



The Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010 INFOLETTER 47

June 2006

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

Dr Ghassan Maalouf Receives 1st IOF President's Award

Bone and Joint Decade Steering Committee Member Dr Ghassan Maalouf from Lebanon has been awarded the prestigious International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF) President's Award for his vigorous and significant efforts to bring together members of patient societies, scientists and politicians in the fight against osteoporosis. Dr Maalouf was presented the 1st IOF President's Award during the 2006 IOF World Congress on Osteoporosis in Toronto, Canada this month. We extend our full congratulations to Dr Maalouf for this great honour!



Dr Ghassan Maalouf

Dr. Maalouf is an orthopaedic surgeon at Saint George Hospital in Beirut, Lebanon. Dr. Maalouf has served as the IOF representative to the International Steering Committee of the Bone and Joint Decade since late 2004.

Dr. Maalouf is also the Chairman of the IOF Committee of Scientific Advisors Orthopaedic Surgeon Working Group and the IOF Board nominations working group.

For more information please find a press release on www.bjdonline.org

Summer eLecture: Osteoporotic Vertebral Fractures

This summer, as part of the Bone and Joint Decade eLecture series, we're pleased to introduce IOF Award-winner Dr Ghassan Maalouf, BJD Steering Committee Member and IOF Board Member, from Saint George Hospital in Beirut, Lebanon, to update on current thinking about the long-term effects of vertebral fractures.

In his eLecture, *Why the Vertebral Fracture is Important*, Dr Maalouf examines the significance of these osteoporosis-related fractures in terms of morbidity and risks for further fragility fractures.

Dr Maalouf eLecture follows his award by the IOF President this month for his valuable contributions in the field of Osteoporosis research and public awareness.

Please go to <http://www.musconline.org/eLecture/1609/GMaalouf.html> to access the eLecture.

The BJD 2006 WORLD NETWORK CONFERENCE in SOUTH AFRICA is building in momentum – the conference is set to place on 2–4 November, 2006 at the Southern Sun Elangeni Congress Hotel in Durban, South Africa. Professor Girish Mody, NAN coordinator, South Africa, modyg@ukzn.ac.za is hosting this year's meeting.



The official invitation and necessary registration information have been sent to each National Action Network (NAN) to attend with two persons, the coordinator or another NAN representative and a patient representative. We are looking forward to the participation from as many countries as possible and seeing all in Durban!

The theme of this year's conference is: ***“Strategies for the Prevention of Bone and Joint Disorders”***. The agenda and planning for the meeting are well under way. Final agendas and practical information will be sent to the participants in the end of September. The conference will start with a Welcome Reception on the evening of Thursday, November 2, and continue through November 3 and 4, Friday and Saturday. Please contact the BJD Secretariat bjd@ort.lu.se for more information.

The BJD 2006 PATIENT ADVOCACY SYMPOSIUM

Plans for the 2nd Bone and Joint Decade International Patient Advocacy Seminar are well under way and invitations have been sent to all National Coordinators. Please note Wednesday and Thursday 1 – 2 November in your calendar for this event, which will be held in conjunction with the 2006 BJD World Network Conference (2-4 November).

The foundation for this year's Patient Advocacy Seminar will be practical advocacy skills training, with the objective of building an understanding the patients' role in delivering messages, particularly messages about prevention, evidence-based medicine, minimum standards of care, and practitioners and patients working together. The targets for these messages are the media and the public affairs, as cornerstone in how advocates can directly influence public policy on bone and joint health.

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

***BJD International Patient Advocacy Symposium
1-2 November, 2006***

***BJD World Network Conference
November 2-4, 2006***

***Venue: Southern Sun Elangeni, Durban,
South Africa***

***Start planning your attendance now, and
watch for further announcements on
www.boneandjointdecade.org***

BJD Pals Website

We hope you have all had a chance to visit the new BJD Pals (Patient Advocate Leaders) website which launched last month, but for those of you who have not, please check out www.bjdpals.org to see our latest musculoskeletal web presence. The objective of BJD Pals is to provide a dynamic and user-friendly web space dedicated to patient advocacy in musculoskeletal issues. We have recruited volunteer BJD Pals Reporters from each region of the world to contribute articles reflecting issues and opportunities for leadership in the patient advocacy within their country.

Please join us on www.bjdpals.org and if you would like to get involved, please contact BJD Communications Manager, Sara Martin smartin@skynet.be

NATIONAL ACTION NETWORK NEWS

CHINESE TAIPEI: Dr Chung-Tei Chou, NAN coordinator, reported that more than 20 lectures have been held in Taiwan for the public to educate how to recognize symptoms from the most common rheumatic diseases and emphasize the importance of early diagnosis and early treatment in such conditions, for instance inflammatory arthritis. Each site had more than 100 audiences.

In addition, "Arthritis Day" in October will be celebrated in Tian-Mu Garden, Taipei and the NAN will try to attract more than 1000 citizens to attend. For more information ctchou@vghtpe.gov.tw

INDIA: Coimbarore, the industrial capital of South India has been the focus of BJD India in recent times. *The 1st National training program in Orthopedic surgery for General Practitioners* organised by World Orthopaedic Concern in Coimbatore on 25th November 2005 was inaugurated

by Prof. T K Shanmugasundaram, BJD Ambassador & Senior Orthopedic Surgeon. This training programme is aimed at creating greater awareness among GPs and sensitise them on various orthopaedic problems and the importance of early detection and cure. In India, as most countries, the GPs are the entry point to health care for majority of population. The patients take their word before going for advanced treatment and thus GPs play a vital role in guiding the patients to the care pathway.

Later in his brief to the press, Prof. T K Shanmugasundaram stated that societal illness of musculoskeletal diseases is all set to become the second costliest disease area and urged the government to make plans for the treatment and rehabilitation of patients suffering from musculoskeletal diseases.

The BJD CME held in Coimbatore on 3rd June 2006 received an excellent response. Separate sessions lasting for 2 hours each were held for the Gynaecologists and Orthopaedic Surgeons. Dr. K Mahendranath, Chairman, BJD-INDIA: NAN & Consultant Rheumatologist provided an overview of the aims & objectives of BJD – creating awareness & empowering patients were key targets.

An executive committee meeting of BJD-INDIA NAN was held on 4 June 2006 in Coimbatore. Dr. K Mahendranath chaired the session. Dr. A Chopra, National Secretary, presented the progress. 42 research proposals have been received by the Pune BJD-INDIA office since inception.

Prof. Dinesh Mohan (BJD Ambassador, New Delhi) proposed an endorsement of a document on "Compulsory wear of crash helmets in India" and provide wide circulation to regulatory, NGO & other concerned Govt. bodies which was accepted by all. Dr. V Rajamani, proposed a theme for the activity week in Oct this year "*let us talk to children on bone & joints*" which

was accepted by all and the National Secretary was asked to make a national strategy for its implementation.

BJD India NAN got several new members and they have now 194 members (www.bjdindia.org)

LEBANON: Dr Yasser Yaghi, NAN coordinator, has reported that the 1st National Forum for Amputation in Lebanon, was held in April, 2006. A full report will be sent to the BJD office. The Lebanese NAN is negotiating a 2 year proposal with the WHO to conduct a survey in Lebanon. Dr Yaghi has been approached by the ILO who is willing to conduct a study about work accidents in Lebanon.

The hip fracture registry and the joint replacement registry will be finalized during June 2006.

For more information please contact Dr Yasser Yaghi, yasseryaghi@hotmail.com



USA: J Edward Puzas, PhD, was elected President-Elect by the Board of the United States Bone and Joint Decade (USBJD) Dr Puzas will become USBJD

President 2007-2009 as of the annual/Board meeting in 2007. Dr Puzas became co-chair of the USBJD Research Committee in 2002, and has been chair since June 2003. He has also served as Secretary of the USBJD since June 2003.

For more information on USBJD activities please find the USBJD eNewsletter of June, 2006 at www.usbjd.org or contact usbjd@usbjd.org

VIETNAM: The Viet Nam Orthopaedic Meeting (VOA 5) was organised on May 11-12, 2006 in Hanoi, the capital of Viet Nam. Dr Vo Van Thanh, NAN coordinator is the President of VOA. 470 persons attended the meeting. This was a nationwide meeting with many orthopaedic surgeons who came from the different provinces. There are 62 provinces in Viet Nam. The next Meeting VOA 6 will be organized on December 6-8, 2007 combined with Asean Orthopaedic Association AOA 27 and Spine Seminar and Training Course 12 in HCM City, Viet Nam. Dr Vo Van Thanh encouraged to involve the BJD in this event. For more information please contact thanhvmd@gmail.com

New BJD Coordinator in Ireland

James Cosgrave, President of the Chiropractic Association of Ireland, is new BJD coordinator in Ireland. The Chiropractic Association of Ireland has endorsed the declaration of support for the BJD initiative. James Cosgrave will contact The Irish Orthopaedic Association and Irish Society for Rheumatology, participating organisations of the Bone and Joint Decade to cooperate on activities. For more information admin@chiropractic.ie

The Bone and Joint Decade deeply regrets the sudden death of Dr LEE Jong-wook, WHO Director-General, on 22 May, 2006.

Dr LEE was a significant collaborator with the BJD in our Global Road Safety campaigns and the loss of this leader is devastating. We extend our most sincere condolences to Dr Lee's family and friends.

Lars Lidgren
Chair
International Steering Committee
The Bone and Joint Decade

ACT NOW

2004 Call for Nominations; BJD International Awards

The International Steering Committee has announced the call for nominations for two international programs. The 6th Annual Bone and Joint Decade International Awards will be presented at an awards dinner during the upcoming 2006 BJD World Network Conference, taking place in Durban, South Africa. The second is a call for nominations for Bone and Joint Decade Ambassadors.

Please send the nomination form to the BJD Secretariat, bjd@ort.lu.se by September 1, 2006.

BJD ACTION WEEK

**October 12 – 20,
Every year**

Start planning for the Action Week 2006

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**

Our current status:

96 BJD National Coordinators

60 Supporting Governments

60 National Action Networks

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 on August 30, 2006. For information to be included, please submit before August 18.

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