



The Bone and Joint Decade **NEWS**

Promoting musculoskeletal health

Keeping people moving

www.boneandjointdecade.org

Issue 1. 2011

Seasons Greetings from the New Decade



This newsletter provides a year-end summary of the activities of the Bone and Joint Decade over the past months.

The organisation has been particularly successful at national, regional and global levels at raising awareness for musculoskeletal conditions. The following articles describe the outstanding success of the World Network Conference held in Beirut in October 2011 as well as the efforts of the International Coordinating Council to raise the profile and status of the BJD at the highest levels of the World Health Organisation.

While the ICC has concentrated on the global status of the BJD, the National Action Networks have continued to deliver significant achievements at a national level throughout the world. Many of the National Action Network initiatives and successes are also summarised in this newsletter.

Finally, improvements to the communications material and the website in support of our ongoing advocacy efforts are described along with the recent inclusion of the BJD in the Common Interest Group of the NCD Alliance.

We hope you will find this newsletter both interesting and informative and we look forward to more frequent publication of our successes during 2012.

In the meantime, thank you for your continued efforts in developing the mission of the BJD. Happy holidays and a happy and successful New Year for 2012.

Tony Woolf
On behalf of the ICC and BJD Secretariat

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

World Network conference 2011	2
World Health Organisation	3
News from the Networks	4 & 5
BJD Communications	6
Projects	7



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World Network Conference 2011

Equality in Global Health Care - Bridging the Gaps

Beirut, October 2011 – Held under the auspices of the Lebanese Ministry of Health, Lebanon was host to 'The Bone and Joint Decade World Network Conference 2011' which took place from October 14-16 at Le Royal Hotel. The summit meeting which was launched by H.E. Mr. Ali Hassan Khalil, Lebanese Minister of Health, Dr. Charaf Abou Charaf, President of the Order of Physicians, Prof. Tony Woolf, Chairperson of the BJD, Prof. Ghassan Maalouf, Medical Director of Bellevue Medical Center and Member of the Board of the BJD, Prof. Yasser Yaghi, Conference President and Mrs. Randa Berri, Middle-East BJD Ambassador, in addition to a number of local and international medical officials. It considered the gaps in the provision and quality of care for musculoskeletal conditions; identified the barriers to accessibility and proposed ways in which the BJD and supporting organizations can work together to close them.

Mr. Ali Hassan Khalil, Minister of Health in Lebanon, inaugurated the conference and said, "It brings me great pleasure to be here and support such a prestigious and dedicated summit which strives to create a world where prevention, treatment and care of people with musculoskeletal disorders are of high standards. We hope that this congress which for the first time brings together people from different backgrounds to work together on the topic of musculoskeletal disease will help us better address this as a public issue."



Mr. Ali Hassan Khalil, Lebanese Minister of Health, with Mrs. Randa Berri, Middle-East BJD Ambassador.



Baalbek, Lebanon's sacred fortress

The world-class summit featured an outstanding agenda with more than 15 key world opinion leaders as well as representatives from BJD National Action Networks, including experts from orthopaedics, rheumatology, rehabilitation, public health, patient organizations, societies and syndicates, journal editors and other relevant backgrounds.

Issues raised covered topical subjects such as problems resulting from road traffic accidents, the impact of aging populations on our societies, improving medical education, as well as the importance of public involvement and partnership between all stakeholders in raising awareness, addressing the right issues, and working efficiently to improve the life of our societies. The conference included presentations, workshops, social events, and also created and strengthened networks, providing a unique opportunity for people from different global regions to meet together.

The Bone and Joint Decade World Network Conference 2011 also held a session that focused entirely on Patient Advocacy and provided a forum for patient representatives from around the world, in particular the local region, to meet and further enhance their agenda. This was a great opportunity to facilitate the development of patient organizations.

In addition the need to develop priority for musculoskeletal conditions in the Middle East was the focus of a summit session. This resulted in the creation of the first Bone and Joint Decade Regional Forum bringing together professional and patient organizations from across the Middle East.

Future World Network Conferences

2012: The NAN in Thailand offered to host the 2012 WNC but, as you will know, Thailand has suffered from severe flooding which has led to terrible loss of life and disruption. Consequently we have agreed with the NAN in Thailand that it is impossible to hold a WNC either in 2012. We are now in discussion with other NANs who have offered to host the 2012 event. News will be sent as soon as plans are finalised.

2013: The NAN in Brazil has offered to host the WNC in 2013 in Rio di Janeiro and we will publish the dates for this in the near future.



World Health Organisation

Over the past twelve months the International Coordinating Council (ICC) has been focussed on developing much closer ties with the World Health Organisation (WHO). These efforts have been spectacularly successful. The BJD is now positioned at a high level at the WHO and has made a significant contribution on a number of issues.

Progress during the year included a meeting in Geneva in April, hosted by the BJD, received significant support from the WHO with a number of presentations by WHO staff.

Also in April, BJD Chair Tony Woolf and ICC Member Mieke Hazes were invited to participate in the WHO Global Forum



In May, the BJD was proud to support the launch of the WHO Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 which seeks to save 5 million lives over the ten-year period. The BJD worked closely with the Archbishop and local authorities of Rio to mark the launch of the Decade of Action for Road Safety by a celebratory mass and the illumination of the Statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro with the road safety "tag".

In June, the BJD participated in the launch of the landmark World Report on Disability by Dr Margaret Chan, WHO Director General, at the United Nations, New York on 9 June, 2011. The World Report on Disability suggests that more than a billion people in the world today experience disability. Surveys in Australia, Canada and USA reported that arthritis, rheumatism and back problems were the most common health conditions related to disability – "rheumatism" accounted for 30% of those over 65 years in the United States who reported limitations in their activities of daily living. Prof Tony Woolf, Chair, BJD ICC, joined leaders from other non-governmental organisations in a discussion of the report and the needs it identifies. One need identified was better data on the nature of disabilities and their determinants to enable strategies for prevention of disability and rehabilitation to be developed and prioritised.

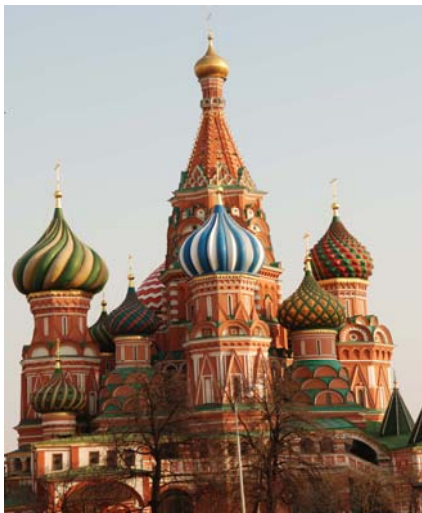
Also in June in New York, BJD members Deborah Kompansky-Giles and Amye Leong attended the WHO Global Forum on Chronic Diseases Prevention and Control on behalf of

the ICC. The Forum addressed issues about the burden and impact of non-communicable diseases and looked at recommendations for addressing them.

In September, the BJD participated in the United Nations General Assembly Non-communicable Diseases Summit, New York, 19 – 20th September 2011. The NCD Summit 2011, officially called the 'High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases' generated global commitment and momentum to implement the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases. ICC member, Dr. Deborah Kopansky-Giles attended the meeting where member states spoke of the burden of NCDs in their countries and where panels and workshops strategized how to work together to address these burgeoning issues. The BJD submitted that the WHO approach to addressing NCDs was remiss in focusing on four diseases rather than launching on the underlying risk factors that are common to numerous NCDs, including musculoskeletal (MSK) disorders.

In October, the BJD was invited to be a core partner in the WHO Global Alliance for the Care of the Injured. This is an issue we are greatly committed to and recognises the instrumental role that the BJD played in the Global Forum on Trauma Care in Rio de Janeiro in 2009. The BJD is one of only four core partners in the Alliance.

In summary, 2011 has seen the status of the BJD climb significantly with the World Health Organisation. The efforts of the ICC to maintain and further enhance this status will continue throughout 2012 with the ultimate ambition to achieve official WHO Non Governmental Organisation status in due course.



'Addressing the Challenge of Non-Communicable Diseases'.

A challenge highlighted by the BJD is that the WHO Action Plan for the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of NCD's focuses on the non-communicable diseases with the highest mortality and ignores those conditions which most affect quality of life and are the biggest causes of disability such as musculoskeletal conditions. It was also highlighted that these can be prevented and controlled in part by the common approach of modifying risk factors such as bad diets and physical inactivity.



News from the Networks

While the ICC has been focussed on developing high level relations at the WHO, the essential work of the BJD at a national level has continued through the NAN's. There have been many initiatives.

In **Hungary**, the Hungarian BJD Foundation supported the Central European Training Course for Musculoskeletal Ultrasound of EULAR and Géza BÁLINT, the National Coordinator sent a letter to the Hungarian Government on the occasion of the Hungarian Presidency of the European Union urging the Government to support the Fit to Work program, and accept the priority of musculoskeletal diseases during the Hungarian Presidency.

Bone & Joint Health Awareness Week was well supported by the Hungarian NAN with an organised Arthritis Day and Osteoporosis Day, both of which were widely reported in the media. In Budapest the Society of Rheumatic Patients organised a meeting celebrating Arthritis Day.

In **Kuwait**, Elham Hamdan MD NAN Coordinator sent news of a gap analysis to identify to what extent Kuwait has achieved the goals and targets of the BJD, the conclusions of which were that there are tremendous opportunities in Kuwait from a research, practice and advocacy perspective that make advancing towards these goals possible. An outline of these strategies is included in the final report of this study. Moving forward however will require dedication among Kuwaiti leaders in this field, and through rapid and consistent research support. The BJD goals are reachable in Kuwait, but reaching these goals will require a strong and sustainable commitment at many levels of government, provider organisations, and research communities.

In **Serbia**, the network expanded to include the Spine Group of Serbia. Working with the Ministry of education, all schools in Serbia dedicated one class of physical education to spine problems and the importance of exercise. Several instructive courses were organized for medical staff from all of Serbia.



Serbian world wide best ranked national sports team of waterpolo, tennis and basketball joined the action.

In **Turkey**, Professor Atik NAN Coordinator published "Is the Bone & Joint Decade over" in Joint Diseases and Related Disorders stating that the Bone & Joint Decade is the only organisation bringing together all stakeholders across the globe, considering all musculoskeletal conditions and providing access to high-level policy makers. "Its global objective is to raise the recognition of the importance of musculoskeletal conditions at the global, regional and national levels. The next decade intends to achieve its objectives by moving forward together."

In the **USA** the BJD National Action Week focused on disorders including Arthritis, Back Pain, Osteoporosis and the effects of Childhood Obesity on the musculoskeletal system. Raising awareness of prevention, disease management and treatment were the main aims for events and projects. Around 48% of the American population are now affected by musculoskeletal conditions and are the most common cause of severe long-term pain and physical disability. In October they held a summit in Washington called "*The Value in Musculoskeletal Care.*" This focussed on the value of care provided by the musculoskeletal health care community from the perspective of patients, providers, industry and payers. The summit provided an opportunity for leaders in the musculoskeletal industry, Members of Congress, and Administration officials to interface on this important topic.

News from the Networks

In **New Zealand**, a panel was formed called the Musculoskeletal Workforce Service Review panel whose main aim is to identify what NZ's future musculoskeletal workforce will look like in 2020 in an environment of a doubled need (due to ageing) but with only a 40% increase in Government funding becoming available. In February, the NZ NAN Annual Meeting featured a presentation of the key elements of the international strategy for BJD and brainstorm for a program of activity for the year ahead. Chris Bossley stood down as National Coordinator and the NZ Orthopaedic Assn nominated Mr Russell Tregonning as his replacement.

In **Australia**, Professor David Hunter, Professor of Medicine and ARC Research Fellow at the University of Sydney based at Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney has championed the continuation of the BJD and its musculoskeletal work by concentrating on the theme of Keeping People Moving by way of looking at "injury prevention" and more specifically knee injury prevention and osteoarthritis.

Also in **Australia**, Professor Danny Cass, Paediatric Trauma Surgeon at the University of Sydney based at the Children's Hospital Westmead, Sydney has championed the introduction of the healthcare arm to the road and traffic authorities and organisations Australia-wide involved in the Action for Road Traffic Safety.

In **Thailand** representatives from the NAN participated in the Road Safety Campaign during the popular Song Kran Festival.



BJD Thailand participated with Minister of Public Health for the Road Safety Campaign during Popular SongKran Festival April 11-17, 2011

In June 2011, the BJD **Russian** NAN ran the Conference "Ilizarov Readings" devoted to Academic Gavrii Ilizarov's 90th Birthday, the 60th Anniversary of Ilizarov Method and Frame and the 40th anniversary of the Ilizarov Center.

In **Kenya**, NAN Co-ordinator Dr Omondi Oyoo held a successful series of rheumatology meetings in Nairobi.



In **Slovenia** representatives from the NAN attended the interdisciplinary meeting of trauma surgeons, orthopaedic surgeons and physiatric for hip fractures with a focus on national guidelines for trauma surgery preparedness for mass casualty incidents. Guidelines for postoperative medical rehabilitation of elderly patients after hip fractures are in preparation.

In **Canada**, over the last 2 years Bone and Joint Decade has received funding through the Federal Government, Health Canada, to work with the 10 provinces to implement best practices for hip and knee replacement patients. Through the funding a Toolkit was developed that provides a coordinated approach to care. Implementation of this toolkit has resulted in significant improvements in quality of care for patients across the country. Using the success of this approach Bone and Joint Decade Canada has also developed and launched a comprehensive Toolkit for management of hip fracture patients which was launched in July



BJD Briefing Meeting

A Briefing meeting was held at the Medical Society of London at the time of the EULAR Congress in May to brief a number of pharma companies about the mission of the BJD and planned activities; acknowledgement of collaboration opportunities was received from a number of companies.



Communications and Website

A 'PR Toolkit' has been added to the existing website at boneandjointdecade.org the toolkit includes a range of informative and promotional materials that describe the mission, key messages, achievements and plans of the BJD. There is also a new **tri-fold and flyer**.

The PR toolkit also includes:

- World Report on Disability;
- Global Status Report on Road Safety;
- Global Status Report on Non-communicable diseases 2010
- BJD report 2000 – 2010

Problems with the existing website are known to all – especially the technical issue of failed page rendering in a number of internet browsers. Consequently, we are in the process of specifying a new website that will provide appropriate content and coverage to support the advocacy needs of the BJD Global Network. At present the website can only be viewed using Internet Explorer

Press releases

A number of press releases have been prepared and circulated explaining the participation of the BJD in global initiatives throughout the year. They can be found on the website. They include :

- Press release sent out re **WHO Decade of Action for Road Safety**
- Press release for Moscow **WHO Global Forum**
- Press Release circulated re **UN Disability Report**
- Press release sent out re Bone & Joint Decade participation in **UN General Assembly NCD Summit**

Significant Meetings Attended

the BJD was represented at a number of other events.

In June, ICC Chair Tony Woolf attended the **EFORT Congress** in Copenhagen and took the opportunity to brief a number of interested parties in the ongoing activities of the BJD.

In September, ICC Member Jim Waddell was able to take up an invitation to address the **SICOT** meeting in Prague and to inform the audience of the mission and plans of the BJD.

In November, ICC Chair Tony Woolf addressed the **ACR Board Meeting** to reinforce the value of the international aspects of the BJD and to assist the ACR to continue to be outward looking and identify opportunities for international partnerships for the future.

Also at ACR, ICC Chair Tony Woolf was a keynote speaker and gave a presentation on "How do we get policy makers to take musculoskeletal conditions seriously?". The presentation gave a full review of the aims of the BJD and its current activities. A copy can be viewed on the BJD website boneandjointdecade.org

In addition the BJD held a **Briefing Event and Reception** to coincide with ACR with about 40 invitees including representatives from rheumatology, orthopaedics, rehab, industry and also from the Young Investigators programme. Director of NIAMS, Steve Katz was able to attend and the opportunity was taken to update attendees about the goals of the BJD. The BJD hold a similar event at **AAOS** in Feb 2012.



Projects

A number of projects are being developed that are designed to further the mission of the BJD and to deliver training and education. Most significant of these are:

1) Development of an advocacy toolkit that will provide a web-based information and educational resource to empower advocates in:

- Raising awareness of the impact and associated morbidity of Musculoskeletal Disease
- Increasing the priority given to Musculoskeletal Disease in health systems globally
- Obtaining equitable access to efficacious treatments
- Improving standards of care
- Reducing disparities

2) BJD members from Kenya and the UK have been successful in securing a grant from the International League of Associations for Rheumatology to develop a training programme in musculoskeletal conditions (MSC) for health providers and patients in Kenya. This project is to enable the training of mid-level health care providers in the detection, diagnosis and management of disease with the development and utilisation of the skills and experience of patients. The innovative sustainable training programme will enable the fundamental medical needs of patients with MSC to be met locally in communities across Kenya.

Anyone interested in further information about these projects or in joining the various Task Forces please contact the office.

NCD Alliance

The BJD is now a member of the Common Interest Group of the NCD Alliance. The Common Interest Group (CIG) has been established to create a powerful network group of like minded civil society organizations who wish to work together to achieve the NCD Alliance six key objectives:

1. NCD / disease national plans for all
2. Improved lifestyles
3. Strengthened health systems
4. Global access to affordable and good quality medicines
5. A tobacco free world
6. Human rights for people with NCDs

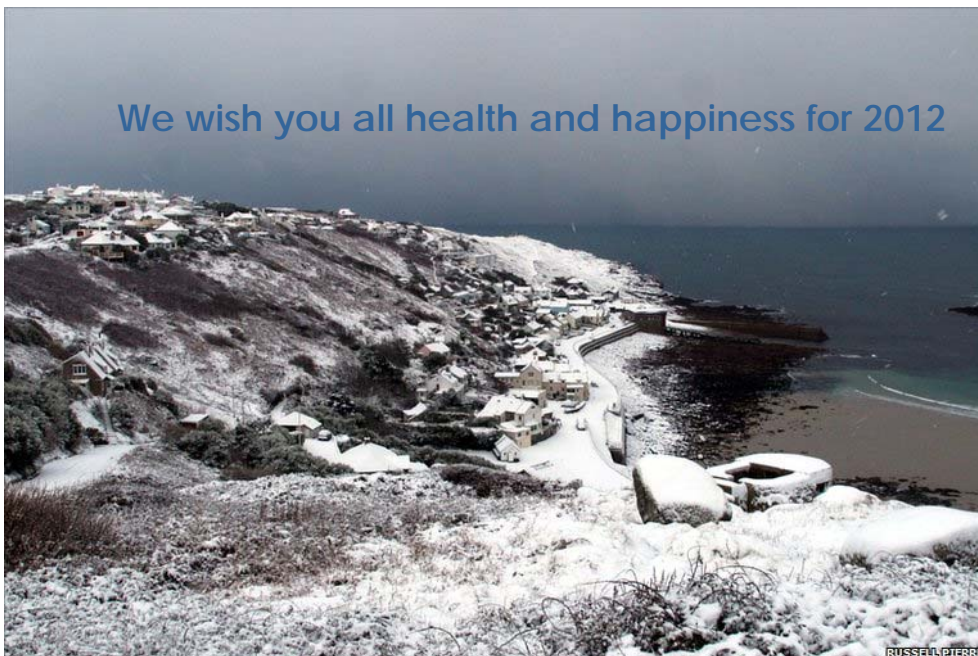
CIG members receive the latest updates and news

The NCD Alliance

Putting non-communicable diseases on the global agenda

on global NCD advocacy and the UN Summit. CIG members are also invited to join monthly webinars featuring guest speakers and members of the NCD Alliance. The webinars present an opportunity for CIG members to ask questions and share comments, as well as receive the latest news and perspectives on the global fight against NCDs.

We wish you all health and happiness for 2012



RUSSELL PIERRE

