

From the EDITOR

Women's Voices For Change— A New Voice for Women and a New Partner for NAMS



Dr. Wulf H. Utian has served as Editor-in-Chief of *Menopause Management* since its inception in 1988. Arthur H. Bill Professor Emeritus of Reproductive Biology and Obstetrics and Gynecology at Case Western Reserve University, he is President of Rapid Medical Research, headquartered in Cleveland, and is Consultant in Women's Health to the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. He is a Fellow of both the Royal and American Colleges of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, a Fellow of the International College of Surgeons, and a board-certified reproductive endocrinologist.

A pioneer in menopause research, Dr. Utian founded the world's first menopause clinic in Cape Town, South Africa, in 1966 and established the Cleveland Menopause Clinic in 1983.

Recipient of many research grants and awards, he is the author of more than 150 scientific publications and five books. He is the Honorary Past-President of the International Menopause Society and Honorary Founding President and Executive Director of The North American Menopause Society (NAMS).

Here is a great new development and a challenge to NAMS members across North America.

November 21, 2005, marked a new milestone in the accelerating growth and influence of The North American Menopause Society. At a glittering event in New York City, attended by over 400 women and about six men, welcomed by Liz Smith and Ann Richards and entertained by Bette Midler, a new not-for-profit partnership organization was launched. Women's Voices For Change (WVFC) has been established to change the meaning of menopause in the 21st century. The organization's mission is to provide education, advocacy and support to the estimated 50-million North American women of menopausal age through a collaborative partnership with NAMS. WVFC will rely on NAMS for the scientific content of its initiatives, and will donate half of its annual proceeds to NAMS, specifically for the mutual development of projects.

New York was chosen as the launch city for two essential reasons. The first was that longtime NAMS member, Pat Allen, MD, had approached me, offering to spearhead a fundraising event in support of NAMS activities. After a series of meetings in New York with women interested in working on this event, it became clear that these women—movers and shakers truly interested in the welfare of women—wanted more than a fund-raiser. They recognized the need for an organization with “legs,” an ongoing permanent mechanism for reaching their goals. The

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second reason was that New York is home to so much of the national media, and publicity would be the grease to speed the wheels of progress. The committee was correct on both counts, and WVFC has now been successfully launched.

As tough as it has been to get to this point, the hard work now really begins. The challenge to the Board members of WVFC, and indeed the challenge I throw out to NAMS members across North America, is how to progress from here. Another fundraising event next year in New York will be relatively easy. The word-of-mouth stories circulating about the huge success of this year's event has started a snowball rolling, and inevitably will make next year's fundraiser a "must attend" event. But what about volunteers stepping forward from other cities to emulate what New York has achieved? Let WVFC and NAMS know of your interest, and we can create a national grass roots organization of enormous influence and value.

Already, an example of the potential for this organization is a project WVFC is rolling out in partnership with New York Presbyterian Hospital. They have started a project to provide free bone density screening and follow-up to 1,000 under-served Hispanic women in New York City. Each participant will receive free bone density testing, a free Spanish-language version of the NAMS guidebook *Menopause: A New Beginning*, one year's supply of calcium and vitamin D and free transportation to the hospital for the testing.

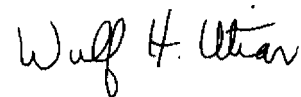
Top-Down and Bottom-Up Approach

The NAMS Board of Trustees believes strongly that a top-down and a bottom-up approach

is essential in order to enhance women's health through and beyond menopause. NAMS is already raising the therapeutic standards through its educational products, scientific meetings, position statements, competency certification examinations, web-based education programs and communication with the media. We stand ready to partner with your academic center or hospital/health delivery system in partnering local educational seminars. Just contact us expressing interest.

Now the bottom-up piece has been launched so that women themselves can be alerted to the existence of NAMS and reliable facts about menopause, therapeutic expectations and access to care and to quality providers. The new essential component now activated is a voice for women through the power of a strong grass-roots organization in partnership with a strong scientific organization.

I challenge all of you to actively participate. Volunteer for NAMS committees, initiate a local seminar in partnership with NAMS, or work with WVFC to bring a women's event to your city or town. Together, NAMS and WVFC are forging a real partnership in effecting change.



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Obituary

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