



## The Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010 INFOLETTER 52

June 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 and PATIENT ADVOCACY SEMINAR in AUSTRALIA**

This year's **Bone and Joint Decade World Network Conference** and **Patient Advocacy Seminar** are drawing near. The events will be held at the Courtyard Marriott Resort from 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](mailto:convenor@bjd.org.au)), and Prof Peter Brooks, BJD International Steering Committee Member and Conference Programme Chairman ([p.brooks@uq.edu.au](mailto:p.brooks@uq.edu.au)), are hosting the meetings.



The official invitation and necessary registration information have been sent to each National Action Network (NAN) for two delegates to attend – the coordinator or

another NAN representative and a patient representative. We are looking forward to seeing you all on the Gold Coast.

**Reminder: The registration deadline is 1<sup>st</sup> August 2007. Please send your forms in now to the BJD Secretariat [bjd@ort.lu.se](mailto:bjd@ort.lu.se)**

One of the themes of this year's Network conference is: **"Spine Health"** with 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 is well under way and will be sent closer to 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"**. On Friday morning, October 12, there will be a **Public Walk** to celebrate the International Arthritis Day. 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 (AOA) will be held on Friday afternoon. There will also be a combined osteoporosis symposium and in addition Prof James

Waddell, NAN Coordinator, Canada, and his group will present to AOA the *Young Investigators Initiative*.

***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](http://www.bjdonline.org)***

Please contact the BJD Secretariat  
[bjd@ort.lu.se](mailto:bjd@ort.lu.se) for any enquiries.

### ***International Steering Committee meeting***

The BJD International Steering Committee met in London on 1 – 3 June, 2007. The meeting was focused on discussing an *Action Plan for the BJD Strategy – How to move forward after 2010*. Under this theme it was decided until 2010 to Establish BJD Regional Councils in each of the world regions, which will help existing national networks to continue their work as part of a larger group within their region. It was also decided to formally cooperate with OMERACT on WHO/BJD/OMERACT guidelines for musculoskeletal conditions. The discussions will continue in Australia in October.

On the same occasion the International Steering Committee (ISC) had the chance to meet with the UK BJD network, ARMA to discuss the group's current projects and

challenges within the current climate of change in the UK National Health Service. ARMA - the Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Alliance - is an umbrella association bringing together 33 UK support groups, professional bodies and research organisations within the musculoskeletal field.

For more information on the meeting with ARMA please go to,  
<http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/default.aspx?contid=1845>

### ***BJD eLecture Series***

#### ***June***

#### ***Strategies for Prevention of Rheumatic Arthritis an eLecture by Prof Mieke Hazes***

With early intervention and proper treatment, newly diagnosed rheumatoid arthritis can be managed and remission can be achieved, therefore delaying the more disabling and feared complications of the disease. In this eLecture, Professor Mieke Hazes gives a comprehensive overview of the latest thinking on prevention of joint damage in RA. J. Mieke Hazes is Professor of Rheumatology and Head of the Department at the Erasmus Medical Centre in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. To view this web cast, log on to [www.bjdonline.org](http://www.bjdonline.org) or go directly to:

<http://www.boneandjointdecade.org/default.aspx?contid=1844>

Please forward the lecture within your network.

#### ***2008 World Network Conference***

The BJD International Steering Committee (ISC) is pleased to announce that the Indian Network will host the BJD World Network Conference in Pune, India, first week of December 2008 and hold their national network meeting in connection with the international conference. For more information please contact [bjd@ort.lu.se](mailto:bjd@ort.lu.se) or Dr Arvind Chopra, NAN coordinator, [bjdindia@dataone.in](mailto:bjdindia@dataone.in) or visit [www.bjdindia.org](http://www.bjdindia.org)

### ***New Online: European Musculoskeletal Review 2007***

A publication reviewing the latest developments within the European musculoskeletal field from a scientific, clinical and objective perspective, contributors to European Musculoskeletal Review 2007 are members of the BJD and thought-leaders in musculoskeletal science. The articles included in the review aim to provide readers with an update on current diagnostic and therapeutic options in all the major fields of the musculoskeletal system. To download the full publication please find the link in Highlights on [www.bjdonline.org](http://www.bjdonline.org)

### ***Gaining Health: European Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases***

A publication by the WHO, in part with the collaboration of the BJD. Investing in prevention and improved control of noncommunicable diseases would improve the quality of life and well-being of our entire society. 86% of deaths and 77% of disease burden in the European Region are caused by this broad group of disorders, which are linked by common risk factors, underlying determinants and opportunities for intervention. A more equitable share of the benefits from effective interventions would make the greatest impact as well as bring significant health and economic gain to the region. This action-oriented strategy promotes a comprehensive and integrated approach to tackling noncommunicable diseases in the WHO European Region. Please go to [www.bjdonline.org](http://www.bjdonline.org) to download the full publication.

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

**INDIA:** The NAN meeting in Delhi on 3 June 2007 proposed a new NAN committee for 2007 – 2010. The new committee will consist of Dr. Ambrish Mithal (Chairman), Dr. Arvind Chopra (Coordinator – National Secretary), Prof. T

K Shanumugasundaram (BJD Ambassador), Prof. Dinesh Mohan (BJD Ambassador), Mr. P C Nahar (BJD Ambassador), Dr. K M Mahendranath, Prof. Rohini Handa, Dr. H K T Raza, Prof. Sudhir S Babhulkar, Brig. H L Kakrie, Dr. Rajendra Sharma, Dr. Uppuluri Ramakrishna Rao, Dr. Sameer Kalkotwar.

The members will represent Indian Orthopaedic Association, Indian Rheumatology Association, Armed Forces Medical Services, Trauma Society of India, Mission Arthritis India, Association Spine Surgeons of India, Indian Association of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Osteoporosis Society of India, and Indian Society for Bone & Mineral Research. The Indian NAN is planning a lot of events which will be announced in next Infoletter in August.

Dr Arvind Chopra is the new NAN coordinator and replacing Prof Sudhir S Babhulkar. We welcome Dr Chopra and at the same time we extend our thanks to Prof Babhulkar for his time as NAN coordinator. For more information please contact [bjdindia@dataone.in](mailto:bjdindia@dataone.in) or visit [www.bjdindia.org](http://www.bjdindia.org)

### ***JAPAN:***

***Translation of musculoskeletal comic book.***



As a part of the education campaign aiming to promote prevention of musculoskeletal disorders and improve the “quality of life” of people, a publication on the musculoskeletal system was issued in 2005 in the popular Japanese comic book style to target especially elementary school children.

This comic book, written and edited by several students of The University of Tokyo, has been highly praised by a number of professors internationally. With a request for its distribution in other countries, translation of the comic book into English is in progress, and it is expected to be finished in time for presentation at the 2007 BJD Annual World Network Conference to be held in Australia. In an effort to raise awareness among children, plain words and expressions are being used, with a focus on children's point of view, leaving high expectations of leading to the healthy growth of children around the world.

#### ***Prefectural steering committees***

During the Bone and Joint Decade, efforts by the Japan Steering Committee to promote understanding and health of the musculoskeletal system in Japan have been largely concentrated only in the major urban areas. However, from 2007, the Japanese Ministry of Health and Labour has recognised the importance of the musculoskeletal health and has included it for the national population in its official policy. Accordingly, this presents a great opportunity to help expand activities to more outlying areas throughout the country. Toward this end, the Japanese Network has recently set up prefectural steering committees in each of the 47 prefectures throughout Japan, and at present they can report that each committee is now in place. The next step will be to activate each of the committees to carry out seminars and other activities in their respective areas.

#### ***Model project of school medical examination***

The Japan BJD Steering committee has been actively promoting inclusion of musculoskeletal medical checks among the items of the mandatory health checks carried out in Japan's schools. They have been working on developing a simple set of items for the check. These include

preparation of a check up sheet to be filled out by parents for the students and checklists to be used by school doctors, most of whom are physicians and paediatricians, so they must be made easy to understand and use for non-orthopaedic surgeons. Since 2005, musculoskeletal medical checks have been carried out at some schools in four prefectures as a test in advance of an expected inclusion by 2010 of such checks among the mandatory national school medical check system. For more information please contact [bjdjapan@bjdjapan.org](mailto:bjdjapan@bjdjapan.org) or [www.bjdjapan.org](http://www.bjdjapan.org)

**LEBANON:** Dr Yasser Yagi, NAN Coordinator, has been appointed as technical advisor to the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in Lebanon, which is a United Nations Agency. We congratulate Dr Yagi to the appointment. For more information please contact [yaghiy@hammoudhospital.com](mailto:yaghiy@hammoudhospital.com)

**USA:** The latest US Bone and Joint Decade (USBJD) Newsletter can be viewed and downloaded at <http://www.usbjd.org/rd/?Newsletter> with highlights including:

- Osteoporosis Education Kit to Prevent Future Fractures
- Burden of Musculoskeletal Conditions in the U.S. update
- Condition kits released on Back Pain, and on Oligoarticular JRA
- News on USBJD public education programs
- Call for healthcare professionals to work with AAA on Graduated Driver Licensing
- USBJD Participating Organization and Member news
- Tool Kit for National Action Week 2007

Dr Nancy Lane has served as President of the USBJD during the past two years and Dr Edward Puzas will take over as the new President 2007 – 2009.

We welcome Dr Puzas and at the same time we extend our thanks to Dr Lane for her excellent work in the USBJD. For more information please contact [usbjd@usbjd.org](mailto:usbjd@usbjd.org)

**Our current status:**  
**96 BJD National Coordinators**  
**61 Supporting Governments**  
**61 National Action Networks**

***ACT NOW!***  
***2007 Call for Nominations; BJD International Awards, Reminder***

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](mailto:bjd@ort.lu.se) by August 15, 2007.***

***Reminder:***  
***Bone and Joint Decade 2007 International Video Award***

The Bone and Joint Decade International Video Award was created to recognise the most innovative and creative video presentations aimed at delivering messages to the public about musculoskeletal health. All BJD National Action Networks are invited to submit videos of up to two minutes long which they have produced for a public service and information. The themes of the videos may be any topic which falls into the realm of the BJD target areas, for instance, the role of the seat belt us in road traffic injury prevention, the role

of good nutrition in osteoporosis prevention, and so on.

***GOALS:***

- To encourage National Action Networks and individuals to develop public information campaigns which promote the Decade's goals in the form of edited videos.
- To share local experience and innovative ideas about successful messages directly related to musculoskeletal health and science.

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. Winners will receive an honorary prize, at the end of the conference.

Video messages will be accepted until September 30, 2007 and should be submitted as hard copies (on CD or DVD) to the Bone and Joint Decade Secretariat, attention: Prof Lars Lidgren, Department of Orthopedics, SE 221 85 Lund, Sweden.

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

***Next Infoletter***

Will be sent on August 31. For information to be included, please submit before August 16.

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