



The Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010

INFOLETTER 40

April/May 2005

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

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

GREAT NEWS FROM LEBANON AND PORTUGAL

LEBANON



On April 8, 2005 Dr Mohamad Jawad Khalifeh, Minister of Health of Lebanon, signed the declaration of support. For more information contact Dr Yasser Yaghi, at yasseryaghi@hotmail.com

PORTUGAL



On May 16, 2005 Dr Correia de Campos, Minister of Health of Portugal signed the declaration of support. For more information contact Dr Pedro Cantista, at pedrocantista@netcabo.pt

The 2005 BJD Annual World Network Conference in Canada

The Conference will take place on October 27-28 October, 2005 at the Fairmont Château Laurier in Ottawa, Canada's capital city. Dr James Waddell, NAN coordinator, Canada, waddellj@smh.toronto.on.ca is hosting the meeting.

Each NAN has been invited to the meeting in Ottawa to send two persons, the coordinator or another NAN representative and a patient representative to the meeting. The BJD International Steering Committee encourages the networks to involve more patient representatives.

2005 Patient Education Symposium: Ottawa, Canada

Novartis has generously offered to support a maximum of 50 patient representatives in the form of travel scholarships to attend the first ever BJD Patient Education Symposium (Tuesday 25 October, full day, through Wednesday 26 October, half day, 2005) in conjunction with the BJD World Network Conference in Ottawa, Canada. The grant offered to each of the 50 delegates will cover airfare and hotel. The funds will be split between 50 delegates based on their region of origin; (i.e. Europe, Austral-Asia, Africa, So America and No America).

Invitation letters for nominations have been sent out to all National Action Network Coordinators. The registration form for the person attending from the NAN should be completed and returned via the BJD

Secretariat (bjd@ort.lu.se or fax +46 46 17 71 67) **by June 1, 2005**. This early date is required because each attendee will be requested to provide input in advance of the meeting.

***BJD World Network Conference
October 26 - 29, 2005
Will take place in Ottawa, Canada***

***Start planning your attendance now,
and watch for
further announcement on
<http://www.boneandjointdecade.org>***

Please contact the BJD Secretariat bjd@ort.lu.se for any enquiries.

World Experts in Musculoskeletal Science Join Polish National Meeting

Fourteen renowned orthopaedic surgeons, rheumatologists, rehabilitation and trauma experts, and other musculoskeletal authorities joined the Polish Orthopaedic and Traumatology Society's Annual Meeting in Bydgoszcz, Poland (21-22 April) to present the latest in musculoskeletal science as a special Bone and Joint Decade supplement to the conference.

In addition to bringing a global view on musculoskeletal health care to the Polish Orthopaedic and Traumatology Society's Meeting, the Bone and Joint Decade International Steering Committee took the opportunity to hold its own bi-annual meeting in Bydgoszcz to discuss future directions.

Please find a press release at www.boneandjointdecade.org /Poland

EFORT Congress, Lisbon, June 3-7, 2005

The BJD is organising three symposia:

1. *Education* to be led by Assoc Prof Kristina Åkesson.

2. *Update on the European Bone and Joint Strategies Project* to be presented by Prof Anthony Woolf.
3. Symposium entitled *The Value of Chondroprotective Treatment in Osteoarthritis* with Prof Rollie Moskowitz, Prof Dick Heinegård/Assoc Prof Anders Aspberg and Prof Stefan Lohmander as invited speakers.

These sessions will all be covered in the BJD Congress Highlights.

The BJD is also partnering with EFORT Central Office on the Congress Daily News. To this end Sara Martin and Göran Magyar will contribute on-site and report on BJD activities at the Congress. There will also be one to two volunteer reporters, residents, working with the BJD to write up in-depth coverage of selected scientific sessions which will later be featured on the BJD and the EFORT websites.

In addition, as a major visibility event, a BJD Band', comprised of 9 jazz and funk musicians who are orthopaedic surgeons and rheumatologists will join us in Lisbon to play two 30-minute sessions each day as entertainment in the exhibition hall. If you plan on attending the EFORT Congress, we look forward to seeing you at this dynamic BJD event!

6th Annual EULAR Congress of Rheumatology, Vienna, Austria 8-11 June 2005

During their Annual Congress in Vienna, the EULAR Board will attend a meeting with the Austrian Parliament organised by the Austrian BJD Network, to discuss the burden of musculoskeletal disease and advances in care. During the two-hour session the EULAR Board will also attend an art exhibition and auction, which was designed by the Austrian NAN as a charity function to aid the foundation in Austria.

At the end of the EULAR congress (11-12 June, 2005) there will be a workshop with WHO/BJD and ILAR. The aim is to look at the burden of musculoskeletal diseases in developing countries and standardising ways of collecting data as in the COPCORD studies and also strategies for prevention and treatment.

New member of the BJD International Steering Committee (ISC)

Dr Kenneth J Koval, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, New Hampshire, USA has been elected as a new member of the ISC as from March 2005. We welcome him. For more information e-mail: kjkmd@yahoo.com

BJD Partner of WHO Health Evidence Network (HEN)

The Bone and Joint Decade has become a partner of the regional European office WHO Health Evidence Network (located in Copenhagen) focusing on evidence-based health and health care in musculoskeletal disorders.

The Bone and Joint Decade deeply regrets the death of **Dr Mohammed Mufti** who has been our National Action Coordinator since the start in Saudi Arabia. He died on Thursday 28th April, 2005 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia after a long period of treatment for leukaemia.

I am personally missing Mohammed Mufti, being a close and warm friend with his gentle mind, generosity and soft humour.

Lars Lidgren
Chair
International Steering Committee
The Bone and Joint Decade

NATIONAL ACTION NETWORK NEWS

CANADA: The Canadian NAN is moving forward with the planning of the 2005 BJD World Network Meeting in Ottawa, Canada. Under the umbrella name of "Rock This Joint", they will be pairing this conference with two other Canadian conferences, the Canadian Arthritis Network (CAN) Annual Conference and the Canadian Summit on Arthritis Standards for Prevention and Care (SOPC). Immediately prior to the NAN meeting there will be the International Patient Education Meeting that is being organized by the International Steering Committee (ISC) of the BJD.

The CAN Scientific Meeting will provide up-to-date presentations regarding arthritis research in Canada. The Summit is directed at developing Canadian Standards for the Prevention and Care of Arthritis in Canada. The BJD NAN meeting will focus on developing international standards for the prevention and care of Hip Fractures and Chronic Musculoskeletal (MSK) Pain. The ISC has committed to supporting the finalization of the international standards over the year following the BJD conference. The BJD meeting will also look at the prevention and care of injuries associated with Road Traffic accidents, as well as standardization of MSK education for health professionals. With Dr. Butler' Jones' recent appointment as Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, the timing is right to also address Road Traffic Accidents in Canada.

Since the development of standards of care is an ambitious undertaking, the trio conferences have agreed to do much preparation work in advance. To ensure that the standards are realistic and achievable, government and industry are being invited to partner during the planning stages. These factors are leading to considerable interest in the outcomes.

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).

The sponsors for the Bone and Joint Decade meeting in Canada include the Canadian Institutes for Health Research / Institute for Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis, The Canadian Orthopaedic Foundation, the Canadian Orthopaedic Association, the Canadian Chiropractic Association, Pfizer Canada and Stryker Canada.

Merck Frosst, Amgen/Wyeth, Bristol Myers Squibb, and Proctor & Gamble have committed their support for the three conferences linked under the moniker Rock This Joint. There is also expressed interest from a number of other public and private potential funding sources. For more information please contact Dr James Waddell, waddellj@smh@toronto.on.ca or Hazel Wood, Project Coordinator, Eastern Canada, hwood@rehabresults.com

FINLAND: A National seminar was held on March 8 on undergraduate education in musculoskeletal medicine in Helsinki, with an aim to establish sufficient structured medical faculty education programs in musculoskeletal medicine and sciences at all the universities in the country. Representatives from the various medical faculties and disciplines, including general medicine, were invited to participate and to present their current educational curriculums and to discuss possible needs and means of improvement. All medical faculty deans were informed of the seminar.

On April 15 experts in musculoskeletal medicine and national health programs convened in Helsinki at the headquarters of

the National Insurance Institution to discuss the present scientific basis for establishing a National Program for the Promotion of Musculoskeletal Health. The seminar was organized by the Finnish Bone and Joint Association under the chairmanship of Professor Pär Slätis, Finnish BJD Ambassador.

For more information please contact Dr Mats Grönblad, NAN Coordinator, Mats.Gronblad@hus.fi

HUNGARY: On the invitation of the Hungarian NAN, Professor Peter Brooks, Member of the International Steering Committee met the representatives of the professional and patient-societies of the National Institute of Rheumatology at Budapest and gave a talk about results and developments of the Decade and the Australian NAN. Dr Geza Balint spoke about the results and further aims of the Hungarian Decade. The event was presided by Professor Gyula Poor, the Director of the Institute, and the President of the Hungarian Association of Rheumatologists and the leader of the Musculoskeletal Section of the Hungarian National Health Program. The Society of Rheumatic Patients, The Foundation for Development of Hungarian Rheumatology started a periodical for rheumatic patients.

The Hungarian NAN together with the Hungarian Association of Rheumatologists started a series of patients' education booklets. The series are edited by Dr Geza Balint, the National Coordinator, and Prof. Pal Geher, Ambassador of the Decade. The first two volumes titled "Back Pain and Sciatica" and "Osteoporosis" have been already published, the publication of "Rheumatoid Arthritis" and "Osteoarthritis" booklets are in progress. For more information contact Dr Geza Balint, bjd@axelero.hu

NORWAY NAN focuses on Empowering Patients

The main objective for activities on the Norwegian NAN's website is patient empowerment, through education, peer contact, audiovisual collaboration and patient-to-specialist web-video assistance. The website is updated almost daily, with news and activities.

On the 2nd of June Norwegian specialists will have an interactive lecture focusing on knee-injury. The target groups for this arrangement are handball-, basketball-, volleyball- and hockey-clubs. During this autumn a lot of activities are planned for the needs of patient groups and for athletic clubs focusing on different sport injuries. The portal can be found at: www.muskelskjelett.no or www.bjdmmc-norway.org.

On February 9, 2005 Norway NAN met the lately appointed Minister of Health in the Norwegian Parliament. Norway NAN will in co-operation with The Directorate for Health and Social Affairs arrange a new conference in October 2005. This time we will focus on osteoporosis.

Norway NAN held their general meeting on 20th of April 2005. 12 of Norway NANs 14th participating professional organisations and patient advocacy groups took part in this meeting.

For more information please contact Mrs Anne Ording Haug, e-mail: anne.ording.haug@nha.no

USA: Program Launch in May

The U.S. Bone and Joint Decade (USBJD) Young Investigators Initiative is an exciting program which will focus on developing clinical researchers in the field of musculoskeletal science.

Statistics show that very few young clinical investigators are entering the field of clinical investigation in the musculoskeletal diseases. One of the major hurdles to a young clinical

investigator's success is sufficient mentoring in how to write and secure a grant in clinical research.

The USBJD established a Young Investigators Committee mandated to understand trends in the application for grants and develop strategies to better promote young investigator recruitment and retention in clinical musculoskeletal science and careers.

This program will consist of two workshops and a faculty to mentor participants to successfully obtain funding. It is open to promising junior faculty or senior fellows or post-doctoral researchers that have been nominated by their department or division chairs. It is also open to senior fellows or residents that are doing research and have a faculty appointment in place or confirmed. To apply for the program candidates were required to secure the support of their department heads and be assured of the time, resources and support to complete their grant proposals.

The first workshop will be held this spring, May 13-15, to be hosted by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) in Rosemont, Illinois. The second workshop will be held November 4-6, in Toronto, Canada, and hosted by the Canadian Bone and Joint Decade. For more information please contact Dr Regis J. O'Keefe, e-mail, Regis_okeefe@urmc.rochester.edu or tobyking@usbjd.org

In response to the Surgeon-General's call to action on the release of his report on bone health and osteoporosis, the USBJD will launch a specific educational program.

Please find an extensive US eNewsletter at www.usbjd.org/news/eNewsletter.cfm?eNewsletterID=16

Change of NAN coordinator in Australia

Prof Peter Brooks, member of the BJD International Steering Committee, is stepping down as Chairman of the National Action Network. The new NAN coordinator will be Mr Ben Horgan, who has a very significant knowledge of BJD activities and will continue to develop the Australian NAN. He will be supported by a new NAN Committee with increased input from Physiotherapists and sports medicine groups. The National Action Network will be holding a strategic planning day in May. Ben Horgan is BJD Ambassador as well and he will be the first patient representative to be elected NAN coordinator.

We welcome Ben Horgan (e-mail benh@arthritiswa.org.au) and at the same time we thank Peter Brooks for his excellent work with the Australian NAN.

TWO NEW NATIONAL ACTION NETWORKS

Lebanon: A National Action Network has been established in Lebanon, including prominent orthopaedic surgeons, Rheumatologists, an epidemiologist and a statistical analyst.

The NAN Coordinator is Dr Yasser Yaghi, Head of division of orthopaedic Surgery, Hammoud Hospital, University medical Center, Lebanon, email: yeasseryaghi@hotmail.com
We welcome Dr Yaghi.

Malaysia: The BJD Coordinator Dr Azmillah Rosman has informed that a National Action Network has been created in Malaysia. Dr Rosman is the National Action Network Coordinator. For more information please contact Azmillah@selayanghospital.gov.my

Number of NANs has now reached 58!

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

MSeC Portal to be Relunched

New BJD Musculoskeletal Website
Late last year Pfizer decided to terminate its involvement the Musculoskeletal eCooperative Portal and close the servers permanently on July 1, 2005. Rather than losing the programme and the network collaboration which has been built up over the last 4 years, the BJD decided develop a new central musculoskeletal web portal incorporating all of the current MSeC societies and, importantly, bringing in some new societies.

The new BJD musculoskeletal portal will have three levels of access: the first level will be completely open to the public and include the main BJD website. This level will contain news items, articles, information about the BJD, etc. The second level will contain more in-depth content and will require users to register in a database with their email address, but will also be open to the public (health care professionals, patients and other interested parties). The third level will be exclusive to musculoskeletal society members with a society password log-in and a closed content area. The structure will allow individual society 'satellite sites' and the architecture provides an easy means for sharing content between all site and collaborating on educational projects. The new portal will be ready to go live on July 1, 2005 when the old MSeC shuts down.

Committee members from participating MSeC societies met in Sweden from April 15-17, 2005 to see a demonstration of the new technical platform and to generate ideas for new content and other collaboration. The

outcome of the meeting was very positive and all societies in attendance showed great enthusiasm for the opportunities the new BJD portal will open up. For more information 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.

Editorial by Dr. Katz in Arthritis & Rheumatism

A special editorial on the Bone and Joint Decade was recently published in *Arthritis & Rheumatism* (Vol. 52, No. 3, March 2005, pp 707-709) by Stephen Katz, Director, National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS), National Institutes of Health. To view the article visit www.boneandjointdecade.org/News/Articles.

Dr Katz will also give a special lecture at the NAN meeting in Ottawa.

New BJD Global Corporate Partners for Technical Development

We would like to welcome **Novartis AG** and **Biomet Merck** as new Global Corporate Partners for Technical Development. Novartis will support a Patient Educational meeting to be held in connection with the BJD World Network Conference in Ottawa, Canada in October this year. Biomet is supporting

development of educational content for Bone and Joint Decade's new web portal. For more information on Novartis AG please visit <http://www.novartis.com> and on Biomet please visit <http://www.scandimed.se>

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

Start planning for the Action Week 2005 already today!

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

Next Infoletter
Will be sent out on June 23, 2005. For information to be included, please submit before June 9.

Contact us:
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