



The Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010

INFOLETTER 28

April 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

BJD recommendations for an Undergraduate Core Curriculum presented to the World Federation of Medical Education Conference

Recommendations for the core competencies, which all doctors should have at the point of graduation from any medical school, have been developed by the Bone and Joint Decade Task Force on Education. This initiative was coordinated by Professor Anthony Woolf, Dr Kristina Åkesson and Professor Nicolas Walsh with experts from all continents and all relevant specialities. The recommendations emphasise training in the essential clinical skills and acquirement of basic knowledge of diagnosis and treatment of the musculoskeletal diseases. The recommendations can be used or adapted for use in any country around the world. They were welcomed at the World Conference of Medical Education in March as a leading example of setting global standards in medical education. They will be published soon and will be circulated widely to enable curricula to be developed locally that reflect the enormous burden of musculoskeletal conditions - a key target of the Decade. For more information please contact Prof. Anthony Woolf, e-mail: woolfa@dialin.net

Other educational initiatives - US BJD announces medical school project

Dr Stuart Weinstein, president, United States Bone and Joint Decade, has announced that The US Bone and Joint Decade is sponsoring an initiative to improve medical school education in

musculoskeletal medicine. This initiative is entitled Project 100, and will be directed by Dr. Joseph Bernstein of the University of Pennsylvania. The goal of Project 100 is to have 100% of American Medical Schools offer a required course in musculoskeletal medicine by the end of the Decade. For more information please find the US BJD April edition Newsletter at www.boneandjointdecadeorg/usa /USBJD News or contact Dr Stuart Weinstein, NAN coordinator, at stuart-weinstein@uiowa.edu

Through the collaboration of these two educational initiatives of the Bone and Joint Decade, we look forward to increased musculoskeletal competence by future doctors.

Musculoskeletal eCooperative Portal Project

We welcome Pfizer as our new partner in the Bone and Joint Decade and the Internet Portal Project. The Portal Project has successfully been carried forward by Pharmacia and is now being supported by the combined Pfizer/Pharmacia organization effective April 2003.

The Internet Portal is growing steadily and the number of registered members and it is expected to reach 10.000 members in January 2004. On 24-26 March, the third MSeC Meeting was held in Budapest, Hungary. All participating musculoskeletal societies were represented and worked hard together to stimulate and facilitate further cooperation within the Portal Project. This meeting focused on how to continue to work as teams amongst the participating societies

to improve content and increase usage. A number of high interest content items were identified as: CME with credits, full text journals, best practice forums, evidence-based medicine resources, MSeC faculty and e-mail reminders to members, along with general technical improvements. Decisions were made on how to achieve these goals and the Bone and Joint Decade's MSeC organization are responsible for a number of the identified tasks. Sara Martin, BJDs/MSeCs new Communications Manager, works specifically on the Portal Project and significantly increases our capacity to achieve these goals.

Highlights from the British Society of Rheumatology Annual Meeting in April 2003 can now be found in the Portal. If you would like to register, please contact Göran Magyar, BJD Info/Webmaster, e-mail: goran.magyar@ort.lu.se or Sara Martin, Communications Manager, e-mail: smartin@skynet.be

BJD coordinator in Lithuania

On April 16 the new Minister of Health, Dr Juozas Olekas, nominated a Lithuanian BJD coordinator, Ass. Prof. Dr. Manvilius Kocius, Head of Orthopedics-Traumatology Division at Vilnius University Hospital. For more information e-mail: manvilius.kocius@mf.vu.lt
With Lithuania included the BJD has representation in 90 countries worldwide. The BJD initiative is moving forward and we are no longer very far from our original goal of having BJD coordinators in 100 countries. The Ministry of Health has also sent a full declaration of support signed by the new Minister of Health. Lithuania has been a supporting government since September 2000.
We welcome Dr Kocius.

Change of NAN coordinators in Argentina and France

Argentina: Dr. Rómulo Cabrini, President of the National Academy of Medicine, the most recognized academic institution in Argentina has become the new NAN coordinator in Argentina. Dr. Cabrini is a prestigious bone pathologist who has made extensive contributions to the international literature relating to different aspects of bone pathology, including bone and implant interface physiology and several other related musculoskeletal problems. Dr. Cabrini has replaced Dr. D. Luis Muscolo, who has had that position for the last three years.

We extend our thanks to Dr. Muscolo and welcome Dr. Cabrini, e-mail: presidencia@aaot.org.ar

France: Prof. Jean Noel Argenson from Marseille, France, has replaced Prof. Laurent Sedel, one of the two NAN coordinators in France. The other NAN coordinator is still Prof. Liana Euler-Ziegler, a member of the International Steering Committee as well.

We welcome Prof. Argenson and thank Prof Sedel. For more information please contact Prof. Euler-Ziegler, e-mail: euler-ziegler.l@chu-nice.fr

***Our current status:
90 BJD National Coordinators
51 NANS and 46 Supporting
Governments***

The 2003 BJD World Network Conference was scheduled to be held in Beijing, China on October 30 to November 1, 2003. Each NAN has been invited to send two persons, NAN coordinator and patient representative to the Beijing Meeting.

However the SARS infection problem in the region means China is not expected to be totally cleared during the next six months, and on 22 April, 2003 the International Steering Committee decided to relocate the meeting from Beijing and is currently looking for other locations. Please note that the dates are remaining firm.

Keep the dates open and watch out for further announcement on www.boneandjointdecade.org Please contact the BJD Secretariat, bjd@ort.lu.se for any enquiries.

Please find some reports on activities in our Networks below and please visit www.boneandjointdecade.org for further information on activities in the different countries.

National Action Networks ***Some activities:***

Australia: The Bone and Joint Decade Summit, held in Canberra on November 15, 2002 was established to emphasise the cost effectiveness of hip and knee replacement surgery on patients with chronic rheumatic diseases and also to emphasise the importance of preventive measures for the management of both osteoporosis and osteoarthritis – two of the major diseases covered in the New National Health Priority initiative for musculoskeletal disease and arthritis. The summit was opened by the Hon. Senator Margaret Reid who spoke of the Government's support for arthritis and musculoskeletal disease and the important burden that they impose on the Australian population. Please find a report on the Bone and Joint Decade Summit at www.boneandjointdecade.org / Australia For more information, Prof. Peter Brooks, NAN Coordinator, e-mail: p.brooks@mailbox.uq.edu.au

Brazil: This year the Brazilian Catholic Church, (representing 100 million members) has selected their annual theme as “Fraternity with the third age people”, and the Brazilian Cardinal invited SBOT and BJD to prepare a brochure explaining in Portuguese: *How to prevent accidents in elderly*.

5 million folders have been produced and distributed in all churches during Easter Day, April 20 during the hourly *Educative Breakfast* with the nutritional food and information on calcium contents (milk, cheese, cornflakes, corn bread, butter etc). Each community in 830 churches around the country offered this *Free Educative breakfast* for all those attending.

For more information please contact Prof. J. Sérgio Franco, NAN Coordinator, e-mail: josesergiofranco@uol.com.br or Dr. Marcos E. Musafir, member of the International Steering Committee, e-mail: mmusafir@uol.com.br

Canada: On February 1, 2003, Dr. James Waddell, Coordinator of the Canadian National Action Network, convened a stakeholder meeting for the Bone and Joint Decade. To facilitate participation, the meeting was held in conjunction with the pre-scheduled IMHA/CIHR stakeholder meetings in Calgary. All participants of the IMHA/CIHR meeting were invited to attend the Bone and Joint Decade Meeting. The number of participants was estimated at 70. The participants included people with arthritis, researchers, and health providers.

Conclusions:

The feedback from this meeting of a variety of stakeholders indicated that there is general interest and commitment to move forward with a Bone and Joint Decade Strategy for Canada. The participants emphasized that their participation and contributions from their member organizations were contingent on having a detailed plan.

For more information please find the summary report on www.boneandjointdecade.org /Canada or contact Dr James Waddell, e-mail: waddellj@smh.toronto.on.ca

India: Please visit www.boneandjointdecade.org/News/Highlights and find a report on *INJURIES In South East Asia Region* – Priorities for Policy and Action, published by the SEARO office of the WHO. Dr Mathew Varghese, an orthopaedic surgeon and Director of St. Stephen's Hospital in Delhi, prepared this report for SEARO. For more information please contact Prof. Dinesh Mohan, NAN Coordinator, e-mail: dmohan@cbme.iitd.ernet.in

Kenya: On February 26, 2003 Dr Omondi Oyoo, The BJD coordinator, gave a lecture to 200 doctors and physicians on the topic "Osteoarthritis" Another lecture was delivered on March 21, 2003 to Orthopaedic Surgeons in Kenya on the topic *Rheumatoid Arthritis*. The BJD coordinator also reports that the government that changed at the end of 2002 appears to be very approachable. The chances getting governmental support seem to have increased. For more information, e-mail: geomondi@hotmail.com

Norway: On the 24th of March 2003 the Bone and Joint Decade was officially established in Norway. Professor Even Lærum (The Norwegian Back Pain Network) was elected as chairman. The elected board members were Elling Alvik (Norwegian Orthopaedic Association), Kaare M. Gautvik (Norwegian Osteoporosis Society), Knut Helgetveit (Norwegian Society of Rheumatology), Njål Idsø (Norwegian Rheumatism Association) and Henrik Sinding-Larsen (Back Pain Association of Norway). Per Anders Stalheim will be the organisation's co-ordinator and Ceinwen Edwards (The Norwegian Back Pain Network) the organisation's secretary.

The following are important points of strategy for The Norwegian Bone and Joint Decade:

- Map the extent of musculoskeletal problems
- Identify important lack of knowledge within the field of musculoskeletal problems
- Develop multi-professional evidence based guidelines
- Implement the clinical guidelines/recommendations
- Work on campaigns
- Establish work groups for specially important areas
- Stimulate increased research within the musculoskeletal area
- Arrange one or two open meetings a year
- Work to improve the health care within the area of musculoskeletal problems
- Influence governmental interest in the musculoskeletal field

For more information on activities in Norway please contact Per Anders Stalheim, e-mail: Bernt.Knudsen@sensewave.com or Ceinwen B. Edwards, e-mail: Edwards@ryggnett.no

The Netherlands: Journey on foot from The Netherlands to Switzerland

Two women with arthritis (RA and Osteoarthritis) embarked on a 1300 km journey on foot to Leukerbad/Gemmipass, Switzerland on the 5th of April. By foot!!! They want to set an example for all people with a musculoskeletal disorder that keeping moving is important for health and well-being.

They have trained hard under the supervision of their physiotherapist to get in shape for their trek in the past months. Now the real thing has started. In the presence of the councillor of social affairs of their

hometown, the chairman of the Swiss Rheumaleague, Mrs Dr. Elisabeth Surbeck, a music-band and lots of interested families, friends and walkers, they walked the first leg of the trip. A lot of people will join them on their way in the Netherlands. They will cross the border with Belgium halfway through May. They will visit a congress in Leuven, Belgium, and give there a presentation about their initiative. Groups are interested in supporting the walking tour in France and in co-operation with Prof. Liana Euller-Ziegler, the French NAN coordinator, proposals are made by the different potential partners.

There will always be Swiss groups walking along with the two walkers in Switzerland and there will be a big welcome in Leukerbad in *the beginning of September!*

Such a big challenge is made possible by the dedication of many volunteers and is sponsored primarily by local retail dealers who put bikes, clothes and adapted shoes at their disposal.

For more information please contact the Dutch project coordinator Els van der Wallen, email: e.vanderwallen@erasmusmc.nl or visit <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/countries/netherlands>

The Bone and Joint Decade at the International WCPT–congress
(www.wcpt.org/congress)

During the *14th International Congress of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy*, taking place from 7-12 June in Barcelona Spain, there will be an extra focus on the Bone and Joint Decade. This is due to the actions of Mr. Kees Visser, a member of the board of the Royal Dutch Physical Therapist Association, who is also a representative in the Dutch BJD-board. He has drawn attention to the Bone and Joint Decade as a possible theme at the Congress. As a result the Bone and Joint Decade will be one of the four themes of

the Congress in addition to evidence-based care, primary health care and education. All the lectures and workshops in the program are divided among one of these themes. In a Networking Session the focus will be specifically on how the national organisations of physiotherapist all over the world, can participate in the Bone and Joint Decade. For more information, e-mail: cjvisser@fysionet.nl

For information on other upcoming congresses

www.boneandjointdecade.org/meetings

The BJD website

The number of visitors to the Bone and Joint Decade website has been growing steadily over the past year. The website had 42,000 visits in 2002, which is an increase of one third compared with the previous year. Currently, more than 4,000 people from all over the world visit the website every month.

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. Please visit and inform in your country about www.boneandjointdecade.org and download information.

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 June 18, 2003. For information to be included, please submit before June 4.

Contact us:
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