



The Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010 INFOLETTER 50

February 2007

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 2007 WORLD NETWORK CONFERENCE in AUSTRALIA

The 2007 BJD global Conference will be held on 12 – 14 October, 2007 on the Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia. The Courtyard Marriott Resort is this year's venue. Mr Ben Horgan, NAN Coordinator in Australia, convenor@bjd.org.au is hosting the meeting.



The Gold Coast is one of Australia's major tourist destinations and is famous for its beaches and theme parks. It is located 100km south of Brisbane (Queensland's capital city). Surfers Paradise is one of the Gold Coast's main cities, and the location of the 2007 BJD World Network Conference.



This year's conference will include a special segment on back pain. The Network Conference will start on Friday, October 12 with a Welcome Reception in the evening, and the Conference itself will take place on October 13 and 14 (Saturday and Sunday). The planning of the agenda is well underway.

Each NAN will be contacted directly with an invitation to send two persons, the coordinator or another NAN representative and a patient representative to the meeting in Australia. The official invitation and necessary registration information will be sent in May.

The BJD 2007 PATIENT ADVOCACY SEMINAR in AUSTRALIA

After two successful International Patient Advocacy meetings, the first in Ottawa, Canada, 2005 and recently in Durban, South Africa, 2006, we will soon be inviting delegates to the third BJD Patient Advocacy Seminar. The meeting will be held on

Thursday (whole day) and Friday (half day), 11 and 12 October, prior to the BJD Network Conference on 13 – 14 October. The agenda for the meeting is moving forward and is being developed by the PALs Strategic Group. Further information will be announced as it becomes available.

***BJD World Network Conference
October 12 – 14, 2007 in Australia***

***Venue: The Courtyard Marriott Resort,
The Gold Coast***

***Keep the dates open and watch for
further announcements on
www.bjdonline.org***

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

***BJD 2007 International Video
Award***

The Bone and Joint Decade International is proud to announce a new award programme aimed at recognising the most innovative and creative video presentations produced in member countries which deliver messages to the public about musculoskeletal health. All BJD National Action Networks are invited to submit videos of up to two minutes long which have been produced by the Network or by the national health department or other charity for public service and information. During the 2007 Annual World Network Conference in Australia all the videos will be featured in a special screening for conference delegates, who will then act as the jury and cast their vote for the five best.

For more information on the award please visit
<http://www.bjdonline.org/default.aspx?contid=1806>

BJD eLecture Series

February

***Straighten Up Programme: A Collaborative
Spinal Health Initiative***

A free, public service programme, “Straighten Up” is condensed into three minutes of easy-to-perform spine and posture exercises. Dr Ron Kirk, MA, DC, Member, US BJD Public Education Committee explains the “Straighten Up” initiative in detail. To view this web cast, log on to www.bjdonline.org or go directly to: <http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/default.aspx?contID=1810>

***First United Nations Global Road
Safety Week 23-29 April 2007***

The first UN Global Road Safety Week will focus on young road users. It is expected that hundreds of initiatives – local, national, regional and global – will take place around the world, organized by governments, NGOs, UN and other international agencies, private sector companies, foundations and others working for safer roads. The Road Safety Week will be a great opportunity to put the focus on the road traffic injuries and planning for future actions.

For more information please go to
<http://www.who.int/roadsafety/en/>

Road safety training manual

The ***Road Traffic Injury Prevention Training Manual*** was officially launched in New Delhi on 4 December 2006 by the Transport Research and Injury Prevention Programme of the Indian Institute of Technology and WHO. The manual has been designed for medical doctors and nurses, transport and road engineers, vehicle safety professionals, law enforcers, policymakers, urban planners and social scientists.

[More on Road safety training manual](#)

Plan to Tackle Arthritis in Wales

A new approach to help tackle one of the biggest causes of disability in Wales was announced by the Minister of Health and Social Services, Dr Brian Gibbons, on February 21, 2007. He said that musculoskeletal conditions are one of the biggest causes of disability and are also the most frequently reported chronic condition affecting all age groups across Wales. England and Wales have now each published arthritis strategies. For more information Mr Neil Betteridge, Chief Executive, Arthritis Care UK, e-mail: neilb@arthritiscare.org.uk

OA Communicator Project

The Osteoarthritis Communicator project is being undertaken across Europe to improve the management of musculoskeletal conditions. People with experience of osteoarthritis are being trained to be ***OA Communicators*** so that they can help in the education of physiotherapists during their training and continuing professional development. This project is supported by the European Commission Leonardo da Vinci. Please find further information about the programme at http://www.reumatikerforbundet.org/filesserver/Osteoarthritis_folder_2.pdf
For more information please contact Prof Anthony Woolf, email: anthony.woolf@btopenworld.com

***Professor Alf Nachemson,
Dr Spine, our BJD Ambassador died on December 4, 2006***

We represent many friends and colleagues who deeply miss him.

***Prof Lars Lidgren
Lund, Sweden***

***Prof Björn Rydevik
Göteborg, Sweden***

***The obituary is found at
<http://www.bjdonline.org/default.aspx?contId=1820>***

NATIONAL ACTION NETWORK NEWS

INDIA: After nearly a decade contemplating it, the government of India has made a definitive move to make helmet use for motorcycles and other 2-wheeled vehicles mandatory. This firm move comes as a result of awareness campaigns by several prominent agencies including BJD-NAN-India, the Indian Automobile Association and the Neurological Society of India. [Click here for more.](#)

The NAN India has adopted a resolution regarding compulsory helmet use. For more information, please contact Professor Dinesh Mohan, Coordinator of the Transportation Research and Injury Prevention Programme at the Indian Institute of Technology, e-mail: dmohan@cbme.iitd.ac.in

KENYA: The Fifth Congress of the African League Against Rheumatism (AFLAR 2007) was held in Kenya for the very first time from February 18 – 22, 2007. The Vice president Hon. Dr. Arthur Moody Awori presided over the official opening of the conference, for which the theme of the Conference was *“Practice of Rheumatology in Africa: Challenges and opportunities”*. Prof Anthony Woolf, from The Duke of Cornwall hospital in the United Kingdom and member of the BJD International Steering Committee, delivered the Keynote address on the subject *“The Global burden of Musculoskeletal Conditions and the need for public Health strategies”* The Conference brought together the largest gathering of Rheumatologists from Africa and other parts of the world . The BJD initiative was highlighted at the congress. For more information please contact Dr Omondi Oyoo, NAN coordinator, e-mail: geomondi@hotmail.com

NORWAY: On October 19th 2006, the Norwegian NAN, in cooperation with the Norwegian Health Department, held a conference on the theme “Rheumatism – is there hope for the patients?” Most of the participants came from health organisations and different health institutions, but some representatives from political parties and the press were also present. The conference speakers were rheumatologists, researchers and health politicians in addition to patients, who talked about the challenges of living with a chronic disease.

The Norwegian NAN met with NHO – the main organisation for Norwegian employers – this passed fall. NHO has more than 16 000 enterprises as members and is a strong force in the Norwegian political society. The outcome of the meeting was positive. NHO agreed to publish articles about the Norwegian branch of BJD on their website. In this way

information about our organisation and activities will be available for a vast amount of readers.

The Norwegian NAN works to encourage the five Regional Health Divisions (RHF) in Norway to prioritise research on musculoskeletal disorders. In order to do this it is important to know what kind of research has been conducted. In late 2006 the NAN received a report written by one of the RHF, where they have mapped out all research conducted on this subject in their region. Subsequently, the Norwegian NAN wrote letters to all the other RHF and encouraged them to compose similar reports. The Network is now awaiting answers and hope this will lead to a national report of research on musculoskeletal disorders. For more information please contact jack.skrolsvik@revmatikerforbundet.no

SWEDEN: The Swedish Inheritance Fund has granted means for an action project in the fields of information, education and research during the period 2006 to 2009. A web page for Sweden NAN (FRÅ) and the project has been established. A new information leaflet on BJD Sweden has been produced and information given at several occasions such as annual meetings and the international day of osteoporosis. Sweden NAN has grown with new members.

Major activities will take place 2007 and onwards. The message to health care personnel and decision-makers will be; that early action, better knowledge and an active patient creates better public health and public finances.

- Activities concerning the patient’s rights will continue. A specially educated group of members in the patient’s organizations within our NAN will meet in discussions and dialog with primary health care personnel on how to improve the quality in interaction with the patient.

- Media actions; articles and other media activities on the value of prevention and early diagnosis and treatment. Target group for the message on prevention is the public, and for early diagnosis and treatment the health care professionals.
 - Conference on the topic of pain and pain management, 12th of May 2007
 - Seminar on early diagnosis and rehabilitation for persons with osteoporosis, autumn 2007.
- For more information please visit www.rorg.se or contact info@rorg.se

UK: The United Kingdom's new Musculoskeletal Services Framework, which was launched in October 2006, is the Department of Health's new strategy for the delivery of musculoskeletal health services in the UK. In planning the new Framework, the Department of Health worked closely with ARMA - The Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Alliance which is the UK National Action Network for the Bone & Joint Decade, and serves as an umbrella association bringing together all British musculoskeletal groups -- professional, patient and research organisations to further the aims of the BJD in the UK. To read more, or to download the report, please click [here](#)

For more information please contact Mr Neil Betteridge, Chairman of ARMA and Chief Executive of Arthritis Care, email: neilb@arthritiscare.org.uk

USA: The US Bone and Joint Decade December 2006/January 2007 Newsletter can be viewed and downloaded at <http://www.usbjd.org/rd/?Newsletter> and contains an article "*How Can the Bone and Joint Decade Engage the Public Health Agenda?*" which can be found in the USBJD newsletter on page 5.

VIETNAM: Last December, the BJD Network organized the first SRS Operative Spine Course in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. A one day lecture meeting was organized in Ho Chi Minh City with participation of colleagues from Germany, Singapore, Taiwan and USA; and nationwide local participants.

For more information please contact Dr Vo van Thanh, NAN coordinator
thandvmd@gmail.com

Our current status:

*96 BJD National Coordinators
60 Supporting Governments
60 National Action Networks*

Change of NAN coordinators in Iran and Norway

IRAN: Prof Farhad Shahram has served as the NAN coordinator in Iran from the start of the Bone and Joint Decade. His term ended on 31 December 2006. From January 2007 Dr Mohammad Moslemizadeh has replaced him. Dr Moslemizadeh is Assistant Professor of Rheumatology and Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran. He is the Treasurer of the Iranian Rheumatology Association. For more information please contact Dr Moslemizadeh, e-mail: m_moslemizadeh@yahoo.com

We welcome Dr Moslemizadeh and at the same time we extend our thanks to Prof Shahram for all his excellent work in the Iranian NAN during half of the Decade.

NORWAY: The previous NAN coordinator, Mrs Anne Ording Haug, has stepped down from her position by the end of 2006. Mr Jack Skrolsvik, who already holds the position as leader of the national steering committee, has taken over the coordinator responsibilities.

Mr Skrolsvik is the Secretary-General of the Norwegian Rheumatism Association and one of his co-workers Grethe Skaugvoll, will assist him with secretary functions in his work as NAN coordinator. For more information please contact Mr Skrolsvik, e-mail: jack.skrolsvik@revmatiker.no

We welcome Mr Skrolsvik and extend our thanks to Anne Ording Haug for her excellent work and time in the Norwegian NAN.

NEW Global Corporate Partner for Technical Development

The BJD is proud to announce the support of Amgen as a new global corporate partner for Technical Development. Amgen is a world-leader in biotechnology, working to develop therapeutics in the fields of cancer, kidney disease, rheumatoid arthritis, among others. To learn more about Amgen, visit www.amgen.com.

ACT NOW!

The BJD Action Week
October 12 – 20,
Every year

Start planning for the Action Week 2007
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***

SOCIETY UPDATE - IMPORTANT

Please fill in the enclosed Society update form and send it to the BJD Secretariat, bjd@ort.lu.se.

It is important for us to have a current email contact address in order to communicate with, and keep all groups who are part of the Bone and Joint Decade informed. We would like to have up-to-date information. If you have resigned as an officer or president and wish to stay on our mailing list, we welcome your continued participation. Simply add the new official contact person for your organisation.

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 April 27, 2007. For information to be included, please submit before April 15.

Contact us:
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