



The Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010

INFOLETTER 31

October/November 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

We are now one-third of the way into the Bone and Joint Decade and through our combined efforts we are starting to influence change - a change in awareness – priorities, strategies, education, research funding and much more. We have received signed endorsements from 49 governments. Two journals (<http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/news/articles.html>) have dedicated entire issues to musculoskeletal disorders and the Decade. The Technical Report prepared in conjunction with the WHO was launched on the 27th of October and a strategy for dissemination agreed on during the BJD Network Conference in Berlin.

2003 BJD World Network Conference took place on October 30 – November 2, 2003 in Berlin, Germany. Participants from 48 countries, members of the BJD International Steering Committee (ISC) and patient representatives attended the meeting. The participation of the German Health Minister, Mrs Ulla Schmidt, and Dr Nikolaï Khaltaev from WHO and Dr Brigitte Mohn, from the Bertelsmann Foundation was appreciated. The official opening of the meeting took place in the Daimler-Chrysler atrium. Local hosts for the meeting were Prof Wolfhart Puhl, German NAN Coordinator, and Dr Karsten Dreinhöfer, BJD Director of Development. The BJD major global sponsors for 2003,

Pfizer and Aircast, participated in the meeting on a corporate level.

The main sponsors for the meeting were: Daimler-Chrysler, Zimmer-Centerpulse and Gelita.

Opening ceremony:



From left to right:

Prof KM Chan, Hong Kong SAR, China
Ulla Schmidt, German Health Minister
Prof Wolfhart Puhl, German NAN Coordinator

More photos on <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/news/berlin2003.html>

At the start of the BJD World Network meeting, 28 patient representatives met to learn about the collaborative work of patient organisations. BJD Spokesperson and Director of Strategic Relations, Amye Leong facilitated the meeting. Armin Kuder, member of the International Steering Committee, provided a brief history of the BJD World Network Meetings, and overview of the role of patient organisations

in the BJD was provided by ISC member, Liana Euller-Ziegler. Sara Martin, BJD Communications Manager and Mr Zachary Sikes, Pfizer Medical Humanities Initiative, provided an introduction to the BJD Musculoskeletal Portal project. Each patient representative gave a brief summary of their organisation's programs in support of the BJD as well as an update on national BJD activities. It was confirmed that an extended meeting of patient representatives will be incorporated into the 2004 BJD meeting.

A **Nordic Walk** in central Berlin followed the opening ceremony. Hundreds of Berliners came out for the chance to participate in the lively event, which was led by two German Olympic skiers and several national ski instructors. More info may be found on <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/news/berlin2003.html>

The theme for the World Network Conference was "*Nations in Motion – Bridging Opportunities*". Speakers, workshops and discussions focused on:

- *Building coalitions*
- *Changing priorities*
- *Communications strategies*
- *An updated BJD Strategy*

All **Presentations** given during the meeting days could be found on <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/news/berlin2003.html>

E-poster Session

All NANs attending the World Network Conference in Berlin were asked to create an 'electronic poster' using a PowerPoint template which they received from the BJD office in Lund a few weeks earlier. This Poster Session was a new method for presenting the National Action Networks reports. The template had the following headings:

- *Key projects in 2003*
- *Key patients group activities and outcome*
- *Key interactions with ISC, other NANs, regional groups, governments*
- *Key development plan for 2004*

All ePosters were presented during the E-poster Session and three members of the ISC picked out the 5 best ePosters that were announced at the E-poster Award Presentation at the end of the meeting. The top ePoster winner was **Bulgaria** and the other winners were in the following sequence: *India, Switzerland, Germany and China.*

This session was an opportunity for each NAN to highlight successes and challenges and to share inspiration to take back home with them.

The **ePosters** could be found on <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/news/berlin2003.html>

Breakout and Project Group Sessions

A short selection from the breakout groups can be found on <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/news/berlin2003.html>

Venues for future NAN meetings:

BJD World Network Conference September 23 – 25, 2004

Will take place in **Beijing, China**

Canada – 2005

South Africa, Turkey and Hungary are candidate countries for hosting future meetings.

Governmental Support from Greece Makes a total of 49 nations

Greece: On October 16, 2003 during the opening ceremony of the annual conference of the Greek Orthopaedic Society, Dr Konstantinos Stefanis, Minister of Health & Welfare declared the support of the Hellenic government for the BJD. Dr Stefanis had

been member of the international steering committee of the decade of the Brain 1990 – 2000. This was a fact that made it easier to get support. The Greek Orthopaedic Society and its president, Dr. Zois Stavrou has put a lot of effort in this work. The Organizing Committee of the Orthopaedic Congress invited officially a representative of the BJD International to present the BJD at the opening ceremony and Dr Karsten Dreinhöfer, BJD Director of Development gave a speech. For more information please contact Prof. Konstantinos M Malizos, e-mail: kmalizos@otenet.gr

Congratulations!

Launch of WHO/BJD Technical report, 27 October University of Lund, Sweden

“The Burden of Musculoskeletal Conditions at the Start of the New Millennium” is the result of three years of work that establishes the burden of musculoskeletal conditions around the globe and recommends how it can be monitored. It was undertaken collaboratively between the WHO and the Bone and Joint Decade with an international scientific group of experts and was coordinated by a steering group of Tony Woolf, Kristina Åkesson and Mieke Hazes. We hope that the report will serve to increase the awareness and raise priority of these conditions at all levels. It is published in the WHO Technical Report Series. It is a major achievement by the BJD. For more information, including how to obtain copies, go to <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/news/default.html>

“Global Road Safety” on the next United Nations General Assembly agenda

The Bone and Joint Decade, working collectively with several international organisations, has succeeded in putting Road Traffic Injury Prevention on the UN agenda for the first time ever. For more

information

<http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/news/default.html> or please contact Dr Wahid Al Kharusi, member of the BJD International Steering Committee, e-mail: wahidk@omantel.net.om, Prof. Bruce D Browner, member of the BJD International Steering Committee, e-mail: browner@nso.uchc.edu, and Dr Mark Rosenberg, The Taskforce for Child Survival and Development.

The Bulletin of the World Health Organization

The Steering Committee (ISC) of the BJD is indebted to the Publications Staff (Ian G. Neil and his colleagues) at the WHO for focusing **Volume 81, number 9** of the Bulletin of the World Health Organization on issues of the BJD written by many members of the ISC.

As Chair of the ISC, Lars Lidgren wrote the lead editorial for the Bulletin, outlining the goals and mission of the BJD that continue to expand as interest in the Decade grow. Papers by George Ehrlich and Edward Harris focus on the continuing problems of osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis, respectively. A major focus of the BJD activities, developing policy, was enhanced by articles providing majestic numbers of those affected by musculoskeletal conditions around the world (Tony Woolf and Bruce Pfleger), concepts of treatment of osteoporosis relevant for the full world's populations (Kristina Åkesson), the challenges of rehabilitation of landmine victims (Nicholas and Wendy Walsh), the continuing challenge world-wide of managing low back pain (George Ehrlich), and some good news about the improved education in schools and medical centers about musculoskeletal diseases (Kristina Åkesson, Karsten Dreinhöfer and Tony Woolf). Dinesh Mohan accentuated a major concern of the BJD - the pandemic of road traffic injuries, and Dick Heinegård and his colleagues linked clinical medicine with basic research by pointing out the burgeoning research effort funded by many

sources that is enhancing our understanding and treatment of musculoskeletal diseases.

Please visit

<http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/news/default.html>

BJD Global 24hr eLecture Series

A major highlight of this year's Action Week, on October 15th more than 6,000 people from around the world logged on to the BJD's first-ever 24-hour global eLecture series, accessing talks on the latest research presented by internationally known specialists in the field of musculoskeletal health.

For a 24-hour period starting at 1:00am on the 15th, a different lecture was web cast on the hour every hour. Each online lecture was followed by a 30-minute live Q&A session with the specialist via the BJD web portal discussion boards (<http://www.bjdonline.org>)

Themes for the e-lectures covered a broad range of musculoskeletal issues, ranging from treatment of osteoporosis and osteoarthritis, through to state-of-the-art fracture fixation, and hip arthroplasty. Feedback from participants showed that the educational lectures were particularly useful to trainees and residents, and viewers in economically developing regions who might not normally have the opportunity to attend meetings were these opinion-leaders speak.

This unprecedented event represents a new way of reaching out to researchers, educators and patients involved in the BJD around the world and based on very positive feedback to the event, it has been decided not only to make it a permanent part of Action Week, but also to make the eLectures available in an online Lecture Archive for viewing at a later date. Links will be available through the BJD portal (<http://www.bjdonline.org>), or for more information contact Göran Magyar, BJD Executive Director, goran.magyar@ort.lu.se or

Sara Martin, BJD Communications Manager, smartin@skynet.be

MSeC Portal Members Meet in Barcelona

On October 6th and 7th society members from BJD/MSeC portal came together once again for a meeting to review progress over the last six months and to discuss future directions and goals for the coming six months.

From the corporate side, attendees heard an in-depth description by Mr David Clay, Director in the Pfizer Medical Humanities Initiative, the division of Pfizer, which partners with the BJD on the portal initiative.

From the society side, attendees had the opportunity to present an ePoster of their portals, discussing challenges and successes they have encountered over the past half year, to share best-practices with the group.

From the BJD, Dr Göran Magyar, Executive Director, presented an overview of the new content which has recently been made available to all societies including the BJD MSeC Faculty Recommended Reading List, the eLecture Series, conference coverage of EFORT, EULAR, BOA, to name a few.

During the second half of the meeting society members split into three task groups to focus on finding solutions to technology issues, content ideas, and networking needs. Some of the plans set into motion include upgrading the portal's e-meeting function to include Voice-Over-IP; expanding the Faculty Recommended Reading List to special editions such as Themed Lists, and Year-In-Review lists; and creating 'cutting-edge' eLecture Libraries.

Feel free to log on the BJD portal to see what else is new: <http://www.bjdonline.org> If you have not yet registered for a Portal username and password, please contact Göran Magyar, at goran.magyar@ort.lu.se, or Sara Martin, BJD Communications Manager, smartin@skynet.be

New National Action Networks (NANs) – Greece and Estonia

Greece: On 16 October the Hellenic NAN became a reality after 2 years of preparation. A network was created and it includes rheumatologists, physiotherapists, and endocrinologists, the Hellenic Foundation of Osteoporosis, The Hellenic Association of Orthopaedic Surgery & Traumatology (HAOST) and the Association of patients with Rheumatic diseases. During the first half of December the NAN will meet again for decision on the best ways to raise awareness through the media for the public as well as for the physicians. The NAN coordinator is Prof. Konstantinos N. Malizos, MD, e-mail: kmalizos@otenet.gr

Estonia: A National Action Network has been established in Estonia. The NAN coordinator is Dr Chris Pruunsild, Tartu University Children's Hospital, e-mail: Chris.Pruunsild@kliinikum.ee

Number of NANs has now reached 54!

Change of NAN coordinators in Colombia, Kuwait and Norway

Colombia: Dr Carlos V. Caballero (carvica@celcaribe.net.co) was the coordinator of the NAN Colombia until August this year when he finished his term as the President of the Colombian Society of Rheumatology. Thereafter Dr Monique Chalem (mcahem@cable.net.co) was elected as the new coordinator, as President of the Colombian Association of Osteoporosis, Osteology and Mineral Metabolism for two years period.

Kuwait: Dr Elham Al-Hamdan, Al-Razi Hospital, is the new NAN coordinator after Dr Ali Al Mukaimi, for more information e-mail: elhamdan1@hotmail.com

Norway: New NAN coordinator is Mrs Anne Ording Haug, e-mail: anne.ording.haug@nha.no and is replacing Mr Per Anders Stalheim.

We welcome Dr Monique Chalem, Dr Elham Al-Hamdan, and Mrs Anne Ording Haug. At the same time we thank Dr Carlos V Caballero, Dr Ali Al Makaimi and Mr Per Anders Stalheim.

New BJD coordinators in Mauritania and South Korea

Prof. Ahmed Salem Ould Soumeida, Ministry of Health, has become BJD coordinator in Mauritania. This is the first BJD representation in Mauritania. For more information amitie@toptechnology.mr

Dr Soo-Kon Lee, Korean Association of Internal Medicine, Seoul, has become the new BJD coordinator in South Korea. For more information e-mail: byoo@amc.seoul.kr

***Our current status:
91 BJD National Coordinators,
54 NANs and 49 Supporting
Governments***

2003 BJD International Award Recipients and BJD Ambassadors

The BJD Nomination Committee held a meeting on October 8, 2003 and voted to give the following 2003 International Awards:

His Excellency Ambassador Fuad Al-Hinai, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the UN
On behalf of the Omani National Action Network
In the category: Special Achievement

Dr. Cyril B. Frank
Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery
The University of Calgary

On behalf of the Canadian National Action Network
In the category: Research Funding Relations

Dr Arvind Chopra

National Secretary, BJD India
On behalf of the Indian Network
In the category: Partnerships

The following **BJD Ambassadors** were appointed:

Prof. Rainer Kotz,

Past president of SICOT
NAN coordinator in Austria,

Prof T.K. Shanmugasundaram

Emeritus Professor and Consultant
Orthopaedic Surgeon
Chairman, BJD-India NAN

Prof Edith MC Lau

President of the Asian Pacific Osteoporosis Foundation
Hong Kong SAR, China

The Award recipients received their award at the Gala Dinner at the Annual World Network Conference in Berlin, Germany. BJD Ambassador Prof T K Shanmugasundaram, who attended the Berlin meeting, received his “Letter of Appointment”.
For more information
<http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/news/default.html>

National Action Network News

Canada: A BJD Canada newsletter in English and French focused on arthritis may be found on

<http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/Canada>
For more information please contact Dr James Waddell, NAN coordinator, e-mail: waddellj@smh.toronto.on.ca

Germany: On October 30th the German Network organized a 1-day press seminar supported by the German Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and the Bertelsmann Foundation. More than 40 journalists and representatives from the 23 member organizations attended that seminar focusing on "joint diseases and prevention". Scientific presentations from experts in the field reporting on new developments as well as reports from patient organizations provided a platform for fruitful discussions and allowed the journalists to collect valuable information and contacts.

For further information contact Prof. Wolfhart Puhl (wolfhart.puhl@medizin.uni-ulm.de) or Dr. Karsten Dreinhöfer, BJD Director of Development (karsten.dreinhoefer@medizin.uni-ulm.de)

Hungary: In a book published by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences about the health status of the country, participants of the Decade wrote the chapter about musculoskeletal diseases.

This third edition of the book Practical Rheumatology was freely distributed to the 6500 general practitioners as an action of the Decade.

The NAN also started a survey studying the treatment and care of knee osteoarthritis patients. The first results were presented on the occasion of the Arthritis Day. During Action Week the most widely watched Hungarian TV channel, Duna TV, screened a 40-minute film about the Decade, including the national aims and efforts. The professionals and patients taking part in the Decade initiated this film, and took active part in its realisation.

The Hungarian Society for Osteoporotic Patients together with the Hungarian Osteoporosis and Osteoarthrology Society the Hungarian National Health Program and the Bone and Joint Decade Foundation organised a Press Conference under the

patronage of the Minister of Health Affairs, Dr. M. Kőkény, titled: “How to prevent the first fracture?”

The Hungarian Lupus Society organised a very successful meeting on the Action Week drawing public attention to the problems of lupus patients.

For more information please contact Prof Géza Bálint, NAN coordinator e-mail: bjd@axelero.hu

The ELEF, European Lupus Eryth. Federation, hold its 15th conference in Brussels. Hungary was elected and voted, and is now a member of this organisation, which has 16 countries with 28.000 members. For more information please contact Gabriella Schopper e-mail: hslegabi@yahoo.com

Kenya: The Association for Arthritis and Rheumatic Disorders of Kenya (AARD) had its annual walk on 11th October. The Director of Medical Services representing the Minister of Health flagged off the WALK. The purpose of the walk was to remind Kenyans of the growing burden of arthritis, to draw their attention to the suffering resulting from arthritis, to raise funds for the AARD to enable it finance some of its advocacy activities, and to send a message to the government to give high priority to arthritis in its health planning. The walk was a dual celebration of both World Arthritis day and the BJD awareness campaign.

For more information please contact Dr G. Omondi Oyoo, BJD coordinator e-mail: geomondi@hotmail.com

Norway: The Network has established three NAN groups

The Communication Working Group

The aim of the group is to inform patient advocacy groups, professional organisations, public authorities and the economic life about the aspects of The Bone and Joint Decade.

The Research and Knowledge Working Group

The group will identify the incidence, prevalence and impact of the individual and society of musculoskeletal conditions to show the need for action and identify priorities. The group has started a project in co-operation with The Norwegian Back Pain Network in order to identify the incidence and prevalence of musculoskeletal disorders in Norway.

The Working Group for Economy

The responsibility of this group is to provide financial support for activities in Norway. For more information please contact Mrs Anne Ording Haug, NAN coordinator e-mail: anne.ording.haug@nha.no

Formation of the South-Eastern European Regional Council of BJD

Initiated by the **Slovenian NAN**, and Prof. Radko Komadina, a Regional Council of BJD was formed at Portorož, Slovenia on 6 and 7 October. Dr Géza Bálint, NAN Coordinator in Hungary represented the International Steering Committee (ISC) at this meeting. All countries of the region including Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia-Montenegro, will take part in the Council.

The following common projects were agreed for collaboration work:

- *The status and rehabilitation of the war victim handicapped, including the victims of landmines. That is a sad special issue of the region.*
- *Prevention of road accidents, better and more sufficient treatment, care and rehabilitation of the victims.*
- *Proximal femoral neck fractures: prevalence, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, outcome, and costs.*
- *Cervical neck injuries with neurological deficits*
- *Prevalence, causation, treatment, rehabilitation, outcome*

- *Spinal deformities in children. Prevalence, causation, treatment, rehabilitation, outcome*
- *Co-operation of patient societies*

The group had an informal meeting in Berlin and agreed to develop these projects.

For more information please contact Prof Radko Komadina, Slovenian NAN coordinator, e-mail: sberdi@guest.arnes.si

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 send us information about action in your country, which we can include on <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org>

Next Infoletter

Will be sent out on *December 18, 2003*. For information to be included, please submit before *December 4*.

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