWIA Southern European Regional Meeting

### 2008

#### Planned 2008 - Australia

MWIA Western Pacific Regional Congress

#### 3 – 6. September 2008 – Malmö, Sweden

Northern European Regional Congress  
Theme: Bridge the Gender Gap

#### October 2008 – Seoul, Korea

59th General Assembly of the WMA



## North American Congress of Women in Medicine 2007

*By, Setorme Tsikata, recipient of the 2007 Margaret Owens-Waite Memorial Fund*

This year's congress was held last month in Orlando under the theme "Future Issues and Dilemmas in Medicine". I was fortunate to have been awarded a Margaret Owens-Waite Memorial Fund Scholarship to enable me to attend. It was a great learning and networking experience. Following is a summary of highlights from the congress.

Dr. Callahan's talk on Ethics in Healthcare examined the rationale behind increasing funding for advances in medical technology while millions of people are unable to afford healthcare insurance for essential care in the US. He proposed funding more preventive initiatives as opposed to pursuing technological cure. Furthermore, one of the consequences of technological advancement, global warming, requires fundamental adjustment to the way we live.

Disparities which exist in the US healthcare system were discussed by Dr. Christiansen. 44 million people are uninsured and 60 million are under-insured. Chronic diseases and contraceptives are usually not covered unlike Viagra which is covered by most plans. She advocated for a universal health plan which is equitable across all age groups and demographics.

The current problems with access at the different levels of care existing in Canada were reviewed by Dr. Ross from BC. Among possible solutions are private-public partnerships, strengthening health



*Some of the FMWC members attending the AMWA conference:  
Back row left to right: Dr. Shelley Ross and Dr. Gail Beck  
Front row left to right: Dr. Charmaine Roye and Dr. Beverley Tamboline*

promotion and chronic disease management, and launching innovative co-payment strategies.

Other topics covered were updates in minimally invasive gynecological surgery,

urinary incontinence, HPV and cervical cancer, HIV/AIDS, osteoporosis, management of depression in women, current advances in cardio-thoracic surgery and CARE's work in championing international women's health.

### Correction!

In the last newsletter (vol. 20 no.1) the article Violence against older women on page 6 was written by Dr. Nahid Azad and not Nili Kaplan-Myrth. Our apologies to Dr. Azad.

## A note from the Honorary Secretary

*By Catherine Wilkie*

Greetings from Winnipeg! I look forward to meeting you in Ottawa this June where we will be honoring Past-President of the CMA Dr. Ruth Collins-Nakai as our honorary member for 2007.

Nominations for the 2008 Honorary member are still being accepted, so don't

hesitate to forward them to the National Office along with a CV or your nominated candidate. See you in Ottawa!

Send your nomination for Honorary member by email at [fmwcmain@fmwc.ca](mailto:fmwcmain@fmwc.ca) or by fax at 1-877-772-5777 (toll free) or 613-569-4432 (Ottawa).

*You are cordially invited to attend*

*The Federation of Medical Women of Canada*

*Fundraiser Gala*

*for*

*Maude Abbott Research Fund*

*Saturday, June 23, 2007  
Colonel By Room,  
Ottawa Congress Centre*

*55 Colonel By Drive  
6:30 p.m.-1:00 a.m.  
Tickets: \$100 each*

*(a charitable donation receipt  
will be given for part  
of the ticket fees)*

*Great entertainment, great food and a wonderful evening to mingle  
with friends and colleagues. Don't miss it!*

*To order your tickets call 613-569-5881 (Ottawa)*

*or toll free 1-877-771-3777 or by email at [fmwcmain@fmwc.ca](mailto:fmwcmain@fmwc.ca)*

*Black tie event*

## **Congratulations!**

The late **Dr. Elizabeth Bagshaw** (1881-1982), one of the founding members of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada, and Medical Director of Canada's first and illegal birth control clinic, will be inducted in the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame on October 2, 2007 in London, Ontario. Dr. Bagshaw also became a Member of the Order of Canada in 1972. She was an advocate for women, a true humanitarian. In fact, Dr. Bagshaw truly represented what the FMWC stands for.

**Omega C. Logan Silva, MD, MACP**, Professor Emeritus of Medicine, George Washington University, in August 2006 was elected to the board of The National Research Center for Women and Families, a non-profit, non-partisan organization which promotes the health and safety of women, children and families, by using objective research-based information to encourage more effective programs and policies. In November 2006 she was elected a Fellow of the African American Institute which is a network of scientists and technologists among African Americans and internationally throughout the African Diaspora which shares experiences, contacts and knowledge to motivate more minorities to pursue careers in science and technology. She has also been reappointed Consultant to the American Legion Veterans Planning and Coordinating Medical Advisory Committee. In 2007 Dr. Silva becomes an Emeritus Member of the American Chemical Society with its presentation of the 50 year pin. Dr. Logan Silva is a member of the FMWC and has been a regular attendee at our Annual General Meetings.

## **Obituary**

**You are invited to celebrate  
the life of Doris Anderson.**

One of the most important leaders of the women's movement in Canada, Doris Anderson passed away recently at age 85. Join us in remembering the strides she made for all of us in Canada, especially women and girls.



### **Public Memorial for Doris Anderson**

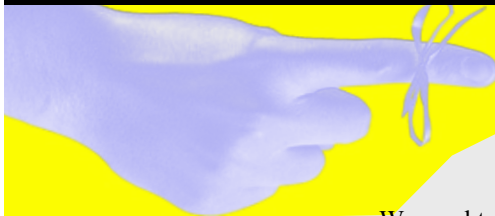
**Saturday, May 12, 2007, 2:00 pm.**

Convocation Hall, University of Toronto  
31 Kings' College Circle, St. George Campus. Doors open at 1 pm. Free admission- no tickets or RSVP required.

MC: Sally Armstrong

Speakers include: The Right Honorable Adrienne Clarkson, Hon. Carolyn Bennett, MD., Michele Landsberg, and Mitchell Anderson (Doris' son).

## Membership renewal!!! Send your payment now!



Your membership fees support many FMWC activities including a home office and executive coordinator position, direct financial support for branch activities, Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) membership, FMWC newsletter and maintenance and upgrades on the [www.fmwc.ca](http://www.fmwc.ca) website (which we hope to soon make bilingual).

We need to not only keep all our present members but to grow those numbers. We challenge each of you to at least pass the FMWC information on to one fellow physician or allied health care professional. Remember, you can also gift a year's membership to a medical student. Membership forms available from [www.fmwc.ca](http://www.fmwc.ca)

As a thank you to anyone identified as sponsoring a new FMWC member before June 1, 2007, we will mail you one copy of the book Honour Due: The Story of Dr. Leonora Howard King, by Margaret Negodaef-Tomsik (value of \$24.95).

If you wish to have extra application forms on hand, do not hesitate to contact the National Office by email [fmwcmain@fmwc.ca](mailto:fmwcmain@fmwc.ca) or by phone at 1-877-771-3777 toll free or in the Ottawa area at 613-569-5881 or simply go online at [www.fmwc.ca](http://www.fmwc.ca) and click on How to Join and you should be able to click on membership dues application to download and copy the membership form.

## FMWC Membership Application Form

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel (Office): \_\_\_\_\_ Tel (Home): \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes, you may share my coordinates (name, address, email, phone number, fax number) with other FMWC members as required for completion of FMWC business.

### Membership Categories:

<input type="radio"/> Full Membership: \$135.00	<input type="radio"/> Associate: \$50.00	<input type="radio"/> Resident: \$50.00
<input type="radio"/> Retired: \$50.00	<input type="radio"/> 1st/2nd Year in Practice: \$75.00	<input type="radio"/> Medical Student: \$25.00
<input type="radio"/> Out-of-country: \$50.00		

How did you hear about the FMWC? \_\_\_\_\_

A member suggested I join (member's name): \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to be interviewed by the media on behalf of the FMWC?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Would you be interested in receiving media training?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No

Membership Dues (A tax deductible receipt will be sent) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Maude Abbott Scholarship Fund Donation (A tax deductible charitable donation receipt will be sent) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Maude Abbott Research Fund Donation (A tax deductible charitable donation receipt will be sent) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment: ☐ Cheque (Payable to "FMWC") ☐ Visa ☐ Master Card

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Fax to FMWC 1-877-772-5777 or (613) 569-4432 or mail to 780 Echo Drive, Ottawa, ON, K1S 5R7.**

*\*Membership is renewed on an annual basis (each January).*

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**Members** – Dr. Shirley Hovan, Dr. Jeanne McNeill

To reach one of the Board members, simply email [fmwcmain@fmwc.ca](mailto:fmwcmain@fmwc.ca) or call the National Office and your message will be forwarded to them (1-877-771-3777 –toll free or 613-569-5881 in Ottawa)