



The Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010

INFOLETTER 53

December 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 2007 Bone and Joint Decade World Network Conference and Patient Advocacy Seminar

This year's *Bone and Joint Decade World Network Conference* and *Patient Advocacy Seminar* took place from 11 – 14 October 2007 in Surfers Paradise on the Gold Coast, in Queensland, Australia. Our annual forum brought together more than 100 BJD Patient Advocacy Leaders and National Action Network Coordinators from around the globe for a unique, multifaceted programme.

The World Network Conference was attended by network leaders from nearly 40 countries and featured a fusion of interactive presentations on the *Significance of Health Economy Data*. In addition there was a multidisciplinary session focusing on *Spine* with talks by international thought-leaders, which attracted quite some media attention. Mr Ben Horgan, Australian Network Chairman and Patient Advocacy Leader, and Prof Peter Brooks, BJD International Steering Committee Member and Conference Programme Chairman, led the meeting.



Patient involvement has been a key factor Decade's success since its inauguration and this is the third year the BJD, thanks to the generous involvement of Novartis, was able to organise a two-day Patient Advocacy Seminar preceding the World Network Conference. The value of this unique programme is vast, with 40 BJD Patient Advocates from countries around the world having participated in the expert-led training sessions. The topic of this year's programme was *Basic Health Economics: Understanding and Using the Data* and we were very pleased to have Mr Mick Hoare, Director of the Asthma and Arthritis division of the Australian Dept of Health & Ageing, to speak to us about the National Health Priority, and the expertise of Weber Shandwick, the world's largest PR agency, donating its time to lead practical training modules for the advocates.



The Gold Coast was also host to some of Australasia's leading physicians. The *Australian Orthopaedic Association* held its annual scientific meeting and a combined session with the BJD, *The Alf Nachemson Symposium on Evidence in Back Pain*, was dedicated to the memory of Alf Nachemson, Professor of Orthopaedics at Gothenburg University, Sweden. Prof Björn Rydevik, Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Gothenburg gave an introductory tribute to Alf Nachemson.

The second session on Osteoporotic Fractures was chaired by Prof Lars Lidgren, and Prof Kristina Åkesson, Sweden, member of the BJD International Steering Committee presented the results of the recent international survey on osteoporosis. Dr John Hart presented the Australian data which were part of the international survey.

During the conference, delegates also had the opportunity to participate in the Arthritis Day Celebration in collaboration with the Gold Coast City Council represented by Ron Clarke, Olympic gold medal winner in long distance running. The Arthritis Foundation had arranged a **public walk** through the Gold Coast peninsula to raise awareness of the importance of **Keeping Moving**. The invigorating walk through the scenic park concluded with an outdoor concert featuring the Australian Rock-n-Roll icon Normie Rowe.

The BJD International Steering Committee (ISC) wishes to thank Mr Ben Horgan, conference host and NAN coordinator in Australia and BJD Ambassador, and Prof Peter Brooks, member of the BJD International Steering Committee and Conference Programme Chairman, and Mrs Ruth Lilian, Conference Manager for all their hard work to make the event a great success.

Video Coverage and Speakers' Presentations from the meetings are now available on <http://www.bjdonline.org/default.aspx?contId=1839>

For exclusive access to lectures and speakers' presentations, please see: ***2007 International Patient Advocacy Seminar*** <http://www.bjdonline.org/default.aspx?contId=1882>

2007 World Network Conference <http://www.bjdonline.org/default.aspx?contId=1883>

ePoster session

All Networks coordinators were asked prior to the conference to report on their yearly activities in an "electronic poster" The ePosters were available to the delegates for viewing during the meeting. They were reviewed by an evaluation committee consisting of Prof Mieke Hazes, Prof KM Chan and Prof Shoichi Kokubun. This year the ePoster Award winner was the ***Japanese NAN*** represented by Prof Takashi Matsushita. The ePosters could be viewed under the individual countries.

The committee also announced 3 other Networks to receive recognition and they were:

Finland, Iran, and Sweden.

Congratulations to all for you excellent work!

2007 BJD International Award Recipient and BJD Ambassadors

The 2007 BJD International Award for Special Achievements was given to New Zealand National Action Network. Mr Chris Bossley, NAN Coordinator and Mr Kim Miles, Executive Director of BJD NZ have done pivotal studies concerning osteoporosis under the BJD umbrella. The New Zealand NAN has implemented a successful national

program of increased health resources for joint prostheses surgery in the country. A hip & knee walk is arranged yearly to get funding for musculoskeletal research. A number of participating organisations are cooperating in the NZ BJD network. This NAN was one of the first to set up a newsletter. For more information please contact bossley@xtra.co.nz.

New Ambassadors for 2007

The Bone and Joint Decade Ambassador programme honours outstanding service and achievement by global leaders in the musculoskeletal community. The Nominating Committee is led by Prof Nicolas E Walsh, USA.

Dr Thamrongrat Keokarn (Thailand) –

Nominated as a Bone and Joint Decade Ambassador for his tireless work as the Thai NAN coordinator and for having organised a forum in 2007 for the BJD with the ISC and local network and the Thai Orthopedic Association. He has provided leadership in research, teaching, and patient care in musculoskeletal conditions, in Thailand.

Director Tom Fullan, Healthcare Services, Canada –

Nominated as a Bone and Joint Decade Ambassador for his work as Director of the Canadian Orthopaedic Foundation. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the Bone and Joint Decade Canada and has significantly contributed to the recent successes in improving musculoskeletal care delivery in Canada. Mr Fullan has been a global facilitator and advocate for the mentorship program.

Prof Björn Rydevik (Sweden) –

Nominated as a Bone and Joint Decade Ambassador for his work in the initial start up of the decade in 1998. He was NAN coordinator of the Swedish Network for five years. He started up a BJD Foundation in Sweden. In addition he is President of SIROT and past medical Dean in

Gothenburg. He has attended several Network conferences on behalf of the BJD and spoke at the Alf Nachemson Symposium and the BJD World Network conference in Australia 2007.

All three received a diploma at the Gala Dinner of the BJD World Network Conference in the Gold Coast, Australia. The complete list of BJD Ambassadors is available at www.bjdonline.org

BJD 2007 International Video Award

The Bone and Joint Decade International Video Award was created to recognise innovative and creative short video presentations aimed at delivering messages to the public about musculoskeletal health. The themes of the videos are any topic which falls into the realm of ***the BJD target areas and strategy and echo the goals of the Decade.***

In 2007 several videos were entered in the competition, and at the 2007 Annual World Network Conference in Australia, all videos were featured in a special screening for conference delegates. ***The Winner*** in this competition was the ***National Osteoporosis Foundation, USA***. Dr Marcos Musafir, member of the BJD International Steering Committee and the initiator to the BJD Video Award gave the prize to Dr Edward Puzas, USBJD NAN coordinator, to accept on behalf of NOF. The video is highlighted on www.bjdonline.org

BJD beyond 2010

The BJD to Continue After 2010 was discussed in breakout groups during the Network conference in Australia. Over the final years of the decade the BJD will undergo some changes aimed at laying the foundation for a world-wide Musculoskeletal Forum for the Bone and Joint Disorders which will provide a platform for continued progress in the field of musculoskeletal science. In summary the breakout groups indicated that the BJD

should continue after 2010 and establish a sustainable structure; in addition, a global forum should be kept for coordination. Please click here to read this important declaration. [The BJD After 2010](#)

The RCOST/BJD/AFSM Meeting in Pattaya, Thailand, October 2007

The combined Congress of the Annual Asian Federation of Sports Medicine, Royal College of Surgeons of Thailand and the Bone and Joint Decade took place 19–23 October 2007 in Pattaya Thailand. On October 20 there was a Bone and Joint Decade Symposium with two separate sessions on Road Traffic Safety and on Osteoporosis and Fragility Fractures. Several members of the BJD International Steering Committee gave presentations. On October 21 there was a large patient meeting organised at Rajvithi Hospital in Bangkok with Arthritis Foundation and the Osteoporosis Foundation.

For more information contact Dr Thamrongrat Keokarn, NAN coordinator e-mail: secretariat@rcost.or.th

BJD 2008 World Network Conference and Patient Advocacy Meeting in Pune, India

The BJD World Network Conference 2008 will take place in ***Pune, India, 28 November – December 1***. The planning of the meeting has begun. Dr Wahid Al-Kharusi, member of the BJD International Steering Committee has visited Dr Arvind Chopra, NAN coordinator and host of the Indian meeting. Dr Chopra gave a short report to the delegates at the Network meeting in Australia about the venue and plans for the meeting. For more information please contact bjd@ort.lu.se or Dr Arvind Chopra, NAN coordinator, bjdindia@dataone.in or visit www.bjdindia.org

BJD 2009 World Network Conference and Patient Advocacy Meeting in Washington DC, USA

The USBJD has selected the flagship JW Marriott Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington DC to be the host site of the ***2009 BJD Global Network Meeting on October 21-25, 2009***. The meeting planning is well under way led by Stuart Weinstein and will include a session on Capital Hill.

An extensive US Bone and Joint Decade (USBJD) Newsletter can be viewed and downloaded at

<http://www.usbjd.org/rd/?Newsletter>

For more information please contact usbjd@usbjd.org

BJD Members Awarded at American College of Rheumatology Meeting for Outstanding Achievement, November, 2007

Amye Leong, BJD Spokesperson & Director Strategic Relations received a ***Distinguished Service Award*** from the ARHP at the opening ceremonies.

Dr Edward D Harris Jr., member of the BJD International Steering Committee received the supreme award from ACR, the ***Gold Medal***.

Congratulations!

NATIONAL ACTION NETWORK NEWS

BULGARIA: The Bulgarian BJD Network held an event during the 10th Jubilee National Congress of the Bulgarian Orthopaedic and Traumatologic Association in Borovets, 17-21 October 2007. The meeting was attended by more than 600 orthopaedic surgeons, traumatologists, physiotherapists and attracted the attention of the central press. On 20th October 2007 there was held a satellite symposium on innovation in the medical treatment of

osteoporosis. Prof. Peter Tivchev, President of the Bulgarian Orthopaedic and Traumatologic Association, served as a moderator. A second lecture was held by Prof. Anna-Maria Borissova, a leading Bulgarian endocrinologist and expert in osteoporosis. For more information ptanchev@abv.bg

FINLAND: In the last issue of the *Tules 10+* periodical, which is widely distributed by the Finnish NAN to those involved in the treatment of musculoskeletal disorders, patients suffering from MSD and politicians, Finnish social and health minister Liisa Hyssälä stressed the importance of the prevention and treatment of occupational MSD. She states that of the yearly around 5000 new occupational disorders in Finland, 30% are various MSD. She further emphasizes that MSD are the most common occupational hazard in the European Union, and in Finland the major cause of premature disability pensions. The health minister is concerned about the still increasing trend of absence from work and stresses that good work place conditions increases productivity and are thus also an important competition factor. She stresses the importance of the prevention of MSD and states that by working together we can improve the well-being of the musculoskeletal system and control risk factors both at work and during leisure time. The *Tules 10+* periodical also reaches a high number of patients with MSD and patients are encouraged to present their personal views on MSD in every issue. In addition, a well-known Finnish comedian, “Dr. Kaikkonen” who has his own highly popular TV show on channel 2, has been recruited to present his quite original views when interviewed. He also actively participates in a recently started MSD awareness and implementation campaign in the Suonenjoki county, where a similar but more locally directed periodical reaches every inhabitant through the mail.

For more information contact NAN-coordinator Dr. Mats Grönblad at mats.gronblad@hus.fi

HUNGARY: The Hungarian Bone and Joint Decade Foundation organized a successful one day conference titled: *Osteoarthritis, the epidemics of the 21st century* at Budapest on the 7th of September. Among the invited speakers was Prof. Karel Pavelka, the national coordinator of the Czech Republic, Prof. Miklós Szendrői, Ambassador of the Decade, Géza Bálint the National Coordinator. The speakers outlined the increasing burden of osteoarthritis, the recent developments of diagnosis, medical and surgical treatment and rehabilitation.

The Hungarian Osteoporosis Patients’ Association organized a press conference and meeting celebrating *Osteoporosis Day*. The press conference and the meeting took place on the ship “Europe”, cruising on the Danube. The topic of the press conference and of the meeting was: *Risk factors of osteoporosis*. More than two hundred osteoporosis patients took part on the cruise. For more information contact Dr Géza Bálint at bjd@t-online.hu

JAPAN: BJD Trans-Eurasian Motorcycle Campaign

On 5 August, Mr. Shinji Kazama, a 57-year-old world famous motorcyclist and adventurer, and Dr. Nobuyuki Takenaka, an orthopaedic surgeon, completed their 7-week Trans-Eurasian motorcycle ride to bring the message on “Bone and Joint Decade” to the people in the countries they passed through. They visited the following three major trauma centers: Russian Ilizarov Scientific Center on 10 July, Trauma Center Murnau on 25 July and Groupe Hospitalier Pitie-Salpetriere on 31 July.

Mr. Shinji Kazama rode up 6005 meter high of Mount Everest in 1985, and reached to North Pole in 1987 and to South Pole in 1992. He recently recovered from his leg fractures at Dakar Rally 2004 and decided to

help the BJD worldwide mission. For more information e-mail: kokubun@nishitaga-hp.go.jp

LEBANON: *Magida El Roumi Accepts to Become the Patron of the Lebanese Osteoporosis Prevention Society and the Lebanese National Action Network of the BJD*

Magida El Roumi, a well-known Lebanese singing star, has honored the Lebanese Osteoporosis Prevention Society and the Lebanese National Action Network of the BJD with her acceptance to become their Patron. Magida needs no introductions in the Arab World as she is one of the Middle East's most admired and respected singers and is also already a Goodwill Ambassador to the FAO. She has always sung with great feeling and emotion about the events she has witnessed: the terrible 15-year civil war in Lebanon, which she lived through, refusing to leave, and also the various conflicts and injustices taking place in the region to this day.

She gave a memorable performance at a concert held at the First Pan Arab Osteoporosis Conference in 2000. For more information please contact Dr Yasser Yaghi at yaghiy@hammoudhospital.com

MOROCCO:

Dr Thami Benzakour, Regional coordinator of the North African countries has contacted the 5 BJD coordinators of North Africa: Prof Ahmed Salem Ould Soumeida (Mauritania); Prof Mustapha Trafah (Morocco); Prof Mohamed Laïd (Algeria); Prof Slaheddine Sellami (Tunisia); Prof Saddig Bendalla (Libya).

He has asked them to organize some regional meetings and also discussing the importance of participation from the North African region in future World Network Conferences.

For more information please contact e-mail: t.benzakour@menara.ma .

NORWAY:

Conference on back pain in Norway

Under the title "The care for back patients in Norway - down with a broken back?" the Norwegian branch of BJD arranged a one-day conference on October 16, 2007 in honour of International Spine Day. About 100 people attended the event, which featured 12 lecturers with different backgrounds. Both scientists, surgeons, professors, politicians, doctors and patients held informational and inspirational speeches on different themes.

The conference was split in two parts; First the political aspect of health care to people with back problems was addressed.

Economical issues, the status of back patients in the health care system, and a patient's own story, were among the subjects in the first part.

The second part was named "What can be done?" and contained interesting speeches and debates about how the care for back patients can and should be different and better in the future. For more information contact Jack Skrolsvik, NAN coordinator at Jack.Skrolsvik@revmatiker.no

SLOVENIA: Prof Radko Komadina reported that the BJD Network is progressing in Slovenia. The NAN was organized in 2001. Since that time there have been two meetings with inclusion of multiple musculoskeletal healthcare specialists.

Summary of achievements:

1. *Have been able to affect change in laws to allow all citizens to obtain needed medication including those for osteoporosis.*
2. *DEXA scans are now readily available*
3. *Laws have been enacted to mandate wheelchair access for new construction.*

4. A national Trauma registry has been formed
5. A Spine society has been organized to evaluate new technologies.
6. The waiting time for total joint replacement has been lowered from a 3 ½ years to less than 2 years now.

For more information contact Prof Komadina, e-mail: sbcrdi@guest.arnes.si

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

Change of NAN coordinators in Nigeria and Russia

NIGERIA: Dr Francis Owosina has stepped down his position as NAN coordinator and recommended Dr Wahab Yinusa, at the National Orthopaedic Hospital, Lagos as his worthy substitute. For more information please contact Dr Yinusa, e-mail: boboyinus@yahoo.com

We welcome Dr Yinusa and at the same time we extend our thanks to Dr Owosina for all his excellent work in the Nigerian NAN.

RUSSIA: Prof Alexander Krasnov has retired and new NAN coordinator in Russia is Prof Vladimir Shevtsov, Head of the Russian Ilizarov Scientific Centre (RISC) for Restorative Traumatology and Orthopaedics. For more information gip@rncvto.kurgan.ru

A brochure in Russian on the Bone and Joint Decade could be found on www.bjdonline.org

We welcome Prof Shevtsov and thank Prof Krasnov for his time in the Russian NAN.

BJD Latin American meeting

Dr Marcos Musafir, member of the BJD International Steering Committee and President of the Brazilian Orthopedic Association



and South American leading expert on Road Safety and Trauma, reported that a BJD Latin American meeting was held recently during the SBOT Congress in São Paulo with 18 presidents of Latin America to discuss Road Traffic Injuries (RTI) and BJD promotion. For more information mmusafir@uol.com.br

REMINDER!

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

***NEW Global Corporate Partner for
Technical Development***

The BJD is proud to announce the support of CeramTec AG as a new global corporate partner for Technical Development.

CeramTec is a German company producing ceramic material for orthopaedic applications. To learn more about CeramTec, visit www.ceramtec.com

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 February 28, 2008. For information to be included, please submit before February 15.

***Contact us:
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***We wish you all
A Wonderful Holiday Season and A Happy and
Healthy New Year***

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