



The Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010

INFOLETTER 51

April/May 2007

Dear Bone and Joint Decade supporting organisation and friend,

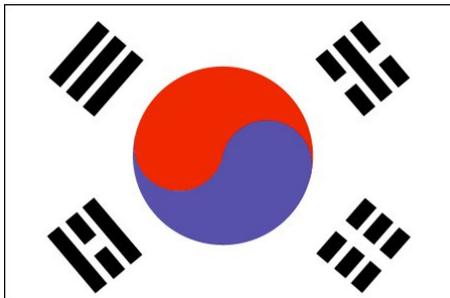
On behalf of the BJD Steering Committee I am pleased to report to you of the latest achievements in regard to the initiative.

Lars Lidgren, Chairman of the Steering Committee

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

CONGRATULATIONS to

SOUTH KOREA



Mr Tae Hong Kim, Chairman, Committee of Health Affairs of Korean National Assembly, and Mr Myoung-Ok Ahn, a Korean Congress member, have signed the Declaration of Support. For more information contact Dr Yeong Wook Song, at ysong@snu.ac.kr

**The BJD 2007 WORLD
NETWORK CONFERENCE and
PATIENT ADVOCACY SEMINAR
in AUSTRALIA**

This year's **Bone and Joint Decade World Network Conference** and **International Patient Advocacy Seminar** will be held at the Courtyard Marriott Resort on 11 – 14

October 2007 in Surfers Paradise on the Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia. Mr Ben Horgan, Australian Network Coordinator and Patient Advocacy Leader (convenor@bjd.org.au), and Prof Peter Brooks, BJD International Steering Committee Member and Conference Programme Chairman (p.brooks@uq.edu.au), will be our hosts on the Gold Coast.



Each NAN has been invited to send two persons, the coordinator or another NAN representative and a patient representative to participate in the Annual Network Meeting. The theme of this year's conference is: **"Spine Health"**. There will be special sessions on Back Pain with a Multidisciplinary Approach and a Research update. In addition there will be joint sessions with Patient Advocates and Network Coordinators on Health Economics. The BJD Strategic Plan for continuing beyond 2010, which was globally adopted in Durban, 2006 with a focus on regionalisation will be further outlined in

breakout sessions. The final agenda will be sent closer to the time of the conference.

The Patient Advocacy Seminar will begin on Thursday, October 11, with the theme ***“Health Economics: Understanding the Data and How to Use it in Advocacy”***. The Network Conference will start with a Welcome Dinner on the evening of Friday, October 12. The Network Meeting itself will take place on October 13 and 14, Saturday and Sunday. A joint scientific, ***The Alf Nachemson Symposium on Back Pain*** in collaboration with the Australian Orthopaedic Association will be held on Friday afternoon.

***BJD International Patient Advocacy Symposium
11 – 12 October, 2007***

***BJD World Network Conference
13 – 14 October, 2007***

***Venue: The Courtyard Marriott Resort,
Surfers Paradise, the Gold Coast,
Australia***

***Start planning your attendance now, 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 – Reminder

The Bone and Joint Decade International Video Award, first announced in Infoletter 50, is 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>

Orthopaedic Surgeons Initiative

A multiparty initiative of the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF), the Bone and Joint Decade (BJD) and the International Society for Fracture Repair (ISFR) -- key players in the worldwide fight against osteoporosis -- the **Orthopaedic Surgeons Initiative** aims to raise osteoporosis awareness amongst orthopaedists and provide clear clinical pathways for fragility fracture patients after the first fracture occurs, in an effort to avoid further fractures. Please go to www.bjdonline.org for more information or to download this new osteoporosis education kit. The new educational training package was announced at the European Federation of National Associations of Orthopaedics and Traumatology (EFORT) Congress in Florence, Italy and will be made available for orthopaedic surgeons worldwide. The symposium was chaired by Prof Ghassan Maalouf of the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF) and the Bone and Joint Decade (BJD), and Prof Wolfhart Puhl of EFORT.



The speakers of the “Forum on osteoporosis”

BJD 2006 Annual Report

We are pleased to inform you that the 2006 Annual Report has been published and will be sent out to Network Coordinators shortly. Each Network will receive 5 copies of the Report for local distribution, but more can be made available should you require. Please send all requests for additional copies to bjd@ort.lu.se

BJD to Honour Research in OA

The Bone and Joint Decade is delighted to announce ***the 2nd BJD Award*** and ***the 2nd BJD Scholarship*** for Clinical and Experimental Cartilage Research in Osteoarthritis, sponsored by the International Gelita Health Initiative (GHI).

The BJD Award of 25 000 Euros is intended to honour existing achievements of international researchers of scientists working on experimental or clinical cartilage research in osteoarthritis and intends to support documented quality research and ongoing relevant projects. In addition, **three BJD Scholarships** of 2500 Euros each, will be awarded to support ongoing research, educational activities or research related travel for younger researchers or scientists within the same field.

Applications will be accepted until December 31, 2007 and the prize will be awarded in 2008. More information and applications forms can be found on www.bjdonline.org

First United Nations Global Road Safety Week

April 23-29 2007 marked the 1st United Nations Global Road Safety Week, aimed at improving road safety around the globe, particularly focused on young road users. During the Week, hundreds of national and international initiatives were organised by governments, foundations and others to promote safer road use.

Since its conception, the Bone and Joint Decade has worked tirelessly in partnership with several international organisations to bring prevention of road traffic injuries into the political spotlight. Over the course of the Decade, the BJD and its partners have attended several UN General Assembly Meetings and Stakeholders' Forums to promote Global Road Safety awareness and solutions. The most recent of these, **the 2nd Global Road Safety Stakeholders' Forum**, held on 25 April 2007, was attended by BJD ISC Member Dr Wahid Al-Kharusi and Ambassador Fuad Mubarak Al-Hinai of Oman, a member of UN the Global Road Safety Steering Committee. Please see www.bjdonline.org, Highlights to read the full story.

Brazilian Parliament Launched Global Road Safety Week



During the week, 23 – 29 April, declared by the UN as the week of Global Road Safety awareness, Brazilians across the country took notice of the importance of road injury prevention, as the Brazilian Parliament led by the President of the House of Congress Dr Arlindo Chinaglia along with the Ministers of Health, Transportation and Cities, and Senators and Deputies, officially launched the UN awareness week live on Brazilian national television. As a leader in the road safety campaign in Brazil, the BJD Network was also present, represented by Dr Marcos Musafir, ISC member, signifying the musculoskeletal branch of this campaign. At the end of the ceremony, a famous Brazilian rock-n-roll band aired their new video clip relating their personal drama in a recent road traffic accident. For more information please contact Dr Marcos Musafir, mmusafir@uol.com.br

NATIONAL ACTION NETWORK NEWS

BELGIUM: Prof René Verdonk, NAN coordinator has sent an extensive report on several projects in the network.

Ghent Osteoporosis Project

Two years ago with the support of Dr. Stefan Goemaere, The Ghent Osteoporosis Project was initiated, to bring together the major Ghent hospitals, each with its own responsible project leader. (4) The project is about collecting information on all fractures occurring in patients in the recognised osteoporosis age group. Patients are admitted to the hospital and taken care of by the orthopaedic department. The follow up is coordinated by the fracture liaison officer who connects with the osteoporosis department of the endocrinology department. Patients not admitted to the hospital but treated ambulatory are requested to contact their family doctor. The fracture liaison officer of the responsible hospital then connects with the family doctor so that both ambulatory care and hospital care of osteoporosis related patients are followed-up in respect with both their trauma and porosis treatment. The administrative follow up is partly supported by industry and by the individual departments. There is no funding from the hospital nor for the paperwork nor for the personnel expenses. The Ghent Osteoporosis Project aims to improve osteoporosis-related fracture care for the patient and for our community.

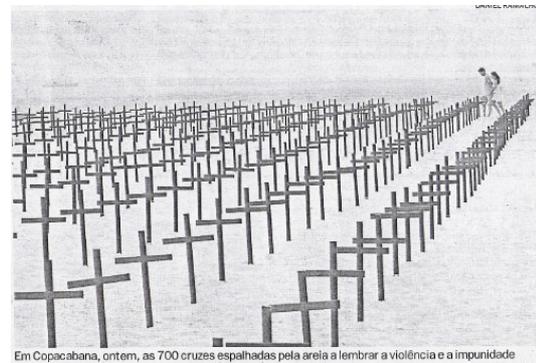
BELGIUM and THE NETHERLANDS: Bone and Joint Decade Osteoporosis Questionnaire

The Bone and Joint Decade Osteoporosis Questionnaire was translated into Dutch and made ready for use to the local Dutch-speaking community. This work was done in association with the Dutch BJD network, Professor Doctor P.M. Van Roermund.

Joint Arthrosis project BJD the Netherlands - BJD Belgium

For more information please contact Prof Verdonk, email: rene.verdonk@ugent.be

BRAZIL: On World Health Day there was a protest against road traffic death in Brazil in 2007: 700 people died during January, February and March of 2007 on the streets and roads in Brazil, reported Dr Marcos Musafir, 40° SBOT President and member of the BJD International Steering Committee.



Volunteers and families put one black cross for each victim at Copacabana

HUNGARY: The Hungarian NAN has been playing a very active role in the Hungarian Health Reform. Both the professional and patients' organisations successfully opposed shortcuts, negatively influencing care of musculoskeletal patients, and they also suggested problem-solving actions for cost-efficient improvement of care. The members of the NAN published a number of articles in the Hungarian daily papers, also in the professional and patient's society journal, and gave also several reports in the media. As a result, rational decrease of rheumatology in-patient beds has been reduced, the special high percentage reimbursement of DMARDs and anti-osteoporotic treatment has been saved. The NAN was however not yet successful in saving a rational number of orthopaedic surgery beds; also the financing of

endoprosthesis has been diminished, resulting in longer waiting lists. The national co-ordinator participates in the work of the Hungarian Disability Council as the National Secretary of Rehabilitation International, what enables him to participate in decisions about disability affairs and decisions about medical occupational and social rehabilitation. For more information please contact Dr Géza Balint, NAN Coordinator, e-mail: bjd@t-online.hu

NORWAY: The Norwegian NAN received good publicity in the Norwegian Osteoporosis-magazine earlier this year: a double-paged article gave the readers a thorough introduction to what the Bone and Joint Decade is, how it got started and how the Network works on both an international and national level. The Norwegian NAN coordinator, Jack Skrolsvik, was interviewed, and the article was filled with facts about bone and joint diseases and the ramifications of these.

The Norwegian NAN aims to increase publicity and has thus contacted a journalist who works with TV documentaries. The journalist has agreed to receive more information about bone and joint diseases, about the lack of political will to improve the conditions for people with these illnesses and about BJD in general. This will hopefully result in a one-hour documentary scheduled to air this autumn. For more info please contact Jack.Skrolsvik@revmatiker.no

PAKISTAN: The BJD (2000 - 2010) PSRD Secretariat Pakistan arranged a public meeting on 4th December 2006, with the idea to promote awareness among masses to prevent musculoskeletal disabilities and to enhance coordinated efforts of different organizations towards this goal. Speakers from University of the Punjab Lahore, Molecular Genetics, and Special Education department participated. Office bearers of LABARD (Lahore

Businessmen Association for Rehabilitation of the Disabled) also attended the meeting.



In a retrospective study conducted at PSRD hospital during 2005-2006 maltreatment at the hands of local bone setters and delayed or missed diagnosis by the non-orthopaedic medical personnel were found among the preventable causes of musculoskeletal disabilities. BJD Pakistan has extended membership to 45 orthopaedic surgeons in different areas of Pakistan with the aim of making coordinated efforts to prevent such disabilities through education of family physicians, as they can play a pivotal role in creating awareness in general public. For more information please contact Mrs. M.H. Sherazee, S.I, NAN coordinator, email: psrd@brain.net.pk

SWEDEN: The Sweden NAN arranged on 12 May a conference on the topic of pain and pain management. The message was that better knowledge for the patient can help in the treatment of chronic pain. The public was invited to these open lectures. Activities concerning the patient's rights continues; members from the patient's organisations has been educated to meet in discussions with primary health care personnel on how to improve the quality in interaction with the patient. Sweden NAN has initiated a media project with the task to carry out interesting news on the bone and joint diseases and injuries to the public as well as to the health professionals. For more information please contact info@rorg.se

Follow this idea!

UK: The UK's Health Minister has appointed Mr Neil Betteridge, Chairman of ARMA (the UK's BJD Network), BJD Pals Committee Member and Chief Executive of Arthritis Care of the role of NHS **Patient and Public Champion**. In his newly formed position, Mr Betteridge will work with the UK's 18 Weeks team to improve the UK patient experience and to ensure that patients and the public are aware of the NHS's recent pledge reduce waiting times. For more information please go to www.bjdonline.org

USA: Musculoskeletal Education: The USBJD is holding a meeting June 23 in Chicago to discuss formation of a Musculoskeletal Educators Council. A subject examination in musculoskeletal medicine is currently being taken at several U.S. medical schools towards validation of the exam.

Young Investigators The Canadian and US Initiative: The next workshop for young investigators took place April 27-29. To date, 200 young investigators from many musculoskeletal disciplines have applied to the program, 90 have been selected to participate, and around 25 have successfully obtained funding. This highly focused program should be of great value for all the BJD network countries.

Burden of Musculoskeletal Conditions in the United States: This update of musculoskeletal prevalence data is advancing well and it is hoped to be ready for publication late summer 2007. Several Bone and Joint Decade organizations are participating. The final product will be made available on line, in full as a book, and as an Executive Summary.

Arthritis Patient Meeting: The USBJD is working with the American College of Rheumatology, the Arthritis Foundation, and the American Academy of Pediatrics to organize a meeting of arthritis patients and their families on Saturday, November 10, 2007, during the annual scientific meeting of the American College of Rheumatology, to be held in Boston. For more information on USBJD activities please go to www.usbjd.org or contact usbjd@usbjd.org

VIETNAM: Dr Vo van Thanh, NAN coordinator, reported that the NAN will organize the Asean 27 combined with the 6th VOA and 12 Annual Meeting of Spine Society in HCMC, Viet Nam on December 2007. He is trying to contribute to the development of orthopedic surgery in Viet Nam and the Regional South East Asia. For more information please contact Dr Vo van Thanh, email: thanhvmd@gmail.com

New National Action Network (NAN) in South Korea

Dr Yeong-Wook Song, NAN Coordinator, has informed the BJD Secretariat that a National Action Network has been established in South Korea. They are a group of rheumatologists endorsed by Korean Rheumatism Association (KRA). The KRA is composed of Rheumatologists, Orthopedic surgeons and Rehab doctors and has a network over the country. In order to promote their BJD activities in South Korea, they have invited orthopaedic and rehabilitation associations as well. Dr Yeong-Wook Song is Director, National Research Laboratory of Rheumatic Diseases at Seoul National University Hospital. Please contact ysong@snu.ac.kr

Our current status:

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

ACT NOW!

2007 Call for Nominations; BJD International Awards

The International Steering Committee has announced the call for nominations for two international programs. The 7th Annual Bone and Joint Decade International Awards will be presented at an awards dinner during the upcoming 2007 BJD World Network Conference, taking place on the Gold Coast, Australia. 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 August 15, 2007.

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**

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 June 29 For information to be included, please submit before June 15

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