



The Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010

INFOLETTER 34

April/May 2004

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

50 governments have now endorsed the Decade.

GREAT NEWS FROM NORWAY

The Minister of Health, Dagfinn Høybråten, Norway, signed the declaration of support on April 29, 2004. For more information please contact Mrs. Anne Ording Haug, NAN coordinator, e-mail: anne.ording.haug@vha.no

WORLD HEALTH DAY focuses on Road Safety

On 7 April 2004, World Health Day, hundreds of organisations around the globe hosted events to help raise awareness about road traffic injuries, their tragic consequences and their enormous costs to society. Participants in the day's event also contributed to focusing international attention on the multitude of strategies required to prevent the needless deaths and disability.

The foremost World Health Day event, organised by the WHO, was an international symposium in Paris attended by the French President Jacques Chirac, WHO Director-General Dr Jong-Wook Lee, Heads of State, and Ministers of Health and Transport from several countries. The symposium featured panel discussions, video presentations and testimonials from survivors of traffic collisions.

“Road Safety is No Accident” was the powerful message for **World Health Day, 2004**. The BJD Press Release could be found on

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



The WHO and the World Bank launched the **World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention** on World Health Day. The report documents the current status of global road traffic safety, the impact of death and injury on public health and the economy, and possible solutions.

The report is available at http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2004/infomaterials/world_report/en/

At the Fifty-Seventh World Health Assembly, on 17-22 May 2004 a [resolution](#) (EB113.R3) on Road Safety and Health, passed forward by the Executive Board of WHO at the 113th Session in Geneva 19-23 January 2004, will be adopted.

World Health Day activities in the National Action Networks (NANs)

We encouraged our NANs to report on events related to World Health Day on April 7.

There were activities in countries around the world and this may be found under the individual Networks.

Following are some examples.

Australia: The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons launched a revised Trauma Policy, which it says could save up to 600 road-related deaths in Australia per year. The launch was highlighted at a press conference in Melbourne on April 7. The report *Reform to Save More Lives on Our Roads* could be found at <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/Australia>
For more information contact: Prof Peter Brooks, NAN coordinator and member of the BJD International Steering Committee at p.brooks@mailbox.uq.edu.au

Estonia: On 6 April 2004 there was a gathering in the center of Tallinn to remember the victims of road accidents. Since the independence of the Estonian Republic (1990-2003) 3700 persons have died in the road accidents in Estonia. During the last year there were more than 26,000 accidents on roads of Estonia and 1903 people were injured. During the last ten years there have been more than 210,000 accidents. The costs from 3700 traffic-related deaths during the last 13 years have been estimated at more than 40 billion Estonian crowns (2.5 billion Euro).

At the gathering **3700 candles** were lit in memory of the victims of road traffic accidents during the last 13 years.



Maret Maripuu from Tallinn Town Council made a speech and the police orchestra gave a concert.

The week 5–11 April was titled *Safe Traffic Week* and meetings were held, by the Traffic Police and Highway Board. The week was started with the briefing in Ministry of Economics and Communications.

On 7 April there was a conference in East-Tallinn Central Hospital. It focused on road safety and especially on problems relating to children.

For more information please contact: Dr Karin Laas, NAN coordinator at karin.laas@itk.ee

Hungary: The Hungarian NAN, the Hungarian Global Road Safety Partnership and the Semmelweis University, Budapest organised a half-day conference titled, *Prevention of Road Accidents, Rescue and Care of the Victims*, under the patronage of the Hungarian Minister of Health. At the Conference – moderated by the BJD National Co-ordinator – experts in traumatology, road safety, ambulance services and rehabilitation gave presentations.

Facts: The number of deaths from road accidents in Hungary is still the second highest in Central Europe behind Poland. Lowering the speed limit from 60 km/hour to 50 km/hour in residential areas decreased mortality significantly. But unfortunately, raising the speed limit on motorways from 120 km/hour to 130 km/hour resulted in significantly higher mortality.

First aid and resuscitation given on the roads by laypersons is unacceptably rare. The use of seatbelts in the front seats is 60-65%, but in the rear seats only 20%. 70% of the victims died, because the seatbelts were not being used. The percentage of children and teenagers among road accident victims is increasing.

The Hungarian Ministry of Health requested the panel to provide recommendations to the Ministry about regular and periodical training in first aid and resuscitation for medical and paramedical personnel and students.

In addition the NAN coordinator suggested that the Ministry of Health should recommend compulsory use of helmets for cyclists. For more information please contact Dr Géza Bálint, NAN coordinator at bjd@axelero.hu

United States: USBJD Board passes resolution in support of Road Safety

The impact of musculoskeletal injuries caused by road traffic accidents places a huge burden on American society. But more can be done to reduce that burden, says the United States Bone and Joint Decade (USBJD.) In support of 'Road Safety,' the theme of the World Health Organization's April 7 World Health Day, the Board of the USBJD passed a resolution calling on U.S. Federal and state

governments to place road traffic safety high on their public policy agendas, to further reduce speed limits, to regulate more seatbelt and helmet usage, and to improve road conditions. It is also calling on healthcare professionals to spread awareness, and the focus on ways to reduce the burden.

Please find an extensive Newsletter at <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/usa>

For more information please contact Dr Regis O'Keefe, NAN coordinator at Regis_okeefe@urmc.rochester.edu or Mr Toby King, Director US BJD at tobyking@usbjd.org

UN General Assembly plenary session on April 14, 2004 focused on road safety for the first time in history

The UN General Assembly plenary session came just one week after the **World Health Day**. A resolution

(<http://www.globalroadsafety.org/resolution.pdf>)

was adopted by consensus, without requiring a vote. The resolution invites the World Health Organization to act as a coordinator on road safety issues within the United Nations system. A press release can be found at

http://www.globalroadsafety.org/general_assembly.htm

UN Stakeholders' Forum April 15, 2004

With World Health Day, the release of the World Report, the meeting of the UN General Assembly and the UN Stakeholders' Forum, global road safety moved up several notches on the world agenda. The steering committee's goal was to bring this issue to the UN, get it on their agenda, and build political will. We succeeded on each of these counts--and more.

Our success was truly a team effort. This would not have happened without Bruce Browner's (US) vision, Wahid Al-Kharusi's (Oman) attention and networking, and Marcos Musafir's (Brazil) enthusiasm, and without the constant support from the members of the Bone and Joint Decade. We presented two technical briefings on global road safety, helped develop three UN resolutions and gain support to get them adopted, helped to organize a General Assembly session and produced a broadly inclusive stakeholders' forum--all of them extremely well-received and successful.

Ambassador Al-Hinai and his team, including Aura Velasquez, Sarah Al-Moosa and Mohammed Al-Hassan, provided extraordinary leadership at the UN and brought the final resolution through to final passage with hundreds of hours of work and negotiation and helped us navigate the intricacies of the United Nations. This resolution does several important things. First, it represents a commitment by the General Assembly to take on global road safety as a priority item. Second, it designates a focal point, WHO, as a coordinator for global road safety for the UN; third, it links global road safety to issues of sustainable development; and fourth, it connects the Regional Commissions to the issue of global road safety.

The show of support for the final resolution, with more than 60 cosigners and the 27 speakers at the UN General Assembly, attests to the saliency and support the Steering Committee and the Omani Mission have helped generate for our issue.



Members of the Bone and Joint Delegation to the UN Meetings on Global Road Safety with the Omani Minister for Foreign Relations and Ambassador Al-Hinai

The UN Resolution and the other work of the Steering Committee, spearheaded by Dr Mark Rosenberg and Mrs Margaret McIntyre, have helped to build the *capacity* for action. In addition to the resolution, there were important discussions at the Stakeholders' meeting about the need to develop resources to support developing countries with country programs, and about building a community of stakeholders and interested parties. This shows a new level of commitment coming together to address global road safety, and points to new initiatives that we should consider. As one mechanism to keep the conversation going, we encourage all to engage in the online interactive center that we prepared for the UN meetings. You can access this by going to www.globalroadsafety.org and clicking on the Forum button. We will be posting the suggestions collected from the stakeholders. Photographs and talks from the UN meetings and other relevant materials will soon be posted there, as well.

We realize that these are just the first steps, and to achieve substantial gains in reducing road traffic injuries and deaths we will have to find ways to continue our work--individually, in small groups, and all together.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/news/default.htm>
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Making musculoskeletal problems a public health priority

A press conference was held on 16 April 2004 in Dublin to mark the launch of the Arthritis Research Survey and call on policymakers to make musculoskeletal problems a European healthcare priority. Representatives from leading European advocacy and educational groups, including People with Arthritis/Rheumatism in Europe (PARE), The Bone and Joint Decade, EULAR Social Leagues, joined the Arthritis Action Group (AAG) to urge policymakers to support initiatives aimed at addressing gaps in the management of musculoskeletal problems.

The Arthritis Action Survey has identified major inadequacies in the management of musculoskeletal pain. Undertaken by the Arthritis Action Group (AAG), the survey reveals that many patients endure symptoms of musculoskeletal pain without access to effective treatment and often without consulting medical advice. For more information please contact Prof Anthony Woolf, Chair of the AAG and Professor of Rheumatology at Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust and also member of the BJD International Steering Committee, e-mail:

Anthony.Woolf@btopenworld.com

A press release can be found at <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/news/default.html>

On April 22, U.S. Senators Kit Bond (R-MO) and Edward Kennedy (D-MA) introduced the S.2338, the Arthritis Prevention Control, and Cure Act of 2004. This legislation represents a significant milestone in the fight against arthritis. Please read [more](#)

The Arthritis Prevention, Control and Cure Act would authorize the federal government to better coordinate and increase investment in efforts to prevent, treat, and care for persons with arthritis and related diseases. This would include:

- * Improving coordination among federal agencies and the public with regard to the federal investment in arthritis research and public health activities through a National Arthritis and Rheumatic Diseases Summit.
- * Accelerating research that will lead to improved treatments and a cure for juvenile arthritis.
- * Investing in a nationwide public health initiative designed to reduce the pain and disability of arthritis through early diagnosis and effective treatment of the disease.
- * Ensure that children with arthritis have access to specialty care by addressing the nationwide shortage of pediatric rheumatologists.

The 2004 BJD Annual World Network Conference in Beijing

The Conference will be held on 23-25 September 2004 at Crowne Plaza Hotel, North Beijing, PR China. The BJD meeting will be in conjunction with the 4th CSOS Scientific Congress taking place in Beijing, September 22-26, 2004.

Each NAN has received an invitation to the meeting in Beijing and been invited to send two persons, a coordinator and a patient representative to the meeting. The ISC is actively seeking assistance to include more patient representatives.

Keep the dates open and watch out for further announcement on <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org> Start seeking funding for travelling.

Please contact Prof. Kai-Ming Chan, who is hosting the meeting, e-mail: kaimingchan@cuhk.edu.hk or the BJD Secretariat at bjd@ort.lu.se for any enquiries.

National Action Network News

Austria: The Bone and Joint Decade in Austria under the motto “täglich beweglich” (daily motion) launched a broad Bone and Joint Decade campaign and a new website. This event took place on April 19 in Vienna in the Hofburg. The Federal President Dr Thomas Klestil and his wife, Dr Margot Klestil-Löffler, together with Univ. Prof. Dr. Rainer Kotz for the Bone and Joint Decade, hosted the dinner. 400 guests attended together with several ministers and among them the Federal Health Minister, Dr Maria Rauch-Kallat.



Prof. Dr. Rainer Kotz, Austrian NAN Coordinator thanks Dr. Margot Klestil-Löffler for her support of the initiative.

Please visit <http://www.taeglich-beweglich.at>
Please find info from a press conference on April 20 at [more](#)
For more information please contact Prof Rainer Kotz, NAN coordinator at e-mail:

rainer.kotz@univie.ac.at or Dr Cyril Toma, National Secretary of the NAN at e-mail: cyril.toma@univie.ac.at

Norway: The NAN has established a website that could be found at <http://www.bjdmnc-norway.org/cmst> For more information please contact Mrs Anne Ording Haug, NAN coordinator, e-mail: anne.ording_hau@vha.no

NANs – own websites

Austria, Australia, Canada, Norway, Sweden, Thailand, and USA have own websites.

Austria: <http://www.taeglich-beweglich.at>
Australia: <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org.au>
Canada: <http://www.bjdcanada.org>
Norway: <http://www.bjdmnc-norway.org/cmst>
Sweden: <http://www.livochrorelse.org>
Thailand: <http://www.boneandjointdecade.or.th>
USA: <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/usa>

Turkey: The Turkish NAN has included more organizations and established goals and a long term plan for the future work. Please find a Newsletter of February 2004 at <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/> Turkey For more information contact Prof O. Sahap Atik at atik@tr.net

Change of NAN coordinator in Denmark, Israel and The Philippines

Denmark

Prof. Jes Bruun Lauritzen, Bispebjerg Hospital, Copenhagen is the new NAN coordinator. He has replaced Prof. Ivan Hvid who has stepped down. We welcome Prof Lauritzen e-mail: jblauritzen@dadlnet.dk and at the same time we thank Prof Ivan Hvid for his excellent work in the Danish NAN.

Israel

Dr Steven Velkes, Rabin Medical Center, Petach Tikvah, has recently replaced Dr Chaim Zinman as the Israeli Orthopaedic Associations Coordinator of the Bone and

Joint Decade in Israel. We welcome Dr Velkes (e-mail: Stivenv@clalit.org.il) as the new NAN coordinator and extend our thanks to Dr Zinman for his effective efforts in the Israeli Network.

The Philippines

The BJD National Action Network (NAN) in the Philippines is named as the Philippine Council for the Bone and Joint Decade (PCBJD) and is an organization spearheaded by Presidents or official representatives of different specialty medical associations like:
Philippine Rheumatology Association (PRA),
Philippine Academy of Rehabilitation Medicine (PARM),
Philippine Orthopaedic Association (POA),
Osteoporosis Society of the Philippine Foundation, Inc. (OSPFI),
Arthritis Care and Research Foundation of the Philippines, Inc. (ACRFPI),
involved in bone & joint health maintenance.

Dr. Tito P. Torralba is the immediate past chairman of the Council. It is in the agreement of the five societies that whoever is the President or official representative of the host organization of the Philippine Council for the Bone and Joint Decade (PCBJD) shall serve as the chairman of the council. Last year, Osteoporosis Society of the Philippines was the host organization and since Dr. Torralba was the president of OSPFI that year, he served as Chairman of PCBJD for year 2003.

For 2004, it is the 2nd turn of the Philippine Academy of Rehabilitation Medicine to host the Council and **Dr. Bee Giok Tan-Sales** is the official representative of PARM to the PCBJD and therefore she is the current chairman of the Council. We welcome Dr Tan-Sales (e-mail: pra@pacific.net.ph) and at the same time we thank Dr Torralba.

Our current status:
91 BJD National Coordinators
54 National Action Networks
50 Supporting Governments

BJD Musculoskeletal eCooperative Portal

The Spring BJD MSeC Portal Meeting was held in Nice, France from 20-22 March 2004 with 14 participating societies. We were also pleased to welcome Dr Honorio Silva who joined the Pfizer Medical Humanities Initiative on April 1, 2004 as Vice President of Pfizer's International Medical Relations group.

MSeC/BJD Resource Centre

A new resource accessible through the BJD web portal is a 'one-stop shop' for musculoskeletal Internet resources, a sort of 'favourites' page, which brings all of your links to one manageable location. The Centre has an index page which makes finding links much easier as the resources are divided into 5 categories: Educational Links; Evidence-Based Resources; Journals on the Internet; Open Access Resources; and Musculoskeletal Events Listings. New resources will be added continuously, and additions are welcome, email Goran.Magyar@ort.lu.se

MSeC eLecture series

Dr Peder Klement Jensen, from the Nordic Orthopaedic Federation, and based in Denmark, presented "*Search Methods for MedLine and PubMed*" on April 22 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/FIntro/PJ/PJIntro.html>

On May 24 Prof John C.Y. Leong, President of SICOT and the President of the Open University of Hong Kong, will present

“Tuberculosis of the Spine and its Sequelae”. Please log on to www.BJDonline.org to participate.

MSeC Monthly one page Newsletter

Each month the BJD MSeC Newsletter is emailed directly to all MSeC members alerting them to new content, upcoming eLectures, etc. and includes links to each society's portal.

MSeC Conference Coverage

BSR: April 20-23, 2004, Edinburgh Scotland. Highlights from the British Society for Rheumatology will be available on the BJD portal by the first week of May.

NOF: June 16-19, 2004, Reykjavik Iceland. Highlights from the Nordic Orthopaedic Federation will be available on the BJD portal by the end of June. In particular, watch for news about the BJD symposium.

SICOT: Sept 26-29, 2004, Havana Cuba.

MSeC Faculty ‘Must Read’ List

The March edition of the BJD/MSeC Faculty Recommended Reading List was published last month 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 in mid-June.

If you would like to access the MSeC portal or get more information, please contact us for a username and password: goran.magyar@ort.lu.se or smartin@skynet.be.

Pfizer ARTICULUM Fellowship to Support Arthritis and Pain Research

Pfizer is pleased to announce the launch of the Pfizer 2004 EU *ARTICULUM* Fellowship in Arthritis and Pain.

The purpose of the Pfizer *ARTICULUM* Fellowship is to provide opportunities for young Fellows with an interest in arthritis and pain to conduct a research project. The research project will be undertaken at the facility of an *ARTICULUM* member. The Fellowships will provide funding of up to US\$30,000 to support a Fellow to undertake a research project for up to 12 months. Up to 8 individuals will be selected to receive the Pfizer *ARTICULUM* Fellowship.

Applications will be evaluated by members of *ARTICULUM*, which is composed of internationally respected research experts in the fields of arthritis and pain.

The Pfizer *ARTICULUM* Fellowship is open to Fellows from emerging rheumatology and orthopaedic centres. Applicants must have a degree in medicine and some specialty training in rheumatology, musculoskeletal medicine, orthopaedic surgery, or acute/chronic pain management.

For further information, and an application form, please visit

www.articulumfellowshipeu.com

Please note: The closing date for applications is September 30, 2004

***The BJD Action Week
October 12 – 20,
Every year***

Start planning now!

The days are:

October 12 - ***World Arthritis Day***

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 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>

Contact us:

The BJD Secretariat

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Fax: +46 46 17 71 67

E-mail: bjd@ort.lu.se

Next Infoletter

Will be sent out on June 23, 2004. For information to be included, please submit before June 9.

New Global Corporate Partner for Technical Development

We would like to welcome ***GELITA Health Initiative (DGF StoessAG)*** as a new global corporate partner for Technical Development. For more information on GELITA please visit <http://www.gelita.com>

2004

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