



# The Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010

## INFOLETTER 48

August/September 2006

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 2006 World Network Conference and Patient Advocacy Seminar in South Africa**

are taking place in a few weeks time from 1-4 November, 2006 at the Southern Sun Elangeni Congress Hotel in Durban, South Africa. Professor Girish Mody, NAN coordinator, South Africa, [modyg@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:modyg@ukzn.ac.za) is hosting this year's meeting, which is the very first BJD World Network Conference to be held in Africa.



*Southern Sun Elangeni*

#### **Contact details:**

Southern Sun Elangeni  
63 Snell Parade  
Durban  
Tel: +27 31 362 1300  
Fax: +27 31 332 5527  
[elangeni@southernsun.com](mailto:elangeni@southernsun.com)

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. The full program is now available on [www.bjdonline.org](http://www.bjdonline.org)

The theme of this year's Network Conference is: "**Strategies for the Prevention of Bone and Joint Disorders**". It is an important meeting where **the BJD Global Standards of Care Documents on Osteoporosis/Hip Fractures and Pain** initiated at the 2005 World Network Conference in Ottawa, Canada will be proposed for global acceptance by the conference attendees.

In addition, the new **BJD Strategic Plan 2006 - 2010 and Beyond** will be presented. The BJD International Steering Committee has held several working sessions to discuss key issues to the future of the BJD. We have now finalised a document which identifies the BJD's essential focus points for the coming years. We have asked all our BJD National Action Networks (NANs) for their input on the Strategic Plan and incorporated the comments in the document.

The Network Conference follows the Patient Advocacy Seminar (see below) and will begin with a Welcome Reception on the evening of Thursday, November 2, and continue through November 3 and 4, Friday and Saturday. Registration for the meeting will be open on November 2 from 14.00 - 17.00. There will also be a NAN-Mentor Individual Contact Forum during the afternoon November 2 with the possibility for the NANs to meet with a member of the BJD International Steering Committee to discuss individual issues related to the NAN.

### ***The BJD 2006 PATIENT ADVOCACY SYMPOSIUM***

Plans for our second Bone and Joint Decade International Patient Advocacy Seminar ([www.bjdonline.org](http://www.bjdonline.org)) in Durban South Africa have come together nicely and we're pleased to offer delegates a full training programme which begins on Wednesday 1 November and continues through Thursday 2 November, after which we will join the 2006 BJD World Network Conference, through Saturday 4 November.

The foundation for this year's Patient Advocacy Seminar will be practical advocacy skills training, with the objective of building an understanding of the patients' role in delivering messages, particularly messages about prevention, evidence-based medicine, minimum standards of care, and practitioners and patients working together. The targets for these messages are the government, the media and the public in order to influence public policy on bone and joint health, and musculoskeletal science.

Please contact the BJD Secretariat [bjd@ort.lu.se](mailto:bjd@ort.lu.se) with applications or queries.

### ***BJD Pals Website***

Don't forget to visit [www.bjdpals.org](http://www.bjdpals.org) for monthly updates on global patient advocacy activities in the musculoskeletal field. Our volunteer BJD Pals Reporters contribute articles on a regular basis and we encourage interaction on these issues using the site's bulletin boards. Please join us on [www.bjdpals.org](http://www.bjdpals.org) and if you would like to get involved, please contact BJD Communications Manager, Sara Martin [smartin@skynet.be](mailto:smartin@skynet.be).

### ***September eLecture: Orthopaedics in Ethiopia***

As first presentation this Autumn in our Bone and Joint Decade eLecture series, we introduce Dr Scott Innes, from the University of California, Davis Medical Centre, giving a personal overview of his time spent volunteering at the Black Lion Hospital in Addis Ababa.

In his eLecture, *Orthopaedics in Ethiopia*, Dr Innes presents several unique cases seen during his time at the Black Lion, and discusses how he used the opportunity to teach local physicians about trauma surgery, as well as using the experience to expand his own knowledge of the less common pathology presented.

Please go to [www.bjdonline.org](http://www.bjdonline.org) and click on eLectures to view it.

### ***UN Agrees New Treaty to Improve Rights of People with Disabilities.***

The United Nations General Assembly has agreed on a new treaty which will give strengthened rights to the 650 million people with disabilities around the world. The treaty is set to be adopted by the General Assembly during its 61st Session in September, 2006. Please go to [www.bjdonline.org](http://www.bjdonline.org) to read more.

### ***HELMETS: A road safety manual for decision-makers and practitioners***

A road safety manual for decision-makers and practitioners focusing on the issue of helmets has been published and launched in Bangkok, Thailand. The manual has been produced by WHO under the auspices of the UN Road Safety initiative, in collaboration

with the Global Road Safety Partnership, the FIA Foundation for the Automobile and Society, and the World Bank, as one of a series of documents that aim to provide practical advice on implementing the recommendations of the World Report. To download a copy of the manual see [www.grsproadsafety.org](http://www.grsproadsafety.org) or [http://www.who.int/roadsafety/projects/manuals/helmet\\_manual/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/roadsafety/projects/manuals/helmet_manual/en/index.html)

Through its GRSI programme, GRSP is assisting in the practical implementation of the manual in the ASEAN region through a series of workshops to help decision-makers draft national programmes to increase the use of helmets in their countries. The first of these workshops is being held in Thailand this week. More information on the Thailand workshop, next steps and the roll out of the manual in other countries will be included in the next edition of GRSP "e-News".

***"GRSP News": Edition 18 now available***

GRSP has published the 18th edition of its printed newsletter "GRSP News", which will be sent to subscribers shortly. To download a pdf copy of the newsletter, please click [here](#).

***WHO recognises importance of preventing arthritis and other musculoskeletal conditions across Europe and need for action.***

WHO recognises the importance of musculoskeletal conditions across Europe which, along with the other noncommunicable diseases account for over three quarters of the burden of disease in Europe. The impact of arthritis and other musculoskeletal conditions on quality of life and the costs of health and social care were highlighted as well as the concerns about the increasing burden due to the ageing of the population and changes in risk factors such as obesity and lack of physical activity. The WHO European Strategy for Noncommunicable Diseases,

which was adopted by all 53 member nations at the 56<sup>th</sup> Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe in Copenhagen 11 September 2006, recommends an integrated action on the risk factors for these conditions, such as obesity, smoking, excess alcohol and lack of physical activity as well as strengthening health systems for improved prevention and control with a vision of a Europe free of preventable noncommunicable diseases, premature death and avoidable disability. The Bone and Joint Decade has provided the WHO with evidence of the burden of musculoskeletal conditions as well as strategies for their prevention and management. The Bone and Joint Decade is now working with the WHO Regional Office for Europe towards accomplishing the goal and objectives of the strategy, which will achieve better musculoskeletal health for people across Europe. For more information please contact Prof Anthony D Woolf at [Anthony.woolf@btopenworld.com](mailto:Anthony.woolf@btopenworld.com)

***ARTICULUM Fellowship for 2006/2007***

*ARTICULUM* is a Pfizer-sponsored scientific programme for experts in arthritis and pain. The aim of *ARTICULUM* is to "Promote excellence in information exchange, education, training and disease management in arthritis and pain". It is a Canadian and pan-European programme involving internationally respected research experts in the fields of arthritis and pain. The *ARTICULUM* members participating in this Fellowship research programme are based in Europe. For more information please go to [www.articulumbfellowship.com](http://www.articulumbfellowship.com)

***Osteoporotic Fracture Campaign Newsletter***

Much has happened since the second Newsletter of the ISFR Osteoporotic Fracture Campaign. In the third OFC Newsletter correspondents from Japan and Mexico report important aspects of their national situations vis-à-vis osteoporosis and

fragility fractures. Maggie Partridge has been appointed Political Coordinator in the London Office of the OFC and can be reached at [Maggie.fractures@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:Maggie.fractures@ucl.ac.uk)

***EU Summit Conference on the Prevention and Therapy of Osteoporosis 10-11<sup>th</sup> June 2006, Vienna reported by Maggie Partridge*** – Osteoporosis was chosen as a priority issue for the Austrian Federal Ministry of Health and Women during the Austrian presidency of the European Union in the first half of 2006. The International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF) EU Consultation Panel has been working to name osteoporosis as major health care target for several years. The Austrian Society for Bone and Mineral Research (AuSMBR) and the Austrian Initiative for Bone Health have provided support to increase awareness of osteoporosis and its prevention on a European level as it is one of the most complex and cost-intensive chronic diseases in Europe. The number of osteoporotic fractures in Europe amounts to 3.8 million, 890,000 of which are hip fractures. Please visit [www.bjdonline.org](http://www.bjdonline.org) to find the OFC Newsletter.

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

***AUSTRALIA:*** The Australian NAN will host the 2007 BJD World Network Conference. Planning is still in the initial stages but the Australian coordinator can confirm that the conference will be held from 10 – 14 October, 2007, at the Courtyard Marriott Resort in Surfers Paradise on the Queensland Gold Coast. Further details will be provided as they are confirmed. For more information on the Australian NAN activities please go to [www.bjd.org.au](http://www.bjd.org.au) or contact Mr Ben Horgan, NAN coordinator, at [convenor@bjd.org.au](mailto:convenor@bjd.org.au)

***CANADA:*** The Canadian National Action Network has decided upon five priorities for the second half of the Decade:

- 1. Develop and implement a wait list strategy to improve access to hip and knee surgery.*
- 2. Develop and implement an osteoporosis strategy to enhance the level and consistency of osteoporosis care in Canada.*
- 3. Develop and implement a musculoskeletal education strategy to enhance the training of health professionals*
- 4. Train new clinical investigators with an interest in MSK research*
- 5. Optimize patient involvement in the Bone and Joint Decade.*

Please visit [www.bjdonline.org](http://www.bjdonline.org) to find an extensive update report from the Canadian NAN or contact Dr James Waddell, NAN Coordinator at [waddellj@smh.toronto.on.ca](mailto:waddellj@smh.toronto.on.ca)

***CHINA:*** The Chinese Orthopaedic Association (COA) & National Action Network of Bone and Joint Decade in China will be hosting their First International Congress November 12-15, 2006 in Beijing, China. After years of collaborative and extensive work, COA is preparing its first international orthopaedic convention. The COA 1<sup>st</sup> International Congress will take place at the Beijing JiuHua Resort and Convention Center. English and Chinese will be the formal languages during all the conference.

With support of internationally renowned specialists and colleagues, this conference will consist of paper presentations, subject lectures and updates of the orthopaedic specialty. The conference promises an intensive collective information exchange and academic seminar bringing together orthopaedic specialists from all around the world. For more information please contact Prof Qiu Guixing, NAN Coordinator at [qiugx@medmail.com.cn](mailto:qiugx@medmail.com.cn)

**ESTONIA:** On February 1, 2006 Estonian Osteoporosis Patients' Association was founded in Tallinn, Estonia. There has been a need for an organisation of osteoporosis patients for years. Obstacles in Estonia include poor knowledge of osteoporosis among the public, poor level of prevention of osteoporosis, osteoporosis treatment unavailable for patients because of expensiveness of drugs and lack of reimbursement, and poor level of information for osteoporosis patients about the disease. The president of the new Estonian Osteoporosis Patients' Association is Mrs. Maimo Teesalu. Estonian Osteoporosis Patients' Association in co-operation with Estonian Rheumatism Association organised informative meeting for osteoporosis patients in Tallinn in Estonian language on April, 4 and in Russian language on April, 6. Both meetings included lectures about osteoporosis, its risk factors, prevention and treatment. An additional special lecture was about physiotherapy and sports. Both meetings were well appreciated and had a good turn-out.

On April, 21 the Forum of Rheumatic Diseases was organised by Estonian Rheumatism Association and Estonian Society of Rheumatology. The goal of this forum was to inform publicity about the problems of patients with bone and joint diseases and to start discussion between politicians and patient organisations about these issues. For more information please contact [maria.yprus@mail.ee](mailto:maria.yprus@mail.ee)

**FINLAND:** To survey knowledge in musculoskeletal medicine, a questionnaire compiled by musculoskeletal experts was distributed nationwide in collaboration with the Finnish Doctors' Association to all doctors that had graduated in 2004-2005: altogether 950 doctors. If the results suggest serious deficiencies in knowledge, there will be negotiations with the Finnish

universities about how to improve the educational pregraduate curriculum. In October pilot meetings will be held in two communities with all those working with children and youth about musculoskeletal ailments in children and overweight problems, in order to stimulate discussion and find new ways to enhance musculoskeletal health of children and youth. If successful, similar meetings will be held at other locations and material about how to enhance musculoskeletal health in youth will then be distributed.

A free of charge regularly appearing multicolour musculoskeletal magazine provided with the BJD logo is being distributed by the NAN. The magazine is widely distributed to health professionals, the general public and politicians. In every issue, patient-oriented viewpoints are highlighted. The first issue included an editorial entitled: "Musculoskeletal Health Concerns Everyone" by Finnish President Tarja Halonen, Patron for the BJD in Finland. During the Action Week in 2006 particular emphasis will be placed upon prevention and treatment of musculoskeletal disorders in occupational health units. For more information please contact Prof Mats Grönblad, NAN coordinator at [mats.gronblad@hus.fi](mailto:mats.gronblad@hus.fi)

**GERMANY:** The German Network has launched a new website detailing German BJD Activities and resources. Please see <http://www.boneandjointdecade.de/> to visit it. For more information please contact Dr Karsten Dreinhöfer at [karsten.dreinhoefer@uni-ulm.de](mailto:karsten.dreinhoefer@uni-ulm.de)

**HUNGARY:** Dr Géza Balint has informed us about the ECHO 2006 Research Program of the Hungarian Osteoporosis Society which is a member of the Hungarian NAN. The program is aiming to screen for osteoporosis all females over 50 with osteoporotic fractures. ECHO is an abbreviation for European Collaboration for Hospitalized Osteoporotic patients with

fractures. For more information please contact [bjd@t-online.hu](mailto:bjd@t-online.hu)

**JAPAN:** Mr. M. Kamata, one of the authors of a comic book published last year by the Japanese NAN, had an opportunity to meet with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and introduced to him some of the activities of the Japanese Network when Mr Annan visited University of Tokyo on May 18, 2006.

As reported in BJD Infoletter 42, the comic book was edited for school children so that it helped them to understand the musculoskeletal system and its importance for their lives. 150,000 copies have already been distributed to all the elementary schools across the country.

Mr. Annan, who officially announced his support of the world-wide activity of BJD in 1999 highly appreciates the efforts of the Japanese NAN and showed his interest in the facts that book had been translated into Korean and would be translated into some other languages. For more information please contact Natsuko Kouga, Japanese NAN Secretariat at [kouga@joa.or.jp](mailto:kouga@joa.or.jp)

**NORWAY:** The Norwegian governmental and national campaign to promote increased physical activity among the population is making good progress. Norway NAN, has in collaboration with Rotary and the Directory of Health and Social Affairs, made an agreement with local groups in the Norwegian Rheumatism Association to start a pilot project in 2006 where people with rheumatic diagnosis are participating. For more information please contact Mrs Anne Ording-Haug, NAN Coordinator, e-mail: [anne.ording.haug@vha.no](mailto:anne.ording.haug@vha.no)

**PAKISTAN:** The NAN coordinator of Pakistan Mrs.M.H.Sherazee, S.I had a meeting with the BJD Pakistan executive committee to work out different

programmes of public awareness under the banner of Bone and Joint Decade in Pakistan. The committee will meet once a month to review the progress of various activities. The members of BJD Pakistan executive committee will initiate a campaign to involve new members from all over Pakistan.

A symposium on Orthopaedics for Family Physicians was organised by BJD Pakistan on 31st August, 2006 in PSRD Hospital. The objective of the programme was to sensitise the family physicians of musculoskeletal problems and the significance of early diagnosis and treatment.

Dr. Afzal Hussain is conducting a retrospective study on musculoskeletal trauma at PSRD hospital. The aim of the study is to create awareness among masses about the importance of early presentation of musculoskeletal trauma to a medical professional.

Under the Banner of Bone and Joint Decade Pakistan an activity was organised in Pearl Continental Hotel, at the meeting of Pakistan Women Club, Lahore to create awareness about recognition and prevention of osteoporosis in women.

The meeting was designed for and attended by women from all different social standings – wealthy to poor – and was considered a success because it brought awareness to all of a disease which knows no social boundaries.



In addition to above activities Arthritis day will be celebrated on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2006 in PSRD Hospital. For further information please contact Ms. Madeeha Anwaar, Director, Pakistan Society for the Rehabilitation Of the Disabled (PSRD) at [psrd@brain.net.pk](mailto:psrd@brain.net.pk)

**POLAND:** A conference “*Rheumatic Diseases as a Problem of Public Health*” will be held in Warsaw on the occasion of World Arthritis Day. Patron of the Conference is Minister of Health, Professor Zbigniew Religa.

On the agenda of the Conference are the following issues:

- *a new paradigm of public health*
- *ethical aspects of public funds allocation*
- *rheumatic diseases in National Health Programme 2006 - 2015*
- *rheumatic diseases among health priorities in Poland and France*
- *arthritis and primary health care*
- *needs assessment in arthritis treatment and rehabilitation*

For more information please contact Dr Jacek Kruczynski, NAN coordinator at [jacek@rose.man.poznan.pl](mailto:jacek@rose.man.poznan.pl)

**SWEDEN:** Initiated by the Swedish Network, five funding organisations have joined forces and announced a five-year grant of nine million euro for research into inflammatory conditions. For more info [http://www.vinnova.se/vinnova\\_templates/Pag e.aspx?id=12413](http://www.vinnova.se/vinnova_templates/Pag e.aspx?id=12413)

A five-year research grant of three million euro has been given for research on musculoskeletal health, societal burden and health insurance. The grant has been provided by the County Council of Scania and the governmental health insurance [www.morse.nu](http://www.morse.nu). This is being led by Associate Professor Ingemar Petersson, chair of the Swedish BJD Foundation.

To celebrate the midterm of The Bone and Joint Decade the general medical meeting in Gothenburg will this year focus on musculoskeletal conditions with more than 15 symposia covering bone and joint disorders. For more info <http://www2.svls.se/svls.cs>

To coincide with the World Osteoporosis Day on October 20, Prof Olle Svensson, Umeå is organising a full day symposium on osteoporosis in Stockholm.

For more information on BJD activities in Sweden please contact Ms Inga-Britt Lindström, [info@rorg.se](mailto:info@rorg.se)

**USA:** The USBJD plans are underway for this year’s National Action Week (NAW), October 12-20. The goal of National Action Week is to educate Americans on the prevention and treatment of musculoskeletal conditions, and will include presentations to school children.

The USBJD Board has approved formation of a committee to organize the BJD Annual Global Network Meeting to take place in the U.S. in 2009. Nancy Lane, MD, and Stuart Weinstein, MD, have been appointed co-chairs. The committee has chosen October 21-24 as the dates for the meeting, and Washington, DC as the location. Some 60 BJD National Action Networks (NANs) are expected to attend this event.

For more information on USBJD activities please find the USBJD eNewsletter of October 2006 at [www.usbjd.org](http://www.usbjd.org) or contact [usbjd@usbjd.org](mailto:usbjd@usbjd.org)

### **Change of NAN coordinator in Estonia**

Dr Maria Yprus is new coordinator of the Estonian NAN. Dr Yprus started the new position in June, 2006. She is a young rheumatologist working in East-Tallinn Central Hospital. She will replace Dr Karin

Laas during her maternity leave for a year or more.

We welcome Dr Yprus and at the same time we extend our thanks to Dr Laas for her excellent work in the NAN. For more information please contact [maria.yprus@mail.ee](mailto:maria.yprus@mail.ee)

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

***The days are:***

October 12 - ***World Arthritis Day***

October 16 - ***World Spine Day***

October 17 - ***World Trauma Day***

October 20 - ***World Osteoporosis Day***

***Our current status:***

***96 BJD National Coordinators***

***60 Supporting Governments***

***60 National Action Networks***

***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 November 30, 2006. For information to be included, please submit before November 20..

***Contact us:***

***The BJD Secretariat***

***Phone: +46 46 17 71 61***

***Fax: +46 46 17 71 67***

***E-mail: [bjd@ort.lu.se](mailto:bjd@ort.lu.se)***

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