



# The Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010

## INFOLETTER 43

October/November 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

### ***The BJD 2005 Patient Advocacy & World Network Conference***

Reporting from the 2005 World Network Conference held in Ottawa, Canada from 26-28 October, our final count shows that 150 musculoskeletal specialists -- both from the patient advocacy and the professional spheres -- from 45 countries around the world came together to begin the process of formulating Standards of Care for Musculoskeletal Health.

The BJD International Steering Committee (ISC) wishes to thank the members of the Canadian Network and all participants for their engaging and lively contributions to the panel discussions and brainstorming sessions. Dr Jim Waddell and his Canadian team did a great job to make the meetings successful. Over the span of four days, we heard many perspectives on important issues such as identifying risk factors for hip fractures, prevention strategies, coping with chronic pain, and road trauma reduction. There was no shortage of interaction as various outlooks from different parts of the world were presented and discussed.

This year's conference had a very special feature—for the first time ever a BJD International Patient Advocacy Meeting was held under the banner "Putting People First". Every continent was represented with more than 50 participants from 28 countries coming together to discuss advancing the role of patients in their own care, and in influencing public policy.



Group photo of the delegates in front of the Ottawa Parliament

### ***Video Coverage and Speakers' Presentations***

from both events are now available on [www.bjdonline.org](http://www.bjdonline.org)

For the full list of exclusive lectures, please see:

[BJD Patient Advocacy Meeting: Putting People First, October 25-26](#)

[BJD World Network Conference, October 26-28](#)

### ***Coming Soon: BJD Patient Advocate Leaders (PALs) website***

In response to countless requests during our recent International Patient Advocacy Meeting, we have decided to develop a BJD satellite website for patient advocates. This new website will provide a forum for exchange of ideas, programs, best practices among patient advocates and patient organizations involved in the Bone and Joint Decade and collaborations in musculoskeletal education, care, research. In addition, there will be educational material, useful tools and eventually a database of facts and figures most relevant to musculoskeletal issues.

If you would like to be involved in this exciting project, please contact Ben Horgan [convenor@bjd.org.au](mailto:convenor@bjd.org.au) or Amye Leong [AmyeLeong@aol.com](mailto:AmyeLeong@aol.com)

### ***E-Poster session***

All NANs were asked prior to the conference to report on their yearly activities in an “electronic poster”. The e-Posters were printed and presented to the Network meeting. An evaluation committee consisting of Prof Mieke Hazes, Prof KM Chan and Prof Nic Walsh, members of the International Steering Committee, reviewed and evaluated all the e-Posters for the e-Poster Award.

The BJD ePoster Award recognises National Networks which conduct exceptional campaigns in the areas of public awareness, patient education, professional education, or advocacy. This year the tribute was given to three networks: Croatia, Finland and Japan. The Croatian Network received the top Award for a successful campaign to influence the improvement of the undergraduate medical curriculum at the Zagreb School of Medicine, and for conducting an extensive nation-wide event during Action Week.

Prof. Jadranka Morovic-Vergles, Secretary of the Croatian NAN received the ePoster award certificate on behalf of the Croatian NAN at the Gala Dinner on October 28, 2005 at the Fairmont Château Laurier.



*Prof Radko Komadina (Slovenia)  
and Prof Jadranka Morovic-Vergles*

The Finnish Network received recognition for several programmes initiated with the national health authority to improve patient access to care. And the Japanese National Action Network was recognized for a unique awareness campaign which harnessed the power of popular culture -- Manga, or Japanese Comics -- to deliver the message of bone and joint health to the younger generation. Congratulations to all three networks for their excellent work!

### ***2005 BJD International Award Recipient and BJD Ambassadors***

The 2005 BJD International Award was given to the Japanese National Action Network for *Special Achievement*. Prof Yoichi Sugioka, NAN Coordinator accepted the award on behalf of the Japanese NAN at the Gala Dinner of the BJD World Network Conference in Ottawa.



*From the left to the right  
Dr Koji Kaneoka, Prof Yoichi Sugioka,  
Prof Lars Lidgren, Mr Masamitsu Kamada  
and Prof Shoichi Kokubun*

For more information please contact Prof Yoichi Sugioka, [sugioka@mub.biglobe.ne.jp](mailto:sugioka@mub.biglobe.ne.jp) or visit [www.bjdjapan.org](http://www.bjdjapan.org)

### ***New Ambassadors for 2005***

The BJD Ambassador programme honours outstanding service and achievement by global leaders in the musculoskeletal community. New BJD Ambassadors announced for 2005 are:

- *Mrs Randa Assi Berri*, President of the Lebanese Welfare Association for the Handicapped, Lebanon
- *Prof Dinesh Mohan*, Coordinator, Head of the Transportation Research & Injury Prevention Programme, WHO Collaborating Centre, Indian Institute of Technology, India
- *Dr Marko Pećina*, Professor of Orthopaedics, Croatia
- *Prof Johannes Jacobus Rasker*, Emeritus Professor, Rheumatology, Twente University, The Netherlands
- *Dr Cyril Toma*, Deputy Head, Musculoskeletal Oncology, Medical University of Vienna, Austria and Chief Medical Officer, Prince Court Medical Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- *Prof James Waddell*, Chairman of the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine Canada

The complete list of BJD Ambassadors is available at <http://www.bjdonline.org/default.aspx?contId=1363>

### ***BJD Annual Report 2005***

Our 2005 Annual Report highlighting events and achievements over the last year, as well as spotlighting several Networks around the globe which have made strides in improving musculoskeletal care locally, has been published. The online version is available at:

<http://www.bjdonline.org/default.aspx?contId=1288>

Hard copies of the report were inserted into the conference bags of all the delegates at the Ottawa meeting and will be sent in limited numbers to the network coordinators.

### ***BJD Action Week 2005***

The BJD Action Week took place during October 12 – 20. For information on the extensive activities around the world please find a press release at <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/default.aspx?contId=1171>

### ***MUSCULOSKELETAL POLICY PROGRESS***

#### ***Written Declaration on Rheumatic Diseases***

A written declaration calling on EU decision-makers to recognise the extraordinary burden of rheumatic diseases, has been adopted as an official resolution of the European Parliament, after being signed by more than 380 Members from all EU Member States and political groups.

This broad cross-party initiative urges the European Commission and the Council to make rheumatic diseases, which currently affect more than 100 million people in Europe and cause severe damage to the EU country economies, a priority in the EU's 7<sup>th</sup> Research Framework Programme and its future health strategy. A lobbying campaign targeted to the MEPs, is being run by EULAR (scientific members and Social Leagues/patient groups), to have musculoskeletal disorders included as a major disease on the research agenda in the European Union's 7<sup>th</sup> Research Framework Programme.

A letter also has been sent to Margot Wallström, Vice President of the European Commission asking for her assistance in putting musculoskeletal diseases on the agenda of EU's 7<sup>th</sup> Research Framework program.

Dr Radko Komadina, NAN coordinator in Slovenia has confirmed that Mr. Janez Potocnik, European commissioner for science, will meet a BJD group in January 2006 to discuss reinforcement of research of musculoskeletal conditions.

## ***NATIONAL ACTION NETWORK NEWS***

***AUSTRALIA:*** The Australian website is up and running and can be reached at [www.bjd.org.au](http://www.bjd.org.au). For more information please contact Ben Horgan [convenor@bjd.org.au](mailto:convenor@bjd.org.au)

***CANADA reports:*** The Bone and Joint Decade Canada was pleased to host representatives from more than 40 countries in Ottawa October 26-28, 2005 for the International Steering Committee and the Annual Meeting of the National Action Networks for the Bone and Joint Decade.

The meeting in Ottawa focused on four areas: osteoporosis and the prevention and treatment of hip fractures; prevention and treatment of chronic pain for musculoskeletal disease; musculoskeletal curriculum for physicians and other healthcare providers; and ongoing efforts to decrease injuries from road traffic trauma. Canadian patients, clinicians and researchers played a leading role in three of these four modules – Dave Hanley from the University of Calgary and Hans Kreder from the University of Toronto for the osteoporosis module; Jim Henry from McMaster for the pain module and Veronica Wadey a graduate of the University of Calgary Training Program currently in her 2<sup>nd</sup> year of fellowship training provided excellent information on Canadian needs for musculoskeletal curriculum.

The meeting was structured to provide ample opportunity for all people attending to participate in discussion groups to help

formulate minimal acceptable guidelines and best practice guidelines for both osteoporosis and chronic pain management. The International Steering Committee has been charged with taking the information and recommendations put forth by these groups and developing from them international standards that will be endorsed by the Bone and Joint Decade.

There was considerable interest expressed in the meeting by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and we were grateful that Alan Bernstein, Director of CIHR, was able to address our meeting. In addition, Ruth Collins-Nakai, President of the Canadian Medical Association, Ann Qualman, President of the Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance, and Dave Williams, Canadian Astronaut, also addressed the meeting. We were visited by the Honourable Jim Peterson, Minister of Trade and the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of State (Public Health).

This meeting was generously supported by Abbott Laboratories, the Alberta Provincial CIHR Training Program in Bone and Joint Health, Alliance for the Canadian Arthritis Program, Amgen Canada, Biomet, Bone and Joint Decade International, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Canadian Arthritis Network, Canadian Chiropractic Association, Canadian Orthopaedic Association/Canadian Orthopaedic Foundation, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Canadian Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis, Canadian Institute of Gender and Health, Canadian Rheumatology Association, Health Canada, Hoffman-La Roche, Janssen Ortho, Johnson & Johnson, Juvent, MEDEC, Merck Frosst Canada, Ostek, Pfizer Canada, Proctor & Gamble / Sanofi-Aventis, Schering-Plough Canada, SERVIER Canada, Smith & Nephew, Stryker, Synthes, Wright Medical, Wyeth and Zimmer Canada.

Much planning and hard work went into making this conference a success. The



Canadian team wishes to acknowledge the help and support received from members of the International Steering Committee.

The Canadian Summit on Standards for Arthritis Prevention and Care immediately followed the Bone and Joint Decade meeting. They aim to capitalize on this synergy between the BJD and the Arthritis Alliance to vigorously promote the agenda for bone and joint health in Canada including government sponsored prevention strategies, meaningful access to care, and a national long term strategy for improving the bone and joint health of Canadians.

The international guests were impressed with everything except the Ottawa weather – it was a very successful meeting and the Bone and Joint Decade efforts in Canada will be re-energized as a consequence of this experience. For more information please contact Dr James Waddell, [waddellj@smh.toronto.on.ca](mailto:waddellj@smh.toronto.on.ca).

**HUNGARY:** *The 10<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Course of EULAR* was held at Budapest between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of September with the support of the Hungarian Bone and Joint Foundation and the Hungarian Association of Rheumatologists. The 60 participants from several European and overseas countries were tutored by 20 international experts of the field, 20 rheumatic patients – volunteered as models for the practical workshops.

In this introductory talk Géza Bálint, the National Co-ordinator of the Hungarian NAN, emphasised the role of ultrasound in early diagnosis of arthritis. Early diagnosis followed by early and effective treatment may contribute to achieving one goal of the Decade: decreasing the expected increase of the number of damaged joints by 25% during the Decade.

**The first results of the Hungarian “No further fracture” program** have been published. At the country hospital of Veszprém 347 female patients over the age of 50 were treated for different fractures. All these patients were admitted to the Osteoporosis Centre of the hospital, and screened for osteoporosis. Out of these 347 patients 79% were diagnosed having osteoporosis and 14% having osteopenia. Anti-osteoporotic treatment was initiated in all of the patients. For more information please contact Dr Géza Bálint, email: [bjd@t-online.hu](mailto:bjd@t-online.hu)

**LEBANON:** On the 17<sup>th</sup> of November, Professor Lars Lidgren, Chair of the BJD International Steering Committee, Dr Ghassan Maalouf, member of the International Steering Committee (ISC), Dr Karsten Dreinhöfer, BJD Director of Development, Prof. Olof Johnell, Vice chair, Scientific board of IOF and Dr Yasser Yaghi, National Action Network Coordinator in Lebanon, attended a reception at the “Residence of Parliament” in Beirut – Lebanon, to present the Diploma of Ambassadorship to Mrs. Randa Berri who has been appointed International Ambassador for the Bone and Joint Decade.



*Mrs Randa Berri and Prof Lars Lidgren*

The reception was attended by almost all MP's, the President of the Lebanese Order of Physicians, the President of the Lebanese National Council for Information, Lebanese officials, Ambassadors, presidents of NGO's

societies, and friends and supporters of the BJD.

The reception was a marvellous success and almost all TV stations and Lebanese newspapers were there to cover this event. A brochure in English/Arabic was circulated during this event to all attendants and reporters.

Prof Lars Lidgren gave a speech and was glad to announce that the Lebanese health authorities and the orthopaedic community will receive technical assistance from the Lund University, Sweden, and the Bone and Joint Decade for establishing registers initially on joint arthroplasties but later to be followed by hip fractures, amputees and road traffic injuries. Dr Ghassan Maalouf and Dr Yasser Yaghi will be pivotal in setting up this registers which will be the first in the Middle East. For more information please contact Dr Yasser Yaghi e-mail: [yasseryaghi@hotmail.com](mailto:yasseryaghi@hotmail.com)

## ***TWO NEW NATIONAL ACTION NETWORKS***

***KENYA:*** Dr Omondi Oyoo has informed the BJD Secretariat that a National Action Network has been established in Kenya. Dr Oyoo is the NAN Coordinator. The network consists of:

- Kenya Association of Physicians
- Association for Arthritis and Rheumatic diseases of Kenya
- Kenya Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
- Kenya Association of Physiotherapists

For more information please contact Dr Oyoo, e-mail: [geomondi@hotmail.com](mailto:geomondi@hotmail.com)

***VIETNAM:*** Prof. Vo Van Thanh has set up a National Action Network in Vietnam with the following official BJD organisations:

- The Spine Society of HCM City, Viet Nam
- Vietnam Orthopedic Association
- Vietnam Rheumatology Association (guided by Prof. Tran Ngoc An)

Prof. Vo Van Thanh is the National Action Network Coordinator. Please contact [thanhvmd@gmail.com](mailto:thanhvmd@gmail.com)



*Prof Vo Van Thanh*

## ***Change of NAN coordinators in Hong Kong, Slovakia and Spain***

***HONG KONG:*** Dr CS Lau has resigned as NAN coordinator and the new coordinator is Dr KW Lee (e-mail: [gavinlee@netvigator.com](mailto:gavinlee@netvigator.com)) The Hong Kong Society of Rheumatology will help coordinating future BJD matters. Dr TH Chan (e-mail: [takhinc@alumni.cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:takhinc@alumni.cuhk.edu.hk)) is the president of the Society and Dr KW Lee the secretary. We welcome Dr Lee and thank Dr CS Lau for the work in the Hong Kong NAN.

**SLOVAKIA:** Dr Pavol Masaryk, General Secretary of the National Action Network of Slovakia informed that prof. MUDr. Frantisek Makai, DrSc, NAN coordinator in Slovakia, has finished his activities within the Bone and Joint Decade initiative and has resigned on this position. Board members of Slovak NAN have appointed prof. MUDr. Jozef Rovensky, DrSc., FRCP, as a new national coordinator. Prof. Rovensky is a director of National Institute of Rheumatic Diseases in Piestany, Head of Slovak Rheumatology Society, member of many other medical societies and editorial boards. For more information please contact Prof Rovensky, e-mail: [rovensky@nurch.sk](mailto:rovensky@nurch.sk)

We welcome Prof Rovensky and at the same time we extend our thanks to Prof Makai for all his excellent work in the Slovak NAN.

**SPAIN:** Prof Antonio Herrera has replaced Dr Enric Caceres as NAN coordinator as from November 1. Prof Herrera is Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery, University Hospital "Miguel Servet", Zaragoza and Professor Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Zaragoza. For more information please contact [aherrerar@wanadoo.es](mailto:aherrerar@wanadoo.es)

We welcome Prof Herrera and thank Dr Caceres for his time as NAN coordinator.

**Our current status:**  
**95 BJD National Coordinators**  
**60 Supporting Governments**  
**60 National Action Networks**

### ***BJD Award and Scholarship***

Reminder: the deadline for applications for the 2006 Bone and Joint Decade ***Award and Scholarship for Osteoarthritis Research*** is 31 December 2005. Don't miss this excellent chance to have your work in OA research rewarded! The link to read more about the **25,000 euro award** and three **2500 euro scholarships** and to download an application form is <http://www.bjdonline.org/default.aspx?contId=777>

### ***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](mailto:bjd@ort.lu.se)

### ***Next Infoletter***

Will be sent on December 21, 2005.

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