

WORLD ENDOMETRIOSIS ORGANISATIONS (WEO) STEERING COMMITTEE



DEBORAH BUSH MNZM, QSM, Dip Tchg. LSB

Co-founder and Chief Executive; Endometriosis New Zealand
Founder and Director EPP Coaching and Consulting (Endo and Pelvic Pain)

World Endometriosis Society Board Trustee
Principal; World Endometriosis Organisations

Deborah has had a global influence on the promotion and prevention of endometriosis worldwide. She developed the world's first Menstrual Health and Endometriosis *me™ programme* for schools in 1997 which has significantly influenced early recognition of symptoms and timely intervention in adolescents in New Zealand and has been endorsed by the World Endometriosis Society as the preferred education programme world-wide.

She has developed Innovative health initiatives and programmes for schools, workplaces, hospitals and CME. She was instrumental in developing a Task Force team with the New Zealand Government and is implementing new Clinical Pathways for endometriosis. Her private practice EPP Coaching and Consulting integrates into four treatment centres in New Zealand offering multi-disciplinary expertise.

Deborah presents frequently as key note speaker at international academic conferences and as MC at functions. Her many national and international awards reflect her achievements and contribution to the literature. Deborah was described as 'a pioneer, a visionary, a highly effective lay person in a specialised medical world' by the New Zealand Woman of the Year judges.

Deborah's achievements are reflected in the following awards: Queens Service Medal (QSM); Commonwealth Award for Excellence in Women's Health (Endometriosis NZ under her leadership); Paul Newman Award 2007; International Outstanding Service Award; Zonta International Woman of the Biennium 2011 – 2013; Woman of the Year – Health and Science, 2012; Woman of Influence Finalist 2014; New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) Queen Elizabeth Honours 2017.



ASDIS BRAGADOTTIR: Iceland. I have been a board member of the Endometriosis Association of Iceland since 2015 and now manage the finances. I have a BBA degree from Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada. I work in a bank in Iceland and have been doing so for the past 30 years. Now I work in the back office at Kvika bank in Iceland as a specialist and manage settlements for securities among other things. I have two dogs, Irish setter, and they take up most of my free time My endometriosis history is pretty long and for 31 years I went from one doctor to another, family doctors and gynecologists, but always got the same answer; there is nothing wrong, this pain is supposed to be like that and I'm sorry but there is nothing we can do for you. Finally I met a

gynecologist who did listen to me, I had a MRI and six months later I had my first excision surgery that took six hours, and my life changed so much for the better.



KATHLEEN KING: Chairperson of the Endometriosis Association of Ireland (EAI). I work as a medical scientist in a hospital laboratory. I have been volunteering with endometriosis organisations for over 20 years, and as Chairperson of the EAI since 2013. I am passionate about education to empower women to make informed decisions.



ABEESHA TOUSSAINT B.A., M.A., is the founder and president of the Trinidad and Tobago Endometriosis Association [TTEA]. She, together with the TTEA Team, works with all stakeholders to improve health outcomes for endometriosis patients in Trinidad and Tobago. She has a breadth of knowledge, skills and experience from having worked in project management, communications, education, administration and in her roles as an active community member. She was awarded a master's degree in Communication, Media and Public Relations from the University of Leicester, UK, in which her research focused on the newspapers' coverage of women health issues namely endometriosis, infertility and dysmenorrhea in Trinidad and Tobago. Abeesha has a special interest in endometriosis and health communication. She has a number of publications and is a member of the International Association of Business Communicators and the World Endometriosis Society. She is genuinely sympathetic, passionate and dedicated to the cause.



TAYLA GRAY: Tayla is the National Health Educator for Endometriosis New Zealand (ENZ). She first came across ENZ when the me™ (menstrual health and endometriosis) programme came to her high school. This programme gave her the knowledge and encouragement to speak out and seek help for her symptoms which resulted in her being diagnosed with endometriosis. It also influenced Tayla's choice of career, as she wanted to join her love of helping others with her interest in health to be able to have a positive impact on people going through similar experiences. This led her to study at the University of Canterbury completing a Bachelor of Health Sciences majoring in Health Education. During the degree, she carried out an internship with Endometriosis New Zealand which further fuelled her passion and desire to make a change for those with endometriosis.



ELSIE WANDERA-ODHIAMBO is the Founder of the Endometriosis Foundation of Kenya launched in 2014. The organization seeks to un stereotype period pain & draw out the women who suffer in silence. She also advocates for women suffering with Endometriosis to break the silence & shaming of period pain in Kenya. The organization was born from her pain that as it took 8 years to diagnosis Endometriosis & Adenomyosis and has since undergone 3 surgeries to manage the presentation of the condition.

The Foundation was launched as a platform for women to come together and have real conversations about the debilitating disease, medical interventions & natural options for easing the effects of the symptoms. EFK engages in conversations to raise awareness about Endometriosis through social media as a build-up to World Endometriosis Day/Awareness month in March every year.

She is married to Harold Muganda and they hope to have children of their own as the Lord wills.



MICHELLE E. MARVEL Endometriosis Research Center Founder & Executive Director.

Michelle E. Marvel is an accomplished business professional with vast experience across several fields, yet her passion is being an advocate for endometriosis, a disease that she has personally suffered with since her teens.

Michelle's "outside the box" vision led to the founding of the Endometriosis Research Center & Women's Hospital (ERC) in early 1997. What was a conceptual idea to establish a research center at a prominent medical institute/facility transformed and developed into an organization that provided a voice for all those impacted by this puzzling disease. Today, more than two decades after its founding, the ERC continues to provide that voice and address the ever-growing need for endometriosis research, education, awareness and advocacy, patient engagement and support.

For her daughter and the next generation, Michelle is dedicated to continuing the ERC's mission to improve the quality of life for all those suffering with endometriosis in memory and honor of all those that have tragically taken their own lives.