

VMWS Annual Report 2019

Victorian Medical Women's Society
Annual Report VMWS (Inc)

President: Dr Magdalena Simonis

Vice President: Dr Adele Storch

Secretary: Dr Madhura Naidu

Treasurer: Dr Rosalie Cooper

Public officer: Dr Kate Duncan

Honours:

- Dr Desiree Yap one of 25 recipients of the Women's Champion Award announced October 2019 awarded by Women's Health Victoria
- Dr Rosalie Cooper, Constance Stone Oration
- Dr Jillian Tomlinson, AMA Vic Council Treasurer, AMA Board member

Appointments:

- Dr Desiree Yap appointed MWIA VP Western Pacific Region 2019-2021 Triennium
- Dr Magdalena Simonis appointed AFMW National Coordinator 2019 – 2021 Triennium
- Dr Magdalena Simonis MWIA Scientific and Research Committee Co-Chair
- Dr Magdalena Simonis MWIS Special Projects: Mentoring Medical Women lead
- Associate Professor Deborah Colville: MWIA Ethics and Resolutions Committee Co-Chair
- Dr Magdalena Simonis *Sustainable Primary Care Family Violence Model Advisory Board* (a partnership with University of Melbourne and State Government, Primary Health Networks) // she is also is a GP facilitator training GPs in family violence screening
- Dr Magdalena Simonis appointed to *Endometriosis National Steering Committee* as RACGP Representative. Currently involved in designing Endometriosis Online learning module and screening tool for primary care
- Dr Magdalena Simonis appointed RACGP representative to VARTA/Your Fertility again. Continuous service since 2014.
- Dr Magdalena Simonis re-appointed to RACGP Quality Care Committee; will be reviewing the *RACGP Red Book* segment on Women's Health, with Professor Danielle Mazza
- Dr Magdalena Simonis invited as Keynote speaker at World Congress of Paediatric and Adolescent Gynaecology November 30-Dec 3, Melbourne.

Business arising & continuing work from 2018 SPM:

- Dr Anne Stanaway on behalf of VMWS issued letter to Universities re. nursing mother and breastfeeding facilities; financial support for students who are parents/carers
- December 2018 Dr Elysia Robb advocated for equal pay for education in GP training – Dr Magdalena Simonis sent letters on behalf of VMWS to RACGP, MCCC, GPRA, AGPT, including Dr Harry Nespolin - current President of RACGP. All responses now received

- Wikipaedia entry for VMWS live as of 5/2/2018 undertaken by Dr Magdalena Simonis and Dr Anne Stanaway. No further updates
- Dr Elysia Robb partnership with MPANZ (Medical Parents Australia New Zealand)
- Website development completed through *Upwork* contractor thanks to Dr Madhura Naidu
- Implementation of Strategic Plan 2018 includes updated website that reflects out key advocacy areas; active participation from committee members.
- Dr Anne Stanaway continuing with Medical Women History archiving

Events, Communications with Members:

- Communications - Bimonthly Newsletter, Facebook, Twitter
- VMWS Events x 4 per annum with additional AGM and SPM (flyers attached separately)
- Advocacy Activities: mental health advocacy, gender equality, equality in pay, breast feeding, part-time training, climate change and its effects on women and children
- Events coordinated by younger members, guided by mentors and senior VMWS members: networking, career building through our How We Do What We Do event
- Ongoing advocacy for equal pay for education in GP training. All responses now received and we are now in discussion regarding strategy moving forward. RACGP claims it is the responsibility of the GP Supervisors i.e. the employers of GP registrars, not AGPT/ RACGP to reimburse trainees for the training time or cost of mandatory education modules. Discussion ongoing.
- CSW March 2019 attendance: A/Prof Deb Colville
- VMWS President (M Simonis) issued a submission to the (State) Royal Commission into Mental health
- Dr M Simonis attended AMA National Conference held in Brisbane, from the 24/5 - 26/5/2019 as a fully sponsored GP Delegate
- Dr M Simonis, Dr Ros Terry, A/Prof Deb Colville attended Queen Victoria memorial Service Welsh Church 8/9/2019
- Dr Elysia Robb & Dr Madhura Naidu meeting AMA -Doctors In Training (DIT) 11/9/2019
- Dr M Simonis & Dr Ros Terry Meeting Women In Medicine (WIM) AMA 26/9/2019
- Dr Simonis submitted amendment to MWIA Resolution on FGM in response to FGM advertisement on Facebook
- Dr Simonis submitted recommendation to MWIA for a Resolution on Climate change and its impact on Women's Health. To be ratified at General Assembly in 2022.
- Dr Simonis sent letter of support, on behalf of VMWS to DEA for their climate change advocacy and highlighted impact on women's health (19/9/2019). Invited to speak at the Tasmanian meeting
- Letter of support for the *Operating With Respect* (OWR) programme instituted by RACS sent
- Dr Simonis and Artemis Siourthas (non VMWS) contributed a tapestry for the MWIA patchwork project on behalf of Greece, as Greek doctors could not be in attendance
- *Medical Women Creatives* project commenced inviting our members to present artwork / stories/ poetry to our website and newsletter
- **MWIA Centennial** July 25-28, 2019 New York **VMWS attendees:**
 - Madhura Naidu

- Kate Duncan
- Desiree Yap
- Deb Colville
- Rosalind Terry
- Magdalena Simonis
- **Presenters:** Deb Colville – oral // M Simonis- poster

Partnerships:

- Women's Health Victoria: Dr Magdalena Simonis (VMWS President) Board member. Attended all board meetings
- Doctor's for the Environment Australia: meeting and visit planned Tasmania / South Australia for 2020
- Ongoing advocacy with various external organisations:
 - Australian Medical Students Association (AMSA) Global Health Conference,
 - Medicine Australian Balance of Employment and Life (MABEL),
 - AMA: DIT/ WIM
 - Women's Health Victoria
 - Racism It Stops With Me

Sponsors:

- Our thanks to our Sponsors:
 - ✓ MIPS
 - ✓ Autobrokers
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- Thank you to Ormond College for hosting the VMWS AGM this year

VMWS Strategic Planning meeting for 2020 year ahead, to be held November 24th 9am-1pm at Dr Simonis' house. All welcome

Dr Magdalena Simonis
16/12/19