



The Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010

INFOLETTER 27

February 2003

Dear Bone and Joint Decade supporting organisation and friend,

On behalf of the BJD Steering Committee I am pleased to report to you of the latest achievements in regard to the initiative.

Lars Lidgren, Chairman of the Steering Committee

A new BJD year has started with many new initiatives.

Great News!

Governmental Support from Estonia Now includes 46 nations

Estonia: On October 25, 2002 Siiri Oviir, Minister of Social Affairs, signed the Bone and Joint Decade on behalf of the Estonian government. For more information please go to www.boneandjointdecade.org /Estonia or contact, Dr Chris Pruunsild, the BJD coordinator in Estonia, e-mail: chris.pruunsild@mail.ee

BJD coordinator in Malaysia

Dr Azmillah Rosman has become our BJD coordinator in Malaysia, which is a country where BJD has not had any representative before. Dr Azmillah Rosman is working in Selayang Hospital Malaysia and is a consultant physician and rheumatologist practising in a government hospital. For more information e-mail: azmillah@selayanghospital.gov.my

New BJD coordinator in Venezuela

Dr Rafael Ramón Paiva-Paiva, President of the Venezuelan Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology, is the new BJD coordinator. He has replaced Dr Federico Dorantes, past president of the society.

We welcome Dr Rosman and Dr Paiva-Paiva and thank Dr Dorantes.

Change of NAN coordinator in Turkey

Dr O. Sahap Atik, Professor in Orthopaedic Surgery and President of the Turkish Joint Diseases Foundation has become the new NAN coordinator in Turkey and has replaced Dr. Ridvan Ege. For more information, e-mail: atik@tr.net

**The status at the moment:
89 BJD National Coordinators
51 NANS and 46 Supporting
Governments**

The 2003 BJD Annual World Network Conference's program is moving forward

The congress will be held at Kempinski Hotel in Beijing, China on October 30-November 2, 2003. This annual premier meeting will gather together representatives of medical profession and patient groups of the various National Action Networks (NAN) around the world.

Each NAN will be contacted directly with an invitation to the meeting in Beijing. Each NAN will be invited to send two persons, a coordinator and a patient representative to the Beijing Meeting. The ISC is actively seeking assistance to include patient representatives.

Keep the dates open and watch out for further announcements on www.boneandjointdecade.org

Please contact Prof. Kai-Ming Chan, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, e-mail: kaimingchan@cuhk.edu.hk for any enquiries.

Venues for coming BJD Network meetings

2004 Network meeting will take place in *Budapest, Hungary*. Dr Géza Balint, NAN coordinator, will be the host for the conference. The planned Budapest meeting has financial support from the Hungarian Government. For more information e-mail: balintg@mail.datanet.hu

2005 Network meeting is now confirmed to be in Canada and will be organised by Dr James Waddell and his network, e-mail: waddellj@smh.toronto.on.ca

Suggestions from our NANs

Please send in suggestions to the BJD Secretariat, bjd@ort.lu.se about places for having future Annual Network meetings and suggestions for the program 2003

FIMS (International Federation of Sports Medicine) a participating organisation celebrated on February 14, 2003 its 75th Anniversary. FIMS was founded in St. Moritz in 1928. During the last 75 years, FIMS has grown to become the leading international sports medicine organization.

Musculoskeletal eCooperative Portal Project

During the AAOS Meeting in New Orleans representatives from the MSeC met with representatives from specialist societies from South America, Canada, Japan and FIMS (the International Federation of

Sports Medicine) to discuss a future extension of the project.

A new group, the Content Core group, has been formed within the Project with the aim to define and develop an infrastructure for finding and sharing content. Sara Martin has been appointed BJD Communication Manager. Sara was, until recently, Communications Coordinator at the SICOT Office. We warmly welcome her to the MSeC/BJD Office Staff.

At the forth MSeC Meeting in Budapest, 24-26 March, the Core Content Group and its work will be further presented to the MSeC Societies.

For more information and to gain access to the portal, please contact Göran Magyar, MD, PhD, BJD Info/Webmaster, e-mail: goran.magyar@ort.lu.se

International Osteoporosis Survey

3500 orthopaedic surgeons in France, Germany, Italy, Spain, UK and New Zealand have answered a survey on current attitudes and behaviour in the management of patients with fractures caused by osteoporosis. In Frankfurt, February 14, 2003, the survey data, and progress plans from each country, etc, were presented. The survey findings and recommendations for care will be presented at the EFORT 2003, Helsinki Congress, June 9, 2003. The survey has been a project developed in cooperation with EFORT, national societies, BJD and IOF. For more information please contact Mary Anderson, IOF Board member, e-mail: manderson@osteofound.org

European Bone & Joint Health Strategies Project

Please find a recent update, February 2003, at www.boneandjointdecade.org/News/Highlights

WHO Bulletin

The Bulletin will publish an entire issue on musculoskeletal disorders, tentative date June 2003.

Economic Burden of Illness report

Health Canada has released an extensive valuable report on

Economic Burden of Illness in

Canada, 1998. For more information

www.boneandjointdecade.org/

[News/Highlights](#)

AAOS

Recently, Lars Lidgren attended the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) 2003 Annual meeting in New Orleans. He was awarded an AAOS honorary membership, as a special recognition of his contribution to orthopaedics and his leadership of the Bone and Joint Decade, www.boneandjointdecade.org/ / [News/Highlights](#). For more information on the AAOS Annual Meeting please visit: www.aaos.org

Announcement

The Bone and Joint Decade deeply regrets the death of **Linda Edwards**.

Linda Edwards, had been the director of the UK National Osteoporosis Society since its creation in 1986. She died on Monday 16 December 2002.

She was a valued member of the global osteoporosis movement and was a member of the Board of IOF. Her contribution to the musculoskeletal area, especially osteoporosis, was outstanding.

Please find some reports on activities in our Networks below, for more

www.boneandjointdecade.org

National Action Networks

Some activities:

Brazil: Prof. J. Sérgio Franco, NAN coordinator in Brazil has taken the position at SBOT Brazilian Orthopaedic Association as its President 2003, e-mail: josesergiofranco@uol.com.br

Brazil reports:

- All the telephone cards in April 2003 will have a message from BJD and SBOT. 2 million telephone cards have been printed;
- On March 16 there will be a Brazilian Osteoporosis Day throughout the country
- An Orthopaedic Weekend will happen during 2003 in 20 cities including:

Courses on trauma

Free community conferences;

Road Traffic Injury Prevention street campaign;

Osteoporosis Campaign with safety home information;

Surgeons meeting with political leaders.

For more information, josesergiofranco@uol.com.br or mmusafir@uol.com.br

Bulgaria: The National Healthcare Insurance Agency of Bulgaria included on its list for 2003 the complete reimbursement of important musculoskeletal areas as spinal injuries and diseases, arthroscopic surgery, fractures of the hip and femur and congenital anomalies.

This is an important step forward in reforming the healthcare system in Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian NAN has done much to achieve this success, using every opportunity during 2002 to raise public awareness of the importance of bone and joint conditions utilizing the framework of the Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010 including: new editorial publications in the Bulgarian periodical journals of orthopaedics, traumatology, rheumatology, neurosurgery, etc.; outlining the BJD-initiative at the national conferences of rheumatology, spinal surgery and traumatology; and having interviews broadcasted through national television and radio, etc.

For more information please contact Dr Panayot Tanchev, NAN coordinator, e-mail: dr_ptanchev@abv.bg

Finland: The main activities during 2002 were:

- Enlarging and strengthening the BJD network across the country, making it a true nationwide network
- Communicating with decision making politicians and authorities in health care the most recent knowledge of musculoskeletal research
- Communicating with the lay public regarding prevention and treatment of musculoskeletal disorders (main emphasis in 2002 on: osteoarthritis and osteoporosis)

Some activities during 2002:

- 5 research groups received an award of 2000 Euros each at the VII National Days on Musculoskeletal Disorders held in October. A total of 34 research groups submitted their papers to this nationwide competition, held for the third time commissioned by the NAN Steering Committee.
- An unbiased authority, the Health Promotion Center, made a positive evaluation of BJD activities in Finland.

Such an evaluation was required to ensure continued financial support by various sponsoring organizations.

More information on activities in Finland may be found on, www.boneandjointdecade.org or please contact Dr Mats Grönblad, NAN coordinator, e-mail: mats.gronblad@hus.fi

Iran: This year the *Annual Rheumatology Research Center Conference* was dedicated to Osteoporosis. A 2-day symposium was organized by the Rheumatology Research Center in Tehran and the Bone and Joint Decade Iran National Action Network, on February 6-7, 2003.

For the first time in Iran, a 3-hour conference was scheduled for the public simultaneously during this Congress. Nearly 400 patients and their families participated on this conference, which was repeated on the second day of the seminar. The patients' seminar had 3 lectures with the following topics:

- What must we know about Osteoporosis?
- The role of nutrition for prevention and treatment of Osteoporosis.
- Exercise for prevention and treatment of Osteoporosis.

It ended with a round table discussion answering patients' questions about their problems on osteoporosis and hearing their suggestions. Separate booklets on the 3 topics were prepared for patients and distributed to all participants.

The first Patients' Osteoporosis organization in Iran was founded during this congress by people who participated in the public conference. The name suggested was "Association of Patients with Osteoporosis". Around 300 patients as well as over 100 doctors registered for this association. This was supported by BJD Iran NAN.

As a symbolic action, all the participants were hosted with milk instead of coffee or tea during break times, and with yoghurt and yoghurt drink instead of salads and coke during the lunch time.

For more information please contact Prof. Farhad Shahram, NAN coordinator, e-mail: shahram@neda.net or visit www.boneandjointdecade.org /Iran

Israel: The annual congress of the Israel Orthopaedic Association took place on the December 4-5, 2002 in the presence of distinguished guests from USA, Canada, France and Macedonia.

The themes of the congress were: Osteoporosis, Degenerative Joint Diseases, and the Treatment and Prevention of Road Traffic Accident Injuries.

In the business session the Bone and Joint Decade objectives were discussed in a lecture given by Dr. Chaim Zinman, NAN Coordinator, e-mail: c_zinman@rambam.health.gov.il

New Zealand: Measurement of the burden of musculoskeletal disease in New Zealand was one of the primary objectives for the BJD in New Zealand. It was considered important to have some baseline information on which to measure the success of the BJD in New Zealand.

The Ministry of Health has recently activated a National Health Survey on musculoskeletal disease. It is a major survey and the results will not be available for another twelve months, but the BJD is hopeful there may be some data forthcoming that can be used to further the objectives of the Decade.

Please find an extensive Newsletter on www.boneandjointdecade.org /New Zealand or contact Dr Geoffrey Lamb, NAN coordinator, e-mail: geoff.lamb@clear.net.nz

or Mr Kim Miles, Executive Director, e-mail: kmiles.nzoa@paradise.net.nz

Slovak Republic: National congress of Slovak Orthopaedic and Traumatologic Society with international participation was held on January 30-31, 2003 in Bratislava. A BJD lecture was given. For more information Prof. Frantisek Makai, e-mail: ortopkl@internet.sk

Slovenia: Secretary of the State at the Ministry of Health, Mr Dorjan Marušič, MD, announced on February 14, 2003, that additional programs will be financed during 2003 for elective hip surgery. This is one of NAN Slovenia's successes for shortening of waiting times.

In collaboration with Liaison office of the WHO in Slovenia, Dr. Radko Komadina, NAN coordinator, is preparing a BJD meeting for South-East Europe, with assistance of the Ministry of Health. Please contact Dr. Radko Komadina, NAN coordinator, e-mail: sbercdi@guest.arnes.si

Sweden: In Sweden, various educational activities regarding musculoskeletal conditions are planned to take place during 2003, starting in Stockholm in May with a lecture program for general practitioners about osteoarthritis of hip and knee joints.

A survey based on questionnaires regarding the extent and content of education of medical students in musculoskeletal disorders is ongoing and data collection continues. The results of the survey will be presented later this year.

The Bone and Joint Decade will be promoted at national meetings and conferences at various locations in Sweden during 2003.

For more information please contact Prof. Björn Rydevik, NAN coordinator, e-mail: bjorn.rydevik@orthop.gu.se

Turkey: BJD is included in 1st Congress of Osteoporosis & Osteoarthritis that will be held on April 30 -May 4, 2003 in Antalya/Turkey. See www.osteoporosis-arthritis.org for further information or contact Dr. O. Sahap Atik, NAN coordinator, e-mail: atik@tr.net

UK: Over 100 Members of the UK Parliament have signed a parliamentary petition calling on the British government to make Arthritis a healthcare priority. The petition, or Early Day Motion as it is known, was tabled by Labour Member of Parliament Roger Berry and has received support from all three major British political parties.

It is unusual to succeed in getting over 100 signatures on a parliamentary petition.

It is an achievement which reflects ARMA, Arthritis Care and their members' commitment to campaigning for the Arthritis Community. The high number of signatures also demonstrates that members of the British Parliament are aware that the needs of patients in the UK are not being met, a message ARMA and its member organisations will take to the UK government. It also shows willingness by many to work locally to make sure people gain access to appropriate services from Healthcare Trusts. This is a successful step in a long-term strategy to raise awareness amongst national and local policy-makers of the need for high quality service and access to treatments for people with musculoskeletal conditions. For more information please contact Dr. David L Scott, NAN coordinator, e-mail: david.l.scott@kcl.ac.uk

Action Week 2002

Please visit www.boneandjointdecade.org /Activities/Action Week and you will find a report on activities during the Action Week 2002 in the different countries.

ACT NOW!
The BJD Action Week
October 12 – 20,
Every year

Start planning for the **Action Week 2003** already today!

The days are:

October 12 - **World Arthritis Day**

October 16 - **World Spine Day**

October 17 - **World Trauma Day**

October 20 - **World Osteoporosis Day**

The BJD website

Please send information and photos (fine quality) on activities and events to the BJD Secretariat, bjd@ort.lu.se and we will put it on the web. Visit the site regularly, and inform as many in your country as possible about www.boneandjointdecade.org

SOCIETY UPDATE - IMPORTANT

Please fill in the enclosed Society update form and send it to the BJD Secretariat, bjd@ort.lu.se.

It is very important for us to have a current email contact address in order to communicate with, and keep all groups who are part of the Bone and Joint Decade informed. We would like to have up-to-date information on all organisations. If you have resigned as an officer or president and wish to stay on our mailing list, we welcome your continued participation. Simply add the new official contact person for the organisation.

The Bone and Joint Decade Secretariat

If you have any questions or need any assistance please feel free to contact our Secretary in Lund, Agneta Jönsson, bjd@ort.lu.se

Next Infoletter

Will be sent out on April 29, 2003. For information to be included, please submit before April 15.

**Contact us:
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