



The Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010

INFOLETTER 30

August 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

Number of supporting governments on the rise!

Governmental Support from Venezuela To make a total of 48 nations

Venezuela: On July 3, 2003 Dr José Vicente Rángel, Vice President of Venezuela, signed the declaration of support for the BJD. For more information please contact Dr Rafael R Paiva P, BJD coordinator and President of the Venezuelan Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology, e-mail: rpaiva@cantv.net

2003 BJD World Network Conference is drawing near and will take place on October 30 – November 1 in **Berlin, Grand Hotel Esplanade**. It is the 4th NAN coordinators' meeting. Prof. Wolfhart Puhl, German NAN coordinator, is hosting the Annual Meeting. Prof. KM Chan, member of the International Steering Committee, is chair of the International Organizing Committee. The theme for the meeting is *the Bone and Joint Decade Prevention and Repair – Stay Mobile*.

The meeting will be attended by NAN coordinators from more than 40 countries, patient representatives and invited presidents of international societies within the musculoskeletal domain. Each NAN has been invited to participate with one NAN representative and one patient

representative. For more information please contact the BJD Secretariat, bjd@ort.lu.se

Musculoskeletal eCooperative Portal Project

We are happy to report that a very positive working relationship has been established with Pfizer, our new partners on the MSeC portal project. Within the Pfizer structure MSeC is now part of a division called Global Medical Relations, which also covers the Pfizer Medical Humanities Initiative (see <http://www.positiveprofiles.com>). Mr David Clay, Pfizer's new MSeC team leader, flew to Copenhagen on 7 August to meet with Prof Lars Lidgren and Dr Göran Magyar to discuss strategies for moving forward with the BJD.

The next meeting of the participating MSeC societies will be on October 5-7, 2003 in Barcelona, Spain.

Resumption of the BJD/MSeC eLecture series

Prof Olle Svensson from Umeå University in Sweden presented Osteoporosis and Fragility Fractures on Aug 14 via the BJD web portal; the webcast was followed by a 30-minute live chat in the portal discussion boards. The archived presentation can be found at http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/eLect/OSv/OtpO_S803.html. Lectures from the British Orthopaedic Association Annual Meeting will be made available on the MSeC portal in September and from the BJD Action Week in October (see next item).

Action Week 24-hr Global eLecture series

As one of the highlights in this year's Action Week (October 12 – 20), we have planned a 24-hour chain of webcasts, which feature cutting-edge lectures from globally recognised specialists in musculoskeletal health. Topics range from prevention through to state-of-the-art treatments. The webcasts will run for a 24-hour period on 15 October 2003 and will span all continents. Each webcast will be followed by a 30-minute live Question & Answer Session in the Portal Discussion Boards. Information will be sent out shortly.

BJD/MSeC Faculty 'Must Read' List

Last month the first BJD/MSeC Faculty of opinion leaders Recommended Reading List was published on the portal. Our Faculty members selected and short-listed the top 10 relevant and/or innovative journal papers published recently about musculoskeletal disorders, and we provided the full text articles via the portal. The next edition of the BJD/MSeC 'Must-Read List' will be coming at the end of August.

If you would like to access the MSeC portal, please contact us for a username and password: Göran Magyar, BJD Info/Webmaster, goran.magyar@ort.lu.se, or Sara Martin, BJD Communications Manager, smartin@skynet.be.

Change of NAN coordinators in China, Japan, and USA

China: After the Chinese government endorsement of the Bone and Joint Decade on October 12, 2002 Prof. Qiu Guixing, President of the Chinese Orthopaedic Association, was elected as the NAN coordinator and as the only representative of China. Prof. Guixing has replaced Prof. Hu Yunyu. For more information, e-mail quigx@medmail.com.cn

Japan: Dr Yoichi Sugioka, Director of Kyushu Rosai Hospital, and Former President and Professor Emeritus of Kyushu University, has been appointed to new NAN coordinator. He has replaced Prof. Takahide Kurokawa, who has stepped down. For more information please contact Dr Sugioka, e-mail: y-sugioka@kyushuh.rofuku.go.jp

USA: Dr Stuart Weinstein was recently elected to become Second Vice-President of the AAOS, which means that in two years time he will be the President of the Academy. Because of the demands of this new position, he has had to step aside from direct involvement in the Decade. While he will have less direct involvement, this means that the Decade will receive even stronger support from the Academy in the coming years.

At the USBJD Board meeting on May 30, 2003 the Board elected Dr. Regis O'Keefe to become the new President of United States Bone and Joint Decade (USBJD). For more information please contact Dr O'Keefe, e-mail: regis_okeefe@urmc.rochester.edu

We welcome Prof Qiu Guixing, Dr Yoichi Sugioka, and Dr Regis O'Keefe. At the same time we thank Prof Hu Yunyu, Prof Takahide Kurokawa, and Dr Stuart Weinstein for all their work for the BJD.

New BJD coordinator in Greece

Prof. Konstantinos N Malizos has recently become the new coordinator in Greece and is replacing Prof Vassilis Tsemanis. Prof Malizos is telling us that they are planning to establish a Network this autumn. For more information please contact Prof. Malizos, e-mail: malizos@otenet.gr
We welcome Prof Malizos and thank Prof Tsemanis.

**Our current status:
90 BJD National Coordinators
52 NANS and 48 Supporting
Governments**

A report, "***The Ageing of New Zealand: An Epidemic With Major Impact on Musculoskeletal Disease***" was prepared by New Zealand Orthopaedic Association (NZOA) with assistance from the Decade of Bone and Joint 2000-2010, Arthritis New Zealand and Osteoporosis and can be found on <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/news/default.html>

The Journal of Rheumatology 2003, Volume 30, Supplement 67

Has been devoted to presentations on the Bone and Joint Decade. Please visit <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/news/default.html/articles>

Please watch for the WHO Bulletin in September

The World Health Organization Bulletin will dedicate an entire issue to musculoskeletal disorders. This important contribution has been, coordinated by Prof. Edward D. Harris Jr., Member of the BJD International Steering Committee, e-mail: e.harris@alphaomegaalpha.org

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

Australia: The final version of *The Report on the Australian Bone and Joint Decade Summit*, held in Parliament House in Canberra, ACT (Australia) can be found on <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/Australia>
For more information please contact Prof. Peter Brooks, NAN Coordinator, e-mail: p.brooks@mailbox.uq.edu.au

Argentina: Dr. Romulo Cabrini, NAN coordinator and President of the Argentine Association of Orthopaedics and Traumatology (AAOT) has sent extensive information regarding the scientific and academic activities of the different societies that are supporting the BJD in Argentina. Please find the information on <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/Argentina>
For more information please contact Dr Cabrini: presidencia@aaot.org.ar

Hungary: Two new programs have been implemented in Hungary under the umbrella of the Bone and Joint Decade.

The "*No more fractures*" program was initiated by the Hungarian Osteoporosis and Osteoarthrology Society, and the Hungarian Traumatologists' Society, aiming that all patients treated for fractures possibly associated with osteoporosis at different traumatology units should be referred to the corresponding Osteoporosis Centre for further investigations and treatment. Previous studies showed that vast majority of patients suffering femoral neck fracture did not know about their osteoporosis and treatment had not been introduced even after their fracture.

The Bone and Joint Decade Foundation supported by the Hungarian Association of Rheumatologists and the National Institute of Rheumatology and Physiotherapy initiated the Quality of Life of Patients with Osteoarthritis of the Knee survey. Patients with OA of the knee in 20 general and 20 rheumatology practices will be interviewed and studied for their medical and non-medical treatment, quality of life and satisfaction.

The task of working out the principles and practice of cost-effective treatment of acute low back pain in general practice was given to the Bone and Joint Decade Foundation by the Hungarian Ministry of Health and the National Public Health Program.

The Hungarian Bone and Joint Decade Foundation and the Duna Television made a 40 minutes film about Hungarian Decade, raising attention to the problem of musculoskeletal diseases. The film consists of interviews with Árpád Göncz, the former President of Hungary, and professional and patient representatives of the Hungarian Action Network. The Duna Television will present the film in August. For more information please contact Dr Géza Bálint, NAN Coordinator, e-mail: balintg@mail.datanet.hu

Israel: On July 31 there was a meeting of the National Council for the Health of the Child advising the Ministry of Health. Dr Chaim Zinman, NAN Coordinator presented the activities and the goals of the global action network, and received their agreement to participate in research of prevention of trauma in children, and investigate the connection between growth hormone and osteoporosis. For more information: zinman@technion.ac.il

New Zealand: Arthritis New Zealand, a major participant in the BJD in New Zealand, has received international recognition for two advocacy campaigns in an international prestigious competition, judged by peer patient organisations. The recognition endorses our advocacy approach for both improving access to treatments ('message in a pill bottle,' first place – best practice) and increasing public attention to the economic impact of arthritis ('arthritis is a serious public health issue,' first place – action plan).

There were 30 entries from countries including Spain, Holland, Germany, Ireland, Hungary, Belgium and South Africa.

In the inaugural awards, 'Making the Case For Arthritis Awards' sponsored by Merck Sharpe and Dohme to recognize outstanding programmes, Public Affairs

and Education Manager, Lynne St.Clair-Chapman was invited to be a judge representing the Australasian and Pacific regions. For more information please contact Dr Geoffrey Lamb, NAN Coordinator, e-mail: geoff.lamb@clear.net.nz or Mr Kim Miles, e-mail kmiles-nzoa@paradise.net.org

An extensive New Zealand Newsletter dated July 3 can be found on <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org> /New Zealand

Romania: Dr Mihai Berteanu, NAN Coordinator reports that they are in the process of creating a patient organisation with nation-wide representation, that is an organisation in each of the 38 counties of Romania. They have political support in the Romanian Senate.

He is also announcing the 23rd Romanian National Conference of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine, to be held in the city of Cluj, 15-18 October 2003, under the auspices of the BJD; main topics will be arthritis and osteoporosis as and special section of musculo-skeletal disease in correlation with the BJD.

For more information please contact Dr Mihai Berteanu, e-mail: mbert@fx.ro

Turkey: Dr Sahap Atik, NAN Coordinator has sent a BJD Turkey Newsletter that may be found on <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org> /Turkey

The Turkish NAN is being reorganized with a multidisciplinary approach. For more information and participation please contact Dr Atik, e-mail: atik@tr.net

ACT NOW!
2003 Call for Nominations; BJD International Awards

The International Steering Committee has announced the call for nominations for two international programs. The 3rd Annual Bone and Joint Decade International Awards will be presented at an awards dinner during the upcoming 2003 BJD World Network

Conference, taking place in Berlin. The second is a call for nominations for Bone and Joint Decade Ambassadors. Please find more information on <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/news/default.html>

Please send the nomination form to the BJD Secretariat, bjd@ort.lu.se

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

Please send a report on your planned activities for the Action Week 2003 to the BJD Secretariat at bjd@ort.lu.se
To be included in the international BJD press release

The days are:
October 12 - ***World Arthritis Day***
October 15- ***BJD 24-hr eLecture Series***
October 16 - ***World Spine Day***
October 17 - ***World Trauma Day***
October 20 - ***World Osteoporosis Day***

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

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.
Please visit and inform in your country about <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org>

Next Infoletter
Will be sent out on *October 24, 2003*. For information to be included, please submit before *October 10*.

The BJD flyer
Can now be found in Dutch, English, French, German and Portuguese on <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/news/default.html> /BJD Flyer

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