



Newsletter

Federation of Medical Women of Canada
Fédération des femmes médecins du Canada



Fall/Winter 2012 • Vol 25 • No 3

FMWC Welcomes New President Halifax AGM, 2012

By President: Dr. Crystal Cannon



In Halifax at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) I was honoured to assume the Presidency of the FMWC. It is a privilege to be asked to take on this prestigious role over the next year.

At the meeting I was given the Arnhem medal to wear proudly as a symbol of our organization. In order to keep the medal safe I wore it home from Halifax. It is an attractive although large and somewhat heavy necklace!

At security I placed it in the bin for the usual inspection. The Security person picked up the medal on the other side and asked me with awe if this was what he thought it was – a medal from one of our wars. I told him the history of the medal and he reminded me to take care of it.

Many thanks to Dr. Karen Breeck for reminding me of the history of the medal – please see the sidebar article in the newsletter.

The medal is safely put away at my home until I wear it again at FMWC events. Hopefully the AGM photos do justice to the medal.

In taking over as President I want to thank our Past President Dr Nahid Azad for her work and efforts over the past year. She rose to last year's challenges with grace and determination. Nahid planned and chaired many meetings at the Executive, Board and National level with patience and skill. She was always prepared, organized and gracious.

Nahid is now a huge help to myself in my transition to President. Many thanks Nahid! I am so pleased you remain so much a part of the Executive as my mentor and colleague.

Over the next year my goal is to support the FMWC website redevelopment which is being worked on by our Website Chair Dr. Lucie Filteau and our National Office staff. Improving our website will do much to ensure our visibility nationally and internationally. It will enhance our ability to build membership and partnerships.

“As part of my role this year it is my goal to organize a Membership committee to help us increase our numbers across Canada.”

Over the past year my project for the FMWC was to develop our Conflict of Interest/Competing Interest Guidelines. These guidelines will be placed on our website for all members to review and refer to as needed.

Many thanks to Dr. Karen Breeck, Dr Pat Mousmanis, Members of the Board and Executive for their input and help in creating these guidelines. My intent is that this document is not final – input from all of you with changes as needed will be ongoing. I also welcome any local stories concerning conflict of interest and your means of managing significant issues. Please review and send feedback to me via the National Office – it is welcome.

As part of my role this year it is my goal to organize a Membership committee to help us increase our numbers across Canada. Any of you who have specific ideas on reaching out to potential new members please contact me with suggestions. Membership in the FMWC has many benefits and letting others know about this can certainly help to strengthen our numbers.

In closing, I want to once again thank you for allowing me to be your President this year. I look forward to hearing from many of you with feedback and suggestions or just to say hello. Perhaps we will meet at Federation events and especially at the next Annual General Meeting in Ottawa September 27-29, 2013.

FMWC Awards 2013 - Deadline December 31, 2012.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2013 May Cohen, Enid Johnson MacLeod, Student Leadership, Honourary Member and the Reproductive Awards. Also being accepted, are applications for the 2013 Margaret Owens Waite Memorial Fund, the Maude Abbott Loan (Grant) Fund and the Maude Abbott Research Fund. More information is available in this newsletter on page 6, and forms with details are available on our website at: www.fmwc.ca



FMWC Executive Committee 2012-2013

- President:**
Dr. Crystal Cannon
- President-Elect:**
Dr. Monique Bertrand
- Past President:**
Dr. Nahid Azad
- Honorary Secretary:**
Dr. Anne Niec
- National Treasurer:**
Dr. Kathleen Gartke
- MWIA National Coordinator:**
Dr. Cathy Wilkie

FMWC Newsletter

Editor: Dr. Alexandra Greenhill
Committee Members:
 Dr. Pat Mousmanis, Dr. Pamela Liao,
 Dr. Karen Stillman, Ms. Kimberley Hogan

The FMWC Newsletter is published three times a year and sent to members as a requisite of membership. Next deadline for submissions is **February 4, 2013.**

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: FMWC, #108 - 774 prom. Echo Dr. Ottawa, ON K1S 5N8

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Many helping hands and hearts

By Newsletter Editor Dr. Alexandra T Greenhill



Many of you saw me give talks including the 2011 AGM on ways of how to successfully balance a busy professional, volunteer and family life. Little did I imagine at the time that less than two

months later, I would be going through a young family member's diagnosis with an aggressive terminal cancer and everything in my life that had worked so well through many changes and crisis, would be sorely tested by a shock of such proportions.

"Imagine life as a game in which you are juggling five balls in the air. You name them – work, family, health, friends and spirit – and you're keeping all of these in the air. You will soon understand that work is a rubber ball. If you drop it, it will bounce back. But the other four balls – family, health, friends, and spirit are made of glass. If you drop one of these, they will be irrevocably scuffed, marked, nicked, damaged, or even shattered. They will never be the same. You must understand that and strive for balance in your life." I first heard this quote from Bryan Dyson, CEO of Coca Cola Enterprises 1959-1994 in a talk given by Dr. Mamta Gautam over ten years ago, and it is a way of thinking that has helped me and so many others

survive through challenging times. It came in handy this time as well, but the test was even greater than usual as I had to drop more than just work, but also friends, and health, and family in order to be able to do what needed to be done to be true to one's commitment to an extraordinarily sick family member and be true to the fifth ball - spirit.

It is at that point that one becomes aware that one is surrounded by magic – so many helping hands and hearts appear from sources known and new. When I needed to step back from my roles at the FMWC, the success of the 2012 AGM under the excellent leadership of Dr. Patricia Mousmanis and successful transition to our new dynamic President Dr. Crystal Cannon are two of the more visible elements of the FMWC stepping in to help when help was needed. I want to express my gratitude to the FMWC Board and Past Presidents Nahid Azad, Charmaine Roye and Karen Breeck for their incredible support in these trying times.

In these holiday times, let's all be excellent to each other and most importantly to oneself – remembering the wisdom of the juggling balls story, let work take a step back if necessary as indeed work always bounces back successfully. Wishing you and your loved ones health, happiness, love and success for the coming year.

Send us your news!

The deadline for submissions to the **Spring 2013 newsletter** is **February 4, 2013.** The newsletter will be released in early March. Please forward submissions to the National Office at: fmwcmain@fmwc.ca

Please send us submissions/news about:

- Achievements**, awards, announcements and congratulations as it pertains to yourself or another FMWC member. Relevant pictures (please include captions) are welcome.
- Creative Corner:** We know that doctors have many other talents and we want to showcase them. We invite creative types to submit poems, drawings, cartoons or a humorous column.
- "Letter to the Editor":** Please submit your comments to the editor on your experiences/concerns on health care, on women's health, or on your practices.



Personal Memories of an Excellent Weekend

...filled with learning, networking and recharging batteries

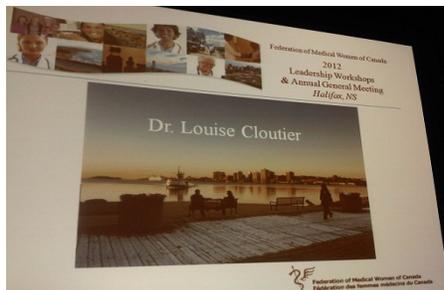
By: Dr. Patricia Mousmanis

The Federation of Medical Women of Canada has been part of my life since 1997 when I attended the Women's Leadership Conference run in Toronto. I learned a lot of interesting tips that helped me professionally but mostly, I met an incredible group of women who became friends and sources of strength over the past 15 years. I was invited to be a speaker at the 1999 Annual FMWC conference in Ottawa and really enjoyed the networking opportunities. I have tried to go to every annual event since then by making it part of annual family vacations where possible. In 2002, in St Andrews by the Sea New Brunswick, I was invited to join the Board of Directors and became the Honorary Secretary. Subsequent positions have included the Awards Committee, the Conference Planning Committee and the Newsletter Committee. In every position, I have had support of the team at the National Office and have been impressed with the energy and enthusiasm of everyone involved in the FMWC. I participate regularly in the local Toronto FMWC Branch meetings organized by local leaders who are able to find excellent speakers and create fantastic evenings that are opportunities to network and share experiences.

The annual conference held in Halifax September 22/23 2012 came at a really busy time for me including office practice, deadlines for grant applications and hospital on call. I made sure to book the weekend off and was grateful for the lovely holiday. We flew from Toronto to Halifax on Friday night and had an excellent dinner at a waterfront restaurant overlooking the harbor.

Dr. Mamta Gautam started off Saturday's workshop discussing ways to be more confident and present oneself in a professional manner. Her anecdotes about events that changed her professional career and how she took advantage of unexpected opportunities really made an impact on the students attending.

Her lecture also started the workshop off on a positive note and provided us with the best advice of all " wear shoes that look good when presenting because the audience is looking at your feet when you are up on a podium".



Dr. Louise Cloutier took us on a journey that took her from a community practitioner to a leader and how she balanced work and family life.

Our keynote The Honourable Mayann Francis spoke about the importance of education in her early life, how a physician impacted her career trajectory and how her position as Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia led to a personal meeting with Queen Elizabeth. The FMWC was truly honored that such a distinguished leader agreed to present at our conference and share her expertise with us.



The Honourable Mayann Francis

Our Awards Luncheon gave us an opportunity to honor and recognize many of the leaders in Canadian women's

healthcare. Dr. Susan Wilkinson gave an eloquent acceptance speech talking about the people in her life that supported and encouraged her to pursue her goals in her medical career.



K. DeGirolamo (National Student Rep) and S. Wilkinson (Finance Committee Coordinator)

Following on a successful PMI Course held on Thursday and Friday, Monica Olsen helped us all find our inner critics and turned the " after lunch " speaking spot into a fun exercise using our creative right brains by bringing coloured pencils for us to draw.

Dr. Jean Gray brought the science of pharmacology into the workshop by explaining the differences between men and women in drug metabolism. She also showcased how her leadership skills and work as an editor brought forward a change in thinking about gender differences in medical treatment options.

One of our students Gillian McMillan was able to host a medical panel made up of her teachers from Dalhousie. Dr. Sarah Shea shared what was new in the field of pediatrics and gave some tips for success in life. Dr. Lori Wood was able to highlight new developments in the world of medical oncology and also how to find a career path that is a good fit for personal goals. Dr. Katharina Kieser brought us info about ovarian cancer and also shared her tips for balancing family time with on call.

...continued on page 4



Personal Memories... continued from page 3

By: Dr. Patricia Mousmanis

Our final speaker on Saturday was Dr. Karen Breeck, a former president of the FMWC and retired Senior Medical Officer from the Canadian Armed Forces. Karen shared info on how to be an effective board member and investigate how your skills will fit with the expectations of the organization.

It was Karen's birthday so our National Coordinator Kimberly Hogan made sure that the gala evening turned into an impromptu celebration at a local waterfront pub complete with cake.



The Beautiful City of Halifax.

Many of our members enjoyed a walking tour of downtown and the harbour led by a local expert and learned about the history of the beautiful city.

As we danced the night away, we learned that a pub band in Halifax includes a fiddler. What happens at the Pogue stays at the Pogue!



The dancing destination!

Sunday morning began with our Annual General Meeting where the new Board of Directors was confirmed and we celebrated the inauguration of Dr. Crystal Cannon as our new President 2012 - 13.



Dr. Crystal Cannon (President) and Dr. Nahid Azad (Past President)

Crystal shared the new FMWC Conflict of Interest Guidelines with our membership and invited comments and suggestions to improve the document.

As our final speaker of the weekend, we had the distinct pleasure of having an excellent workshop from Dr. Sue Swiggum on Communication Challenges in Clinical Practice. The audience welcomed this practical presentation from the Canadian Medical Protective Association and shared personal stories about workplace frustrations.

The weekend was full of networking opportunities, and the chance to meet amazing women leaders. I already put the dates for next year's conference in my day timer and will plan on another fun weekend away with my girlfriends (Ottawa, Ontario September 27 and 28, 2013).

My weekend ended with a Whale Watching tour in Halifax Harbor, and a lovely stroll along the boardwalk eating popcorn and shopping in the Maritime sunshine.

On the busy days in the office or on call, when I need to recharge my batteries, I think of my glorious weekend in the beautiful city of Halifax.

The FMWC Arnhem Medal

- taken from the MWIA Dec 2007 newsletter

‘The Canadian Medical Association Journal of July 27,1963 had an article about the Presidential Insignia of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada. The article states that the Arnhem Medal was a gift from the medical women of Holland to the Federation of Medical Women of Canada. It marked their recognition of the part played by Canadians in the liberation of Holland, particularly in the Battle of Arnhem, and also expressed appreciation for Canadian hospitality during the war years to the Queen and the Royal Family of the Netherlands. The Arnhem Medal was presented to Dr. Margaret Owens at the International Congress of Medical Women, held in Amsterdam in 1947. Since that time, it has been used at the Presidential Insignia of the Federation and is presented annually. ‘



The Arnhem Medal as worn by FMWC past president Dr. Nahid Azad



Addressing Global Gender Equity from the Primary Care Perspective

By: Dr. Nalia Karim

My time spent in Canberra, Australia at the WONCA Working Party on Women and Family Medicine (WWPWFM) meeting was marked with the warmth and collaboration of family physicians from around the world.

WONCA is the World Organization of Family Doctors, and has various working parties, young doctor movements, and special interest groups embedded within it. Some participants, like myself, were new to WONCA and had been the recipient of generous grants to be able to attend the meeting, while others had been there from the very conception of the working party.

The story behind the creation of the WWPWF is inspirational and occurred during the 15th International WONCA Conference in Dublin in 1998. Fuelled by the underwhelming few female presenters at the conference, a group of 50-100 women started meeting at lunch time to discuss gender equity amongst women physicians. These lunch time meetings gained momentum amongst participants and led to the creation of the Women in Family Medicine Special Interest Group in 1999. Just two years later, they were given working party status by the WONCA Executive. Dr. Cheryl Levitt, Department of Family Practice at McMaster University and former chair of the WWPWF, was present during these now famed lunch time meetings in Dublin.

“These meetings for everyone who participated were profoundly inspiring and made a lasting impact... this has been a huge development by women who are committed to improving the health of people throughout the world by addressing imbalance in gender.”

The WWPWF considers itself a policy initiator in gender equity, both for women physicians and for women's health in the

primary care setting. Landmark pieces that were adopted into the WONCA World Council include the Hamilton Equity Recommendations and the 10 Steps to Gender Equity and Health in 2007, the latter which promotes awareness of the importance of gender as a determinant of health.

Most recently, a recommendation to create an Organisational Equity Committee to promote gender equity within the WONCA Executive Council and its numerous global conferences was adopted in 2010.

This year, the working party met over five days in September at the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra and incorporated presentations on women's health, small group brainstorming sessions on policy, and networking events for participants. Main topics of discussion this year included increasing education on women's health curricula during medical training, creating mentorship platforms amongst women physicians, and working on the latest Gender Equity Standards for WONCA Scientific Meetings.

Spending the week with my new colleagues and listening to their diverse experiences and ideas on improving gendered issues proved to be the true highlight of the conference for me. Each day we also had numerous opportunities to network amongst ourselves and with other locals at delicious lunches and dinners, all meticulously organized by Professor Amanda Barnard, the current chair of the WWPWF and associate dean at ANU.

Amongst the solidarity and smiles at the WWPWF meeting, there were also many insights to be gained from this experience. Sustainability has become the new buzzword within the field of global health and the opportunity for

physicians to learn from each other while being supported in their goals is certainly a way of achieving lasting solutions for barriers within healthcare. This is further facilitated by the WWPWF's commitment to reduce linguistic, cultural, and economic barriers for family physicians to attend WONCA initiatives.

Uniting global minds and experiences can create positive health changes globally, encouraging both sustainable and ethical practices.

The next time we will meet will be at the 20th triennial WONCA World Conference in Prague in June of 2012. We will have a chance to rekindle our friendships and inspirations, as well as share our knowledge by leading six workshops on issues important to women physicians and their patients.

I look forward to my continuing participation in this unique collaboration and I encourage all those interested in women's health and primary care to visit the WWPWF website to learn more about the work we have done and to engage in future opportunities.

<http://www.globalfamilydoctor.com/groups/WorkingParties/WomenandFamilyMedicine.aspx>

I would like to express my gratitude to the Ontario College of Family Physicians for providing a grant to assist my attendance at this meeting. I would also like to recognize Professor Amanda Barnard for devoting her time and energy to organizing the meeting, outings, and accommodations, in addition to raising funds for travel bursaries to allow many members' attendance.

Nalia Karim is a Family Medicine Resident at the University of Toronto



FMWC Awards celebrate accomplishments, provide opportunities

Do you know of any physician that you would like to nominate for any of the awards given out by the FMWC?

Deadline for applications for the 2013 Margaret Owens Waite Memorial Fund, the Maude Abbott Loan (Grant) Fund and the Maude Abbott Research Fund is also December 31, 2012.

Margaret Owens-Waite Memorial Fund

The Margaret Owens-Waite Memorial Fund (MOWMF) was established in 1986. Dr. Margaret Owens-Waite bequested monies to the Federation for the purpose of supporting education.

Maude Abbott Loan Fund

The Maude Abbott Loan Fund (MALF) was established in 1939 to commemorate the outstanding contribution made to medicine in Canada by Dr. Maude Abbott (1869-1940). The MALF was a loan fund but is now a grant to medical students. The grants are available on an annual basis to female medical student members of the FMWC.

Maude Abbott Research Fund

The Maude Abbott Research Fund (MARF) complements the existing Maude Abbott Loan Fund and other awards that are given to members of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada. The research grant offered by MARF enhances the mandate of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada to promote the well being of women and women physicians.

Deadline for nominations for the 2013 May Cohen, Enid Johnson MacLeod, Student Leadership, Honourary Member and the Reproductive Awards is December 31, 2012.

May Cohen Award

Named in honour of Dr. May Cohen, a former FMWC National President, this award goes to the FMWC member who best personifies Dr. Cohen's ability to put the FMWC vision statement into living action.

Enid Johnson MacLeod Award

The Enid Johnson MacLeod Award is given annually in recognition of a FMWC full member seen to contribute the most to women's health.

Reproductive Health Award

The Reproductive Health Award is given annually in recognition of a FMWC member seen to contribute the most to reproductive health.

Student Leadership Award

FMWC sponsors this annual award to recognize the FMWC medical student member showing the most potential in the realm of leadership.

Honourary Member

FMWC invites a woman who has rendered outstanding service to one or more of the following: the Federation of Medical Women (FMWC), to medicine and particularly to women's health issues to become an Honourary member of the Federation for one year.

Please take the time to consider those amazing people around you - and celebrate their successes. by nominating them for an award. For more information on these awards and forms to submit an application or a nomination, please visit our website at www.fmwc.ca

Patricia Warshawski
Chair, Awards Committee

*All applications and nominations need to be sent to the National Office
via fax (1-613-249-3906), email (fmwcmmain@fmwc.ca)
or by mail: #108 - 774 Echo Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5N8*



Medical Women's International Association Update

Items of interest for FMWC Members - from the October 2012 MWIA Update

New MWIA e-journal is available on-line at www.mwiajournal.org

The MWIA has revamped their website: www.mwia.net

MWIA has also come into the modern age and is on twitter. If you are a twitterer - please consider following them @MedWIA

MWIA is in their last year of the triennium and it is not too soon to plan to attend the Korea Congress. (www.mwiaseoul2013.org) Registration is open and abstracts are being accepted under the congress theme of Medical Women Advance Global Health. Contact the organizers if you wish to share a room or have no roommate. Earlybird registration ends in April.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York is being held March 4 - 15, 2013. The Topic is Violence Against Women, a topic on which many MWIA members have done exclusive work. The FMWC was proud to nominate Dr. Shelly Ross as a potential NPO representative on the Canadian delegation to the CSW.

National Office Update

by Kimberley Hogan, Executive Coordinator

There are many things going on in the National Office.

There are three very active committees (soon to be four with the Membership Committee) who are working on the 2013 AGM, FMWC Bylaws for 2014, and the redesign project for our national website. The progress of this labour will be presented at our Interim Board Meeting on January 26th, 2013 in Ottawa.

Our National Office has finally moved into our new location in the building of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. If you have a chance, please drop by to say hello. If you need boxes, I am ready to give them up now, ha ha ;) In the meantime, please make sure that you take note of our new address.

The Branch Rebates are almost all dispersed for the 2012 year. We look forward to hearing about the activities and initiatives the Branches will be engaged in throughout the new year - and the many ways our members come together to share their expertise and time with each other.

Preparations have begun for the Interim Board Meeting on January 26 - and we look forward to seeing Board Members in person and receiving your Branch Reports and news from across Canada.

Membership Renewal Notices will be sent soon. FMWC Membership runs from January 1 to December 31. So - we encourage you to renew your membership as soon as possible and avoid the January RUSH!

Renewal is easy - just visit our website at www.fmwc.ca and choose Membership Renewal. You will need to login with your username and password. Having trouble remembering it? Quickly email the main office and we can help you out. Then, you are able to make sure your information is up to date - and can renew by credit card. Voilà - very simple ;)

As 2012 turns into 2013 - we would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season, and that you are able to take the time to rest and recharge your batteries for all that 2013 will bring.

MWIA Calendar of Upcoming Events 2012 - 2013

2012

December 15 - 16, 2012 Calcutta India
Annual Conference of the Association of Medical Women in India
misionkolkata@hotmail.com

2013

February 2, 2013 Paris, France
Annual Meeting of the French Medical Women
<http://affm.affinitesante.com>

March 4 - 5, 2013 New York, NY
Commission of the Status of Women
Topic: Violence Against Women

March 15 - 17, 2013 New York, NY USA
98th Annual Meeting of the American Medical Women's Association at the New York Palace Hotel
www.amwa-doc.org

May 22 - 25, Copenhagen, Denmark
First Global Conference on Contraception, Reproductive and Sexual Health
www.esrh.eu/events/esc-events/2013

May 28 - 30 2013, Kuala Lumpur, Malasia
3rd Global Conference of Women Deliver
www.womendeliver.org

July 31 - August 3 2013, Seoul, Korea
29th International Congress of MWIA
www.mwiaseoul2013.org





TCC-CFWH Partnership and Award Announcement

The Canadian Continence Foundation (TCCF) and the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health (CFWH) have partnered together to establish the Urogynaecology Award; a new research award that will be added to the existing CFWH Awards, Fellowships and Grants Program.

Urinary incontinence, the involuntary loss of bladder control, can have a dramatic impact on one's life. There are over 3 million Canadians suffering from incontinence who are crying for help.

There are ways to manage incontinence, and in many cases cure it. Due to embarrassment many people do not seek help and therefore are unaware of the many treatment options that are now available.

Incontinence may be the result of a disease process such as multiple sclerosis, diabetes, a birth defect, weakening of the pelvic floor muscles, injuries from an accident, or the side effect of medications or surgery.

Incontinence is not caused by being female, nor is incontinence caused by aging. However, changes which occur with the natural aging process may contribute to incontinence. For instance, the natural enlargement of the prostate gland as men age, or the loss of estrogen which women experience, can precipitate incontinence. Incontinence should always be diagnosed by a healthcare professional to ensure that the incontinence is not a symptom of something seriously wrong, and so you can learn about potential treatment options to meet your needs.

www.canadiancontinence.ca

The objective of the Urogynaecology Award is to foster Canadian research in the field of Urogynaecology and help women who are suffering from urinary incontinence. The purpose of this award is to support researchers and educate the public with their new research findings.

Call for submissions for the CFWH's Awards, Fellowships and Grants Program will begin in December 2012. The recipient of the inaugural 2013 Urogynaecology Award will be presented at the CFWH Healthy Women, Healthy Future Gala and Research Awards Ceremony (Calgary, Alberta in June 2013), during the Annual Clinical Meeting of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada.

Promoting knowledge, research and interest in health issues to advance urinary incontinence management and treatment options for women, is just one of the many ways that the CFWH and TCCF are helping women who are suffering in silence.

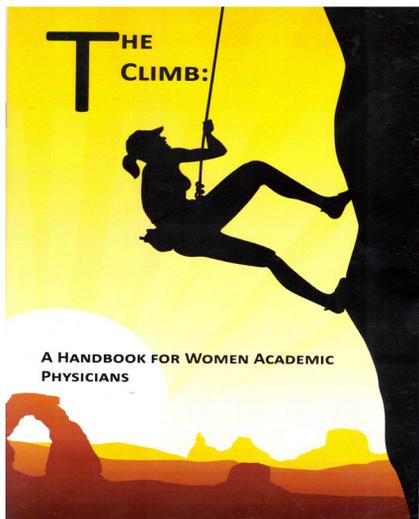
To learn more about the CFWH and the Awards, Fellowships and Grants Program please visit cfwh.org.



Maude Abbott Research Grant yields new resource for Medical Women

The Climb: A Handbook for Women Academic Physicians

FMWC National Office



At the FMWC AGM in September, there was a new resource available to female physicians: a handy booklet that female faculty can use that provides guidance and advice to help them navigate the complex world of academic medicine, including teaching, research, administration and clinical practice - wisdom gleaned from those who have gone before them. You may be familiar with the authors: Dr. Anne Niec, Dr. Nahid Azad and Margaret Shkimba.

This project is truly a fitting one for the Maude Abbott Research Fund. Dr. Abbott was denied entry into McGill, her school of choice because McGill did not accept female students to their medical school at the time. Carlotta Hacker, in her 1984 history, *The Indomitable Lady Doctors*, states that despite the fact that McGill University was reluctant (to say the least) about admitting women medical students, Abbott was integral to providing an example of what women could do, if allowed to.

The National Office of the FMWC has several copies available. Should you wish to receive one - please send an email to fmwcmain@fmwc.ca requesting a copy.



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Membership News

Congratulations!

Dr. Pamela (Verma) Liao one of our FMWC and MWIA members, was awarded a Golden Key Honour Society Scholarship for postgraduate training. She is currently enrolled in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Program in Toronto.

It's a boy!

FMWC is pleased to celebrate with Kingston Branch President, Phoebe Pereira, as she becomes the grandmother of a happy, healthy baby boy for the second time! When you see her don't forget to ask the proud Grandma for some pictures ;)

Well Done!

Congratulations to Dr. Vivien Brown, our Toronto Branch President as she was chosen to receive the "Family Physician of the Year" Award. The Ontario College of Family Physicians recognizes the outstanding dedication of family physicians to their patients, their community, their profession and the OCFP by awarding seven family physicians (one from each region of the province) the title of "Family Physician of the Year."

Notice of Correction

The National Office would like to apologize for any miscommunication at the AGM regarding our Honourary Member for 2012-2013. Dr. Colleen O'Connell is our honorary member this year and we are very grateful for her support of our organization and the inspiration she provides to our members. Again, we apologize for any confusion this may have caused our members.



*Emerald Lake Retreat, Alberta
September 22, 23, 2012*

Kingston Outreach Meeting

Kingston outreach meeting for the OMA's Outreach to Women Physician's Committee October 11 2012. FMWC National President, Crystal Cannon attended along with Kingston Branch President Dr. Phoebe Pereira and Chair of the committee Dr. Rachel Foreman.



Great Article!

Dr. Shelly Ross, BCMA President and FMWC member was profiled in the October edition of Infocapsule. The CMA is pleased to welcome Dr. Ross to the CMA MD-MP Contact program.



"The CMA's MD-MP Contact Program matches physicians with their federal Members of Parliament. To find out how to join, please contact grassroots@cma.ca".

FMWC Member candidate for CMA Presidency

by Dr. Gail Beck

In January and February 2013, I will run to be the President of the Canadian Medical Association (CMA). One of the reasons that I am confident I can do this job is my experience as President of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada (FMWC).

During the year that I was President of the Federation, the HPV vaccine was released in Canada. This vaccine prevents cervical cancers and genital warts caused by the human papillomavirus. The FMWC Board at the time believed that we had to work to have this vaccine funded and that was the goal for my Presidential year.

As a psychiatrist, I was not an expert on vaccination or on sexually transmitted diseases, but I had the assistance of a capable Board and knowledgeable advisors. I did have advocacy experience, however, and so working with partners, the FMWC designed a campaign to get funding for this vaccine in Canada. In that year, I learned how to lead a national medical association to achieve an important health care goal.

The FMWC did not have significant financial resources to draw on in this campaign but then, as now, its greatest resource was its members and their determination to improve the lives of women and girls. The lessons I learned have given me the courage and background to run for the OMA Board, the OMA Negotiations Team, the CMA Board and the CMA Executive Committee.

I am honoured to run for the Presidency of the Canadian Medical Association and, once again, I count on your support in this challenge. If you are an Ontario doctor, please vote for me. To my colleagues in other parts of Canada, I ask that you start planning something big. If I am elected, I will turn to you again for advice. You have never let me down.

**Vote for Dr. Gail Beck
for CMA President**



Support a Past-President of the FMWC.
Look for your ballot in the mail arriving in Mid-January
and visit DrGailBeck.com to hear more about my ideas.



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To reach one of the Board members, simply email fmwcmain@fmwc.ca or call the National Office and your message will be forwarded to them: 613-569-5881 (in Ottawa)

National Office (Ottawa, Ontario)

New Address!



NATIONAL OFFICE HOURS

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