



The Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010

INFOLETTER 56

February 2009

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 2008 Bone and Joint Decade World Network Conference and Patient Advocacy Seminar

The ***Bone and Joint Decade World 2008 Network Conference and Patient Advocacy Seminar*** took place in Pune from 28 November to 1 December. Delegates of the four-day conference, came together for this annual forum which helps shape the direction of bone and joint health policy around the world, in spite of turmoil caused by militant attacks in Mumbai just days earlier. The BJD annual forum brought together 100 Patient Advocacy Leaders and National Action Network Coordinators from around the globe for a unique, multifaceted programme.



The main focus of the 2008 meeting was on ***Challenges in Musculoskeletal Healthcare in Asia***. Other topics were ***Childhood Rheumatic Conditions, Road Trauma and Injury Prevention, Rural Access to Care, and Public Outreach***.

Highlights of the events during the conference included:

Bone and Joint Decade Road Traffic Safety Event Helmet Giveaway

At this year's Network Conference BJD delegates took part in a Public Walk on the streets of Pune. During the event the delegates handed out 1000 safety helmets free to motorcycle and moped riders on the city's busy roads, in an effort to encourage safe riding practices. As an outreach programme, it was designed to create awareness of the importance of helmet-wearing and to stimulate behaviour change in road users. The event is part of the BJD's Trauma Reduction programme. To read more about this event, and to see the video, click [here](#)



Visit to the rural Village of Bhigwan

The two-day Patient Advocacy Seminar in India began with a visit to the Village of Bhigwan to learn about the Community-Oriented Program for Control of Rheumatic Diseases (**COPCORD**) and also to discuss the importance of public outreach campaigns in a rural setting.



Delegates had the chance to visit the village, hear an overview of the COPCORD programme which has brought improved musculoskeletal health care to the area, and to take part in a practical exercise aimed at gathering information about existing systems and compiling a needs evaluation, which would then be used to build an effective public education programme. Delegates were privileged to lively discussions both with those who deliver care as well as those who receive care. Click [here](#) to read more and see the video.



One of the themes of this year's Network conference was: "***Childhood Arthritis***" with a specific symposium chaired by Dr Ross Petty from Canada. It was the first time that the Bone and Joint Decade focused on Paediatric Musculoskeletal Conditions at a Network meeting.

During the conference ***BJD Pune Declaration*** was signed by all members of the International Steering Committee and read to the congregation. This global statement calls for ongoing surveillance of the burden of musculoskeletal diseases in all countries, along with area-appropriate strategies for prevention, patient education programmes, and the wide dissemination of tools for the identification of those with a high risk of potentially progressive musculoskeletal conditions. Click [here](#) to read more and to download the Declaration.

Dr Arvind Chopra, NAN Coordinator for India and Director & Consulting Rheumatologist, Center for Rheumatic Diseases, Pune hosted this year's conference. The BJD International Steering Committee (ISC) wishes to thank Dr Chopra and his team for all their hard work to make the event a great success.

Video Coverage and Speakers' Presentations from the meetings are now available on

2008 International Patient Advocacy Seminar
<http://www.bjdonline.org/default.aspx?contid=2009>

2008 World Network Conference
<http://www.bjdonline.org/default.aspx?contid=2015>

ePoster session

All Network coordinators were asked prior to the conference to report on their yearly activities in an "ePoster". All ePosters were available to the delegates for viewing during the meeting. The evaluation committee consisting of Prof Mieke Hazes, Dr Karsten Dreinhöfer, and Prof Shoichi Kokubun of the ISC reviewed the posters. The winner of the 2008 ePoster Award was the NAN Romania represented by Dr Mihai Berteanu, NAN coordinator. Please visit

http://fileserv.nko.se/india/cd/BJD_Pune_India_2008/Posters.html to see the posters.

2008 BJD International Award Recipients and BJD Ambassadors

The 2008 BJD International Awards were given to 3 National Action Networks; one in each category:

Australia BJD (Special Achievements)
Hungary BJD (Awareness)
Lebanon BJD (Research and Funding Relations)

Australian National Action Network - Nominated for the BJD Special Achievement Award for ***Benjamin Horgan*** who has championed Bone and Joint Decade for Australia as a patient partner, lobbyist, administrator, public

relations consultant, public speaker, and advocate. Ben has worked tirelessly for over eight years to contribute to the success of the BJD in Australia.

When media has been required, or any public speaking in any state of Australia is required, Ben is there to deliver the story. When networks and relationships have needed to be made and other members of the BJD Australia Steering Committee have not been available, Ben is there to do it. When contributions and involvement are required for the BJD Patient Partnership Program, Ben is there to provide this. Ben, together with the BJD Australia Steering Committee has worked tirelessly for the cause.

Hungarian National Action Network – Nominated for the Bone and Joint Decade Awareness Award for ***Katalin Dúl Szabóné*** who has championed Bone and Joint Decade for Hungary. She founded the Foundation of the Hungarian Bone and Joint Decade, which is the operative organ of the Hungarian National Action Network. Mrs. Kati Dúl administered all the activities of the Hungarian NAN for the past 10 years to include research and epidemiological studies, published books and other materials, organized congresses and meetings, TV film featuring the aims and achievements of the BJD, and translated most of the BJD material into Hungarian. She has played a pivotal role in fund raising for the BJD and continues to inform the Hungarian people about the burden of musculoskeletal disease.

Lebanon National Action Network -- Nominated for the Bone and Joint Decade Research and Funding Relations Award for ***Professor Yasser Yaghi*** who has provided leadership and direction for Lebanon's NAN during the past three years. During this time he has contributed to many disciplines in the fields of musculoskeletal diseases, patient care and health policies and was appointed by HE Minister of Public Health Dr

Mohammad Khalifeh to be President of the Lebanese National Program for Prevention of Accidents, Osteoporosis and Musculoskeletal Diseases (2007). His joint collaboration with the ESCWA-UN (2006-2007) as an adviser on the "Establishment of an Injury Prevention Program" led to collection of national data about amputation in Lebanon and three mission reports about this subject mentioning distribution, causes and incidence of amputation in Lebanon. His broad orthopedic experience coupled with unique personal leadership and in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health in Lebanon and the WHO office, led to the completion of 1st national survey on Incidence of Hip Fractures in Lebanon and initiated the establishment of a National Hip Registry. Professor Yaghi is keen researcher and dedicated orthopedic surgeon, his research led to the authorship of more than 40 articles covering the fields of orthopedic surgery, osteoporosis and epidemiology.

The Award recipients received on behalf of their networks an award of 1500 USD each and an award certificate at the Gala Dinner at the BJD World Network Conference in Pune, India.

New Ambassadors for 2008

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

Mr. Shinji Kazama (Japan) – Nominated as a Bone and Joint Decade Ambassador for his dedicated and passionate promotion of the Bone and Joint Decade. Since his severe injury in the 2004 Paris-Dakar Motorcycle Rally, he has crossed the Eurasian Continent by motorcycle promoting the awareness and importance

of Bone and Joint health. He has currently traversed the African Continent by motorcycle in a campaign for the Bone and Joint Decade. He plans to travel to Australia as well as North and South America in his promoting of Bone and Joint Health.

Dr. K M Mahendranath (India) – Nominated as a Bone and Joint Decade Ambassador for his pivotal role in spreading the BJD message and increasing awareness all over the Indian sub continent. He has worked actively with the patient support groups with musculoskeletal disorders. He has championed the cause of patient education throughout India.

Dr. Arvind Chopra (India) – Nominated as a Bone and Joint Decade Ambassador for being a leader in India for the BJD through his work in the COPCORD program, identifying data on burden of musculoskeletal disease in India, and developing educational activities. He worked tirelessly in organizing the BJD NAN and advocacy meeting this year in Pune. He has contributed to the India NAN and BJD.

Prof. Vladimir Ivanovich Shevtsov (Russia) – Nominated as a Bone and Joint Decade Ambassador for his extensive work dealing with the problems of trauma to and diseases of the musculoskeletal system. As Director General of the Russian Ilizorov Scientific Center, Professor Shevtsov has devoted himself to Restorative Traumatology and Orthopaedics. He is an advocate for the Bone and Joint Decade with an emphasis on musculoskeletal science.

The BJD Ambassadors received a diploma at the Gala Dinner of the BJD World Network Conference in Pune, India. The complete list of BJD Ambassadors is available at www.bjdonline.org

BJD 2008 International Video Award

The Bone and Joint Decade **International Video Award** was created to recognise innovative and creative short video presentations which deliver 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 which echo the goals of the Decade.**

In 2008 several videos were entered in the competition, and at the 2008 Annual World Network Conference in Pune, India all videos were featured by a jury who announced the two winners. The **Winners** in this competition were the **National Action Networks in Sweden and Australia.** Prof Nicolas E Walsh, member of the BJD International Steering Committee gave the prize to Anne Carlsson and Kerstin Källander, Sweden, and to Mr Ben Horgan, Australia. The videos are highlighted on www.bjdonline.org

BJD INDIA NAN

Dr Arvind Chopra, NAN Coordinator, regrets to announce the sad loss of **Mr PC Nahar**, BJD India NAN. Dr Arvind Chopra wrote the following obituary for Mr Nahar, BJD Ambassador:

Indian Arthritis Patients Lose a Champion

In 2000 Mr PC Nahar played a seminal role in founding Mission Arthritis India (MAI), a patient support group, and remained an active chairman until his unexpected demise on 17 Dec 2008 after a sudden brief illness. Along with MAI, he joined hands with several peers and medical experts to launch the Bone and Joint Decade India (BJD) in Nov 2000 from Pune. As recent as Nov 2008, Mr Nahar played a pivotal role to hold the 8th World BJD Conference and Patient Advocacy Meeting. He was also the founding co-chair for Arthritis Research

and Care Foundation-Center for Rheumatic Diseases and continued to contribute significantly towards shaping its various community research and services programs including the WHO COPCORD (community oriented program for control of rheumatic diseases) in village Bhigwan (Pune). As a courageous patient of chronic disabling arthritis for over two decades, Mr Nahar will be best remembered for his indomitable spirit to raise awareness and promote health education for arthritis and the excellent MAI publications which are read by several thousands of patients all over Maharashtra and other Indian states. In several publications, editorials and speeches, Mr Nahar had repeatedly emphasized that patients of arthritis predominantly suffer because of lack of knowledge and that doctors need to empower patients so that they can play a proactive role in their management. He will always be remembered for his valuable contribution to BJD India and to the entire global network.

For more information contact Dr Chopra at bjdindia@dataone.in

Establishment of “Musculoskeletal (MSK) TAG” in ICD-11

The WHO has initiated a revision of ICD-10 to ICD-11. The Bone and Joint Decade (BJD) has through direct contacts and visits been able to establish the importance of creating a Musculoskeletal (MSK) ICD-11 TAG group. The ICD classification is the base for DRG-grouping and for the reimbursement in all western countries.

This is probably one of the most important moves that BJD has been able to initiate during the course of the Decade.

The planning and the election of members of the MSK TAG have begun and there will be a start up and a meeting in Tokyo to be held from April 8 to April 9. The BJD International Steering Committee has addressed this to major orthopedic and

rheumatology organisations and asked them to nominate a member to be part of the work. In order to effectively influence the new classification there needs to be sub-groups working within different areas. The Japanese Orthopedic Association (JOA) has kindly accepted through Prof Shoichi Kokubun, member of the BJD International Steering Committee (ISC), and Prof Katsjuji Shimizu, spine surgeon, to arrange for the first face-to-face meeting. For more information please contact Prof Shoichi Kokubun, kokubun@nishitaga-hp.go.jp

***BJD 2009 Global Network
Conference and Patient Advocacy
Meeting
October 21-24, 2009, Washington
DC, USA***

USBJD is pleased to announce plans for the Bone and Joint Decade Global Network Conference, to be held October 21 – 24, 2009, at the JW Marriott in Washington, DC, and hosted by the USBJD.



Official patient, health care professional, and specialty society representatives from about 60 countries will be attending.

Invitations for the President, Chief Staff Officer, and Decade representative have been extended to all USBJD participating organisations to attend. This conference represents the first time in history such a broad-based assemblage of musculoskeletal organisations will meet in the United States.

The primary goals of the conference are

- To raise awareness and advocate for musculoskeletal health
- To develop a roadmap for the future to build on the momentum created by the Bone and Joint Decade.

The program consists of a two-day Patient Advocacy Meeting, October 21-22, and the Global Network Conference, October 23-24, a two-day education and a strategic planning meeting for health care providers, patients, patient advocates, government officials, and industry.

During the afternoon and evening of Thursday, October 22, the program will focus on raising awareness of musculoskeletal conditions on Capitol Hill for U.S. delegates, including patients and the leadership of USBJD participating organisations. Arrangements will be made for international delegates to meet with officials from their own embassies, and then to join the U.S. delegates on Capitol Hill.

Action: The USBJD invites you to start planning your attendance, as well as to begin thinking about what messages you would like to pass on to your Government through the representatives in Washington DC. With these ideas, the program will be designed to focus the messages relevant to each NAN. For more information, please contact Toby King of the US BJD at tobyking@usbjd.org and Sara Martin of BJD International at smartin@skynet.be

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

Mark the dates:

**BJD Patient Advocacy Seminar
Wednesday & Thursday, October 21-22**

**BJD Global Network Conference
Friday & Sunday, October 23-24**

Venue: The JW Marriott, Washington DC

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

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

The Bone and Joint Decade at the WHO

Dr Marcos Musafir, member of the BJD International Steering Committee, from Brazil now has a position at the WHO in Geneva. He has been working at the



agency since November 2008. Dr Musafir is now part of the Violence and Injury Prevention Department coordinated by Dr Etienne Krug and Dr Charles Mock. Working with the WHO/BJD Trauma Care Project, Dr Musafir will be creating trauma care guidelines, increasing attention to trauma and musculoskeletal care, and empowering NANs to build musculoskeletal and trauma care as one official health priority.

The WHO Global Trauma Care Stakeholders Forum will be held in Rio de Janeiro on October 29-30, 2009. The Forum will emphasize the goals, creating tools and key messages to trauma surgeons to convince the health decision makers about the social, human, economic and scientific importance of ***Trauma Care***. For more information please contact musafirm@who.int

GREAT NEWS FROM Côte d'Ivoire

We are pleased to announce that a new country, Côte d'Ivoire, is joining our global network. Professor Jean Claude Daboiko, from Cocody – Abidjan, will act as the National Action Network Coordinator (NAN coordinator).

The NAN is gathering the Society of Rheumatology, the Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and the Society of Rehabilitation.

The Ministry of Health of Côte d'Ivoire has signed the Declaration of Support.



For more information please contact Prof Daboiko at jcdaboiko@hotmail.com

63 GOVERNMENTS ARE NOW SUPPORTING THE DECADE!

NATIONAL ACTION NETWORK NEWS

Please visit the link http://fileserv.nko.se/india/cd/BJD_Pune_India_2008/Posters.html and you will find the ePosters 2008 with information on the activities in the different National Action Networks.

Change of NAN coordinator in Australia

Mr Ben Horgan, BJD Ambassador, has stepped down as NAN coordinator in Australia. Mrs Ruth Lilian is the new NAN coordinator. She can be reached at ruthlilian@optusnet.com.au

We welcome Ruth Lilian and at the same time we extend our thanks to Ben Horgan who has been doing an excellent work in Australia but also on the global arena.

President-Elect Joshua J Jacobs, MD, USBJD

Dr Jacobs was elected President-Elect at the Annual/Board meeting held June 9-10, 2008. Dr Jacobs will serve as USBJD President from June 2009 - 2011.

For more information please contact: tobyking@usbjd.org

Our current status:

***97 BJD National Coordinators
63 Supporting Governments
62 National Action Networks***

ACT NOW!

***The BJD Action Week
October 12 – 20,
Every year***

***Start planning for the Action Week 2009
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

SOCIETY UPDATE - IMPORTANT

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

Next Infoletter

Will be sent on April 29, 2009. For information to be included, please submit before April 15.

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