



The Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010

INFOLETTER 35

June 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

**52 GOVERNMENTS ARE
NOW SUPPORTING
THE DECADE!**

**GREAT NEWS FROM CROATIA
AND ICELAND!**

CROATIA



We have received news from Zagreb, Croatia that the Minister of Health and Social Care, Prof Andrija Hebrang, has signed the declaration of support. Prof Hebrang has been professor of Radiology at School of Medicine, University of Zagreb and has a great understanding of the goals of the Bone and Joint Decade. For more information please contact Prof Marko Pećina, e-mail: ortopkl@mef.hr

ICELAND



At the opening ceremony of the 52nd Congress of Nordic Orthopaedic Federation (NOF), June 16 –19, Reykjavik, Iceland, the Minister of Health and Social Security, Mr Jón Kristjánsson announced that the Icelandic government is officially supporting the Bone and Joint Decade. This means that all the Nordic countries (Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland) have now signed the declaration of support. For more information please contact BJD Coordinator, Dr Rágnar Jónsson, e-mail: ragnarj@centrum.is

The Bone and Joint Decade Symposium “Knowledge Transfer and Evidence Based Medicine” chaired by Dr Björn Rydevik, Sweden and Dr Rágnar Jónsson, Iceland was held on June 18. Dr Kristina Ákesson, member of the BJD International Steering Committee gave an update on the Bone and Joint Decade. Lena Öhrsvik, President of the Swedish Rheumatism Association talked about *Knowledge Transfer - the patient's perspective*. The BJD Symposium program can be found live at [program](#)

The Global Core Recommendations for a Musculoskeletal Undergraduate Curriculum are published

A major barrier to the recognition and appropriate management of musculoskeletal problems and conditions is the inadequate education in medical schools around the globe that most doctors receive about these common problems. The Bone and Joint Decade Task Force on Education has defined the minimum level of competence

for all medical students, that is all future doctors from any continent. These recommendations for the learning outcomes that should be obtained by all medical students have now been published in the Annals of Rheumatic Diseases (Woolf AD, Walsh NE, Åkesson K, Global Core Recommendations for a Musculoskeletal Undergraduate Curriculum Ann Rheum Dis 2004; 63: 517-524). [Article](#)

The aim of these core recommendations is to facilitate the implementation of a musculoskeletal undergraduate curriculum in medical student instruction worldwide that reflects the burden of musculoskeletal disease. They provide a basis for developing a curriculum that can be adapted for any medical school in any country. We recommend that the curriculum committees of all medical schools are made aware of them. For more information please contact Prof Anthony D Woolf, e-mail: Anthony.Woolf@btopenworld.com, Prof Nicolas E Walsh, e-mail: walshn@uthscsa.edu or Associate Professor Kristina Åkesson, e-mail: kristina.akesson@orto.mas.lu.se

2004 BJD Annual Network Conference is drawing near and will take place on 23-25 September 2004 at Crowne Plaza Hotel, North Beijing, PR China. It is the 5th NAN coordinator's meeting. Prof KM Chan, member of the International Steering Committee, is hosting the meeting. The theme for the meeting is *BJD on the Move*.

Each NAN has been invited to participate with one NAN representative and one patient representative. The International Steering Committee is encouraging the networks to involve more patient representatives. For more information please contact Prof Kai-Ming Chan, e-mail: kaimingchan@cuhk.edu.hk or the BJD Secretariat at bjd@ort.lu.se.

ACT NOW!

BJD World Network Conference

NANs only

Please send in the completed **meeting registration form** for the Network Conference in Beijing

by 31 July, 2004. The form can be downloaded on

www.boneandjointdecade.org/news/default.html

CHINESE Visa

Please note that a Chinese visa is required for most of the overseas passport holders. For further information, please consult your travel agent. Should you need an invitation letter to facilitate the visa application, please contact [the Secretariat](#).

NATIONAL ACTION NETWORKS NEWS

Argentina: During the 25th Annual Meeting of National Academies of Medicine from the region of La Plata River many of the topics involved the Bone and Joint Decade. In 2004, the Argentine community is working towards the prevention of traffic road accidents. An article published in the newspaper LA NACION, on 3rd April 2004, described that almost 10,000 people die in Argentina every year due to traffic road accidents. Supporting the motion "ROAD SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT", the country intends to reduce Road traffic injury and mortality by promoting traffic safety throughout the country. For more information please contact Dr Rómulo Cabrini, NAN Coordinator, e-mail: presidencia@aaot.org.ar

Canada: In preparation for World Health Day 2004, Health Canada worked closely with Transport Canada and other partners to prepare and distribute information material to inform Canadians about road safety and to promote greater awareness about injury prevention. For copies of this information material, please visit <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/datapcb/iad/whd-e.htm>.

BJD Canada continues to publish quarterly newsletters in both English and French, which feature submissions from researchers, clinicians and patients. Electronic copies are available on our website.

During the Canadian Orthopaedic Association Conference in Calgary, June 18-20, 2004, the Bone and Joint Decade Canada established its visibility to clinicians, researchers and advocates in the field of orthopaedics. They were able to raise awareness for the Bone and Joint Decade; they invited conference participants to submit articles and advertisements to our newsletter and raised awareness regarding the Bone and Joint Decade Conference 2005, and offered hard copies of the newsletter for office and waiting room areas.

The Canadian Orthopaedic Nurses Association also held their conference at the same time as COA, joining in on events, activities and some of the lectures. BJD also provided hard copies of their newsletter, which were included with the CONA registration material. This also provided BJD project coordinators the opportunity to discuss initiatives and partnering plans with the nurses.

Plans are underway for *the Bone and Joint Decade International Conference in Toronto October 26 – 30, 2005*. The theme of the conference will be *Access to Care*. Their Canadian arthritis partners are planning to host two days of sessions relating to Standards of Care in Canada at

the conference. One of the astronauts from the Canadian Space Agency has been invited as a keynote speaker for the conference, and they have received a preliminary commitment from the federal Minister of Health to address this event. For more information please contact Dr James Waddell, NAN coordinator, e-mail: waddellj@smh.toronto.on.ca

Hungary: In the framework of the annual meeting of the Hungarian Osteoporosis and Osteoarthology Society, - as in previous years – Civil Forum for Osteoporosis Patients were organized by The Osteoporosis Patients Society of Hungary, The Bone and Joint Foundation, The Foundation for Early Diagnosis of Bone and Joint Diseases and the Hungarian Osteoporosis and Osteoarthology Society.

150 patients took part on the Forum, moderated by Prof. István Marton, previous victim of femoral neck fracture, and actress Judit Endrei. The topics were bone fragility and male osteoporosis. Prof Marton announced, that in June a group of Members of the European Parliament will visit Hungary to study the successful Hungarian Osteoporosis Network. Dr Judit Barna, the President of the patients society declared, that the society opened a phone-line, the so-called Bone-line. On this line up-to-date information is available about osteoporosis and its treatment. The topic of male osteoporosis was heavily discussed, because the drugs for male patients are not reimbursed to the same level as for the female patients suffering from osteoporosis. For more information please contact Dr Géza Bálint, NAN coordinator at bjd@axelero.hu

JAPAN: The 77th Annual Congress of the Japanese Orthopaedic Association was held on May 20-23, 2004 in Kobe. Please visit www.boneandjointdecade.org /Japan and find a presentation by Prof Shoichi Kokubun, Congress President, JOA2004 and member of the BJD International Steering Committee

and Prof Hiroshi Yamamoto, President of JOA. Please also find a PowerPoint presentation on BJD Action in Japan, Past and Future. The BJD has been translated as “Undouki no Junen” into Japanese, which stands for “Locomotor Decade”. For more information please contact Dr Yoichi Sugioka, NAN Coordinator, e-mail: y-sugioka@kyushu-ufuku.go.jp or Prof Shoichi Kokubun, email: kokubun@mail.tains.thoku.ac.jp

The Netherlands: The NAN has received funds for three projects. Support of 30.000 Euro has been received to distribute a book about the back among 8000 general practitioners in the Netherlands. In a first round of distribution the general practitioners get three books. With a card they can order fifteen pieces more. The NAN is seeking a structural way to further distribute the back book!

To organise an ‘exercise day’ for people with musculoskeletal disorders the Dutch NAN got industrial support of 50.000 Euro. In December the province of Utrecht will get the chance to discover all kinds of ways to exercise in a responsible way with regard to their disorder. To organise this day they are co-operating with the Orthopaedic Patient Advocacy Group.

The government is paying for the third project. They appointed a staff member to make an inventory of the total supply of exercise programs for people with musculoskeletal disorders in the Netherlands. This information will be available on the Internet. It’s interesting for the public because they can find where to exercise and the content of the program, which is compared with evidence based programs. For healthcare workers the information is very helpful. The NAN received almost 80.000 Euro of the department of sport of the Dutch ministry of health.

For more information please contact Els van der Wallen (project coordinator), e-mail: e.vanderwallen@erasmusmc.nl

Please also find a press release “Rheumatologists in action at the EULAR” on www.boneandjointdecade.org /Netherlands, an initiative supported by Schering-Plough.

New Zealand: Mr Kim Miles, Chief Executive in the NAN reported on a very successful programme that has been developed to increase joint replacement surgery in New Zealand. The project is a direct result of the preparation and publication of the "Ageing of New Zealand", a paper from 2003 that can be found on www.boneandjointdecade.org /New Zealand. Please also find a Press release on the project: *Budget 2004 Hip and knee replacement operations set to double*, which should be read by all networks as an example of a local successful BJD activity. For more information kmiles-nzoa@paradise.net.nz or Mr Chris Bossley, NAN Coordinator, e-mail: bossley@xtra.co.nz

Switzerland: Planned activities on World Arthritis Day, October 12, 2004.

Avoiding disability by early treatment!

Elisabeth Surbeck, President of the Swiss Arthritis Association says that fortunately access to all necessary medical treatment is still granted in Switzerland, but too many patients are not diagnosed in time or not treated properly by a specialist. Only, when people know the signs and the impact of RA this will change, she says. A leaflet has been created to inform the public. Patients will be demonstrating about the impact of RA at stands in major cities and in front of shopping centres, where the leaflet is to be distributed. The support of media and politicians is also sought personally. They hope that this action also will prevent future anticipated reductions in access to treatment. For more information please contact Elisabeth Surbeck, e-mail: esu@gmx.ch

Turkey: Please find an extensive Newsletter of May, 2004 at www.boneandjointdecade.org /Turkey with a detailed report on Traffic Problems in the world and in Turkey, written by Professor Ridvan Ege, President of Turkish Foundation of Traffic Accidents. For more information contact Prof O Sahap Atik, NAN Coordinator, at atik@tr.net

Change of NAN coordinator in New Zealand

Dr Geoff Lamb, the first NAN Coordinator for the Bone and Joint Decade in New Zealand has recently decided to step down and **Mr Chris Bossley**, from Lower Hutt has recently been appointed to replace him. We welcome Mr Chris Bossley e-mail: bossley@xtra.co.nz and at the same time we extend our thanks to Dr Geoff Lamb for his excellent work in the NAN New Zealand. Please visit <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org> / New Zealand and find a short CV.

TWO NEW NATIONAL ACTION NETWORKS

CROATIA: On March 5, 2004 there was an inaugural meeting and on this occasion a National Action Network was founded in the Republic of Croatia. The network is consisting of:

The Croatian Orthopaedic Society
The Croatian Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
The Croatian Society of Rheumatology
The Croatian Society of Osteoporosis

As from year 2000 they have highlighted the Bone and Joint Decade during all their expert meetings but not established a network until recently. Prof. Dr. sc. Marko Pećina was elected coordinator. He is president of Croatian Orthopaedic Society, and Vice Dean at the University of Zagreb. Prof. Dr. Jadranka Morović-Vergles,

rheumatologist, and Chairman of Croatian League against rheumatism – Zagreb was chosen Secretary of the NAN.

The first Action of the Croatian NAN was to get support from the Croatian government for the BJD, which also was achieved as mentioned above. We congratulate the network to this effort. For more information please contact Prof Marko Pećina e-mail: ortopkl@mef.hr

VENEZUELA: Dr Rafael Paiva has informed the BJD Secretariat that a National Action Network has been established in Venezuela. Dr Paiva is the NAN Coordinator and also President of the Venezuelan Society of Orthopaedics Surgery and Traumatology. He reported on several activities related to the BJD Program in Venezuela. Dr Paiva mentioned as well that in interviews on radio, TV and the newspaper they have given information on the Bone and Joint Decade, its objectives and activities. For more information please contact rpaiva@telcel.net.ve

NEW BJD COORDINATORS IN BURMA AND ZIMBABWE

Dr Zaw Wai Soe, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon in Yangon, Burma, has become BJD Coordinator. This is the first BJD representation in Burma. For more information zwsoc@yangon.net.mm

Dr T J Stamps, Health Advisor in the Office of the President and Cabinet, Zimbabwe has contacted us to report on the interest bringing attention to the Road Safety issue as road fatalities and traffic injuries are continuing to escalate in Africa - especially with the deterioration roads and ever increasing and faster road traffic. Dr Stamps would like to be involved with the ongoing UN and WHO activities following the WHA resolution and has sent two speeches from the Minister of Health and Child Welfare and the Minister of Transport and

Communication. The speeches can be found on www.boneandjointdecade.org /Zimbabwe

Dr Stamps will act as the first BJD Coordinator in Zimbabwe. For more information please contact Dr Stamps at tsstamps@gtz.gov.zw

BJD Coordinator in Vietnam

Professor Tran Ngoc An, who is a rheumatologist is the coordinator in Vietnam. Associate Professor Vo Van Than, President of Spine Society of Ho Chi Minh City and Vice President of Vietnamese Orthopaedic Association (VOA), is now joining the BJD and contribute his part to the development of trauma. He will also assist Professor An in trying to get support from the Vietnamese government and building up a network in Viet Nam.

For more information please contact Dr Vo Van Than, e-mail: thanvmd@cotsong.org

***Our current status:
94 BJD National Coordinators
56 National Action Networks
52 Supporting Governments***

BJD/MSeC Portal Update

The BJD Symposium, Knowledge Transfer and Evidence Based Medicine, chaired by Prof Bjorn Rydevik with special guest speaker Dr Sigurdur Gudmundsson, Iceland's Director General of Public Health, held on June 18th at the Nordic Orthopaedic Federation's 52nd Annual Meeting, Reykjavik Iceland, is now available for online viewing as part of the BJD/MSeC eLecture series. Click [here](#) to view.

Other eLectures

In May Prof John C.Y. Leong, President of SICOT and the President of the Open University of Hong Kong presented Tuberculosis of the Spine and its Sequelae.

Please log on to BJD Online (www.bjdonline.org) and click on the link to the Front Edge Archive to view this lecture.

The BJD/MSeC eLecture series features a keynote lecture each month. All previous webcasts are archived in the BJD online collection, the Front Edge Archive, available via BJD Online (www.bjdonline.org).

Conference Coverage

British Society for Rheumatology: April 20-23, 2004, Edinburgh Scotland. Highlights from the BSR Annual Meeting are now online.

Nordic Orthopaedic Federation: June 16-19, 2004, Reykjavik Iceland. Highlights from the Nordic Orthopaedic Federation will be available on the BJD portal the first week of July.

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

BJD/MSeC Faculty 'Must Read' List

The summer edition of the BJD/MSeC Faculty Recommended Reading List will be published on the portal in July. This time our Faculty members have created a themed reading list focusing on the topic of Childhood Musculoskeletal Disorders. Log on to the portal this summer to view the list and read the full text articles.

Link Resources

Be sure to bookmark this page: this BJD shared resource centre comprises valuable links to Evidence based Resources, Journals on Internet, Open Access Resources and Schedule of Events. Surf to <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/eLect/WebRes/index.htm>

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

BJD works with Torre Lazur to Develop Communication Platform

Members of the BJD ISC and communications committee have been working with key people at Torre Lazur McCann Healthcare Communications Agency to develop a communications strategy for the Decade. The top-notch team at Torre Lazur has very generously donated their expertise and time to collaborate with us and help us develop several strategic tools which will be of use to all NANs and Coordinators. These include a Bone and Joint Decade Annual Report, and a 'branding' strategy and PowerPoint presentation, which will help us to put the BJD in the spotlight, emphasizing our goals and our on-going programmes. All new communication tools will be available to NANs at the Beijing meeting.

Pfizer Webcast puts BJD Road Safety Initiative in the Spotlight

From July 7th, BJD members are invited to view a special webcast on the public health impact of Road Traffic Injuries, as presented by Dr Mike Magee, host of Pfizer's online "Health Politics" series. The webcast cites the work of the Bone and Joint Decade with the UN and the WHO as a model for how pro-active initiatives can help raise the visibility of road safety issues worldwide.

The program, *Road Safety: a Public Health Issue*, will be available for viewing starting July 7 at the Health Politics Web site, www.healthpolitics.com.

"Health Politics" is a weekly webcast for both health care professionals and the public which provides information on emerging health care issues and trends, often examining the 'hidden stories' behind the news headlines. Recent topics have ranged from pain control to the rising costs of obesity and the global SARS epidemic. Dr. Magee's commentary is accompanied by copyright-free slides that can be downloaded and used by BJD

members for their own presentations on road safety.

ACT NOW!

2004 Call for Nominations; BJD International Awards

The International Steering Committee has announced the call for nominations for two international programs. The 4th Annual Bone and Joint Decade International Awards will be presented at an awards dinner during the upcoming 2004 BJD World Network Conference, taking place in Beijing. The second is a call for nominations for Bone and Joint Decade Ambassadors. Please find more information on

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

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

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>

Next Infoletter

Will be sent out on Aug 27, 2004. For information to be included, please submit before August 13.

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