



The Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010

INFOLETTER 38

December 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.

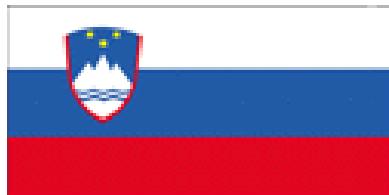
Lars Lidgren, Chairman of the Steering Committee

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

On November 24, 2004 Dr Keiji Tanaka, Director General of Health Service Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Government of Japan, signed the declaration of support. For more information please contact Dr Yoichi Sugioka, Japanese NAN Coordinator, e-mail: y-sugioka@kyushuh.rofuku.go.jp

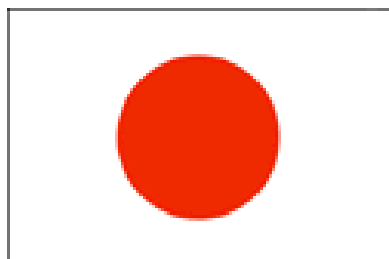
GREAT NEWS FROM SLOVENIA JAPAN AND QATAR

SLOVENIA

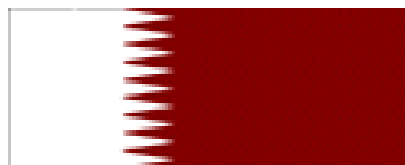


On October 28, 2004, Prof Dusan Keber, MD, PhD, Minister of Health of Republic Slovenia, signed the BJD Declaration. For more information please contact Dr Radko Komadina, Slovenian NAN Coordinator, e-mail: sbcrdi@guest.arnes.si

JAPAN



QATAR



Dr Hajar Ahmed Hajar Albinali, the Minister of Health of the State of Qatar signed the endorsement on December 9, 2004. For more information please contact Dr Mohammed Alkharin, BJD coordinator for Qatar, e-mail: malkhayareen@hmc.org.qa

NEW REGIONAL INITIATIVE IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

The 2nd Annual Meeting of the Spine Experts Group (SEG) of South-eastern Europe took place in Budapest, December 9-11 this year. This excellent initiative was started last year in Mokrice, Slovenia with the mission to foster exchange of knowledge and practical experience in the field of spinal disorders in South-eastern European

countries (Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia and Turkey). Founding of SEG was also inspired by the ideas and goals of the Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010, and many of the experts involved are active members of the BJD-NANs of these countries. This region has specific problems related to prevention, early diagnostics and treatment of spinal diseases and injuries, and the SEG is very much concerned with working towards an adequate solution by raising public and institutional awareness for the importance of spinal pathology, improving diagnostics and treatment at reasonable costs, organising surgeon-to-surgeon visits, exchange of residents, learning from each other and helping each other, planning scientific projects, developing collegial relationships and friendship.

The 2nd Annual SEG Meeting was organised under the leadership of Prof. Peter Paul Varga, at the National Center for Spinal Diseases in Budapest.

NATIONAL ACTION NETWORKS NEWS

CANADA: Canada has appointed Mr. Denis Morrice as National Ambassador to the Bone and Joint Decade. Mr Morrice was recently honored with the Commemorative Medal for The Queen's Golden Jubilee for his distinguished service to his fellow citizens, his community and to Canada. He is also the member of the Board responsible for the finances of the Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis Board, and played a key role and was instrumental in establishing www.arthritis.ca

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 the international website (www.boneandjointdecade.org) and on the Canadian website (www.bjdcanda.org).

INDIA: The programs arranged during the BJD Action Week 2004 could be found in an extensive report on www.boneandjointdecade.org /India or contact bjdindia@vsnl.net

JAPAN: The Japanese government has developed a ten-year strategy starting in 2005, called "The strategy of Health-Frontier", which focuses on the importance of prevention and treatment of musculoskeletal disorders and the role this play in preventing chronic conditions. This strategy has been adopted by the Japanese Network of the BJD and extended to include two additional years of healthy-life-expectancy through prevention. Furthermore, strategies to maintain the healthy musculoskeletal system in adults and elderly persons focus on normal development, including prevention of overuse syndrome in sports during the growth period. To this end, school consultation activities of the musculoskeletal system by orthopaedic surgeons have been started under the leadership of The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. Moreover, the Science Council of Japan has produced a report entitled "The Necessity of Governmental Promotion and Support for Research on Prevention and Treatment of Musculoskeletal Disorders and Injuries.

The Japanese Network of the BJD is actively engaged in these activities and intends to introduce the activities of the Japanese Network to the rest of The BJD community as well. For more information please contact Prof Yoichi Sugioka, email: y-sugioka@kyushuh.rofuku.go.jp

NEW ZEALAND: An extensive newsletter is now available at [http://www.boneandjointdecade.org /New Zealand](http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/NewZealand)

SAUDI ARABIA: The 9th Conference of GCC Orthopaedic Association was held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 27 November – 2 December 2004 under the auspices of the BJD. For more information please visit [www.boneandjointdecade.org /Saudi Arabia](http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/SaudiArabia)

SLOVENIA: The Slovenian Network held a meeting on October 26, 2004 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Please find the minutes from the meeting on [www.boneandjointdecade.org /Slovenia](http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/Slovenia) or contact Dr Radko Komadina, sbrcdi@guest.arnes.si for more information.

UNITED KINGDOM: The UK National Action Network (ARMA) has developed the [*ARMA Standard of care for Back Pain, Inflammatory Arthritis and Osteoarthritis*](#) and they are now all available on the newly launched web site www.arma.uk.net. For more information please contact Dr David L. Scott, e-mail: david.l.scott@kcl.ac.uk

To mark the BJD Action Week, Arthritis Care, the UK-wide patient group, held an MP Shadowing Day. Members and other people with arthritis spent the day with their Member of Parliament, promoting awareness and shared understanding.

Neil Betteridge, acting Chief Executive at Arthritis Care and Vice-Chair of the UK NAN ARMA, said, 'The project was highly successful. MPs developed a greater understanding of arthritis issues and their constituents learnt more about the work of their elected representatives. There was local media interest too. We hope the relationships formed may be lasting ones. Next year we plan to run the event on a bigger scale - perhaps other NANs might consider doing a similar thing?'

For more information please contact NeilB@arthritiscare.org.uk

Musculoskeletal eCooperative Update

BJD eLecture Series

As part of the Bone and Joint Decade eLecture series which features a keynote lecture each month, December's eLecture features **Prof Rebecca ten Cate**, Paediatric Rheumatologist from the Leiden University Medical Centre in The Netherlands. Prof ten Cate discusses **Modern Medical Treatment of Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis**, detailing diagnosis of JIA, with a flow chart of distinguishing characteristics and steps, the pathogenesis of JIA, and treatment options, including Glucocorticoids, recent developments with bisphosphonates, and Anti-TNF agents. To view the eLecture, visit <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/eLect/FEIntro/RTC.html>

Other recent eLectures include:

Dr Ivar Rossvoll, from Trondheim University Hospital in Norway, discussing **Fractures of the Thoracolumbar Spine**. See <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/eLect/FEArch/IR/IR.html>

Dr Geoffrey Walker, on behalf of SICOT and World Orthopaedic Concern with his unique account entitled **The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: 45 Years of Teaching Orthopaedics in the Developing World**. See <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/eLect/FEArch/GW/GW.html>

Orthopaedics and Rheumatology Events

For a comprehensive listing of key orthopaedic and rheumatology meetings in 2005, visit http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/eLect/WebRes/index_files/Page337.htm

BJD Faculty 'Must-Read' List, December

The latest edition of the BJD/MSeC Faculty Recommended Reading List is now available online at www.bjdonline.org. This month our Faculty has produced a wide-

ranging hot-list comprising topics such as Topical NSAIDs, Simulated Surgery, and Survival Rates after THR. Be sure to check it out. Access to the full-text pdfs of this month's recommended articles is via the File Cabinet.

New MSeC Resources: RheumaWire

The BJD has reached agreements with Conceptis, the producers of the excellent news feed RheumaWire, making it available via the MSeC portal. BJD Online member are able to read the daily headlines and by clicking on a headline they will jump over the Joint & Bone log-in page and go directly to the full news item. Daily news items include Rheumatology as well as Orthopaedics topics, media-watch on related pharmacology, reports and interviews. Be sure to have a look the next time you log in to www.BJDonline.org

For more information or access to the MSeC portal (www.bjdonline.org), please contact Dr Göran Magyar, BJD MSeC Executive Director, at Goran.Magyar@ort.lu.se or Sara Martin, BJD Communications Manager, at smartin@skynet.be.

TWO IMPORTANT BJD PUBLICATIONS

European Action Towards Better Musculoskeletal Health has now been published. Please visit <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/news/default.html>

Musculoskeletal Problems and Functional Limitation has now been published. Please visit http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_projects/2000/monitoring/fp_monitoring_2000_frep_01_en.pdf

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

BJD World Network Conference
October 27 – 29, 2005

Will take place in ***Ottawa, Canada***

Keep the dates open and watch for further announcements on
<http://www.boneandjointdecade.org>

The BJD Annual Report 2004

Can now be downloaded on
<http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/news/default.html>

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

Next Infoletter

Will be sent out on February 25, 2005. For information to be included, please submit before February 11.

Contact us:
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We wish you all a
HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON
and
a JOYFUL NEW YEAR

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Global Corporate partners for technical development

