

Committee on Women's Rights (COWR) Meeting

Telephone Conference
August 8, 2006 at 3 pm ET

PARTICIPANTS

Diane L. Adams, MD, MPH
Heather Brandt, PhD, CHES, COWR Chair
Siobhan Maty, MPH, PhD
M. Elise Papke, MPH, DrPH(c)

Monica Lathan, MPH, CHES, DrPH(c), COWR Staff Liaison

Absent

Stacey Plichta, ScD
Rufus Caine, DDS, MPH

MINUTES

COWR Program at 2006 Annual Meeting

The COWR Program consists of two oral sessions and two poster sessions. Following are the details of the sessions. Please note that the COWR Business Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, November 8 from 8:30-10 am** in the Executive Boardroom of the Westin Waterfront.

Monday, November 6, 2006: 10:30 AM-12:00 PM (3090.0 – SCI)

Women's health and the illusion of choice

Location: Westin Waterfront; Hancock

Moderator: Cindy Pearson

Overview: The panelists of the session, "Women's Health and the Illusion of Choice" will focus on women's health issues that have recently been presented to women as their choice, or even their right, but that are arguably medically unsound or in other ways not as safe, as simple, or as "elective" as they are represented. Three speakers will address elective cesareans, menstruation and the new menstrual suppression birth control pills, and breast enlargement with implants. Each issue will be considered thoroughly, with special attention to evidence not typically addressed in public discussions. The panel as a whole will spark discussion about whether or not "choice" is possible when information is incomplete, inaccessible or misrepresented.

Objectives: At the conclusion of the session, the participants will be able to: (1) Discuss the influence of marketing campaigns on the perception of women's right to choose specific medical products and procedures and (2) Identify the necessary components of the informed consent process.

- Women's health and the illusion of choice. C. A. Pearson
- Maternal choice cesarean delivery: Who's doing the choosing?. C. A. Pearson
- Myth of the maternal request primary cesarean: Results from Listening to Mothers II. E. Declercq, PhD; C. Sakala, PhD, MSPH
- Silicone, safety, and "the right to choose": Breast implants and public health. J. S. Zones, PhD

- Menstrual suppression: A choice or an illusion?. S. Herbert, MPH

Monday, November 6, 2006: 12:30 PM-1:30 PM (3155.0 - PS-SCI)

Human rights and reproductive rights: Experiences of women

Location: BCEC; Halls A/B1

- Barriers to obtaining emergency contraception: A violation of women's human rights (RL Love)
- Abstinence-only-until-marriage programs: Rolling back the clock on women's rights (WA Smith)
- Recent developments in legal protection for reproductive rights in the United States (SM Cohen)
- Personhood at fertilization: At what cost to women? (S Gareau)
- Increasing women's access to Emergency Contraception: A reproductive rights imperative in Central America and Mexico (D Dunning)
- Expanding and ensuring the provision of reproductive health services in Costa Rica through the inclusion of a reproductive health chapter in the General Health Law (S Amesty)
- Breastfeeding and human rights protection: A community partnership (T. Lundy)
- Gender differences in care-seeking for newborn infants in rural Uttar Pradesh, India. (J. Willis)
- Female method versus male method: Women's role in decision-making process in Bangladesh. (M. A. Islam)
- Women of faith and HIV/AIDS: Risk perceptions and prevention challenges in Jamaica. (N. Muturi)

Monday, November 6, 2006: 12:30 PM-1:30 PM (3156.0 - PS-SCI)

Committee on Women's Rights Presents: Women's Rights ARE Human Rights

Location: BCEC; Halls A/B1

- Female sex workers with steady partners in China: Condom-use and affecting factors (R Zhao)
- Mobilizing women for maternal and child health: Female Community Health Volunteer program in Nepal (S Tuladhar)
- Sex trafficking of women and girls: Empirical data and a call for a broader public health agenda (JG Silverman)
- Nepali women and girls trafficked for sex work: Health concerns and mechanisms for trafficking (MR Decker)
- Landscapes of sexuality for urban Russian women (AC Mazzarino)
- Identification of human trafficking victims in the U.S. health care system (S Baldwin)
- Womanization of HIV/AIDS: A consideration of feminist, black feminist and mujerista feminist analyses of public health research (C Webb)
- Is there a place for moral sex work? Catholicism, power, prostitution, and AIDS in urban Mexico (S Choudhury-Southard)
- Protecting women's bodily integrity: A human rights approach to keeping female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM.C) above ground in the US (M Chyatte)
- Age at menopause in rural El Salvador (AM Borchelt)

Tuesday, November 7, 2006: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM (4007.0 – SCI)

Women's rights in international settings: Violations of human rights?

Location: Westin Waterfront; Hancock

Moderator: Heather Brandt

Overview: The panelists of the session, "Women's Rights in International Settings: Violations of Human Rights," will discuss critical issues affecting women's rights and subsequently their health in international settings. Frequently, violations of human rights are the source of negative influences on women's health. The panelists will present the problem as well as suggest potential solutions. Women's rights truly are human rights and must be recognized as such.

Objectives: At the conclusion of the session, the participants will be able to: (1) Discuss the implications of women's rights on women's health in international settings; (2) Identify sources of embedded discrimination and practices that impact women's health; and (3) Recognize strategies for change.

- Abortion policies and maternal mortality: A study of reproductive health rights in Sub-Sahara Africa. O. A. Akiyode, BSc

- ABC spells the failure to address women's human rights: Evidence from Botswana and Swaziland. K. S. Leiter, JD, MPH; S. D. Weiser, MD, MPH; M. Heisler, MD, MPA; F. Percy-de Korte, DPH; S. DeMonner, MPH; Z. Hlanze, MA; N. Phaladze, PhD; D. Tuller; V. Iacopino, MD, PhD
- Women segregation, Islam, health and human rights: Pakistan experience. A. Aqil, MD, MPH, DrPH; R. Ravji, MD, MPH, MS
- Women's rights in a Muslim society: A case study of Bangladesh on the conflicts between human rights and patriarchal views that affect health. S. M. M. Rahman, MBBS, PhD, MPH; S. Rahman, MBBS, PhD, MPH

Wednesday, November 8, 2006: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

COWR Business Meeting

Location: Westin Waterfront; Executive Boardroom

Dr. Brandt will draft evaluation forms for the oral sessions. Questions will be added to find out ideas for future sessions.

COWR members will think about possible topics for invited sessions at next year's Annual Meeting. The theme is "Politics, Policy, and Public Health." The 2007 meeting will be held in Washington DC.

COWR Membership

COWR members can submit suggestions for new members for consideration by the President of APHA. Those participating felt it would be good to maintain a list of potential new members, particularly male members.

Policy Review and Development

Dr. Brandt updated the members regarding the process for policy submission. After talking with Ms. Kathye Gorosh, who is working closely with policy development, COWR was encouraged to partner with other interested Sections, SPIGs, and Caucuses to develop new policy within the context of "aging and women's health." The deadline for submission of new policies is in March. This is something that COWR can work toward for next year. Dr. Brandt will contact Dr. Plichta to find out about the status of the review of existing policies.

HPV Vaccine

Dr. Brandt raised the issue of COWR issuing a statement or doing something related to the recently-approved HPV vaccine, Gardasil®. COWR members tabled discussion on this topic until the next teleconference.

COWR Annual Report to APHA

Ms. Lathan has sent out the template for the annual report. Dr. Brandt will draft the annual report and circulate to COWR members for review and comment. This report is due August 25th.

Action Items

Action Item #1: Develop a list of membership suggestions for submission to Ms. Lathan at the face-to-face meeting in November in Boston. (All COWR members)

Action Item #2: Check with Dr. Plichta on the status of the review of existing APHA policies related to aging and women's health. (Dr. Brandt)

Action Item #3: Think about potential invited sessions for the 2007 Annual Meeting. The theme is "politics, policy, and public health." This will be discussed in detail at the face-to-face meeting. (All COWR members)

Action Item #4: Consider how the COWR can issue a statement related to the recently-approved HPV vaccine, Gardasil®. (All COWR members)

Action Item #5: Find out if COWR can visit the Boston Women's Health Collective while in Boston for the Annual Meeting. (Dr. Brandt)

Action Item #6: Draft evaluation for oral sessions. Dr. Adams will send an example to Dr. Brandt. A draft will be circulated to COWR members for review and comment. (Dr. Brandt)

Action Item #7: Prepare report of COWR activities. A draft will be circulated to COWR members for review and comment. (Dr. Brandt)

Upcoming Meeting

The next teleconference will be **September 19 at 3 pm ET**. Future teleconferences will be decided later.

Respectfully submitted by Heather Brandt on August 15, 2006.