Great News!

**Governmental Support from Canada, South Africa and China**
Now include 45 nations

**Canada:** After much effort on the part of many individuals across Canada the Federal Government of Canada has at last recognized the Bone & Joint Decade in Canada by means of a proclamation on August 9, 2002 from Anne McLellan, the Minister of Health. A press release has been sent out from the Canadian National Action Network and may be found on [www.boneandjointdecade.org](http://www.boneandjointdecade.org)/News/Highlights. For more information [www.boneandjointdecade.org](http://www.boneandjointdecade.org)/Canada or Dr. James Waddell, NAN coordinator, e-mail: waddellj@smh.toronto.on.ca

**South Africa:** On September 16, 2002, the minister of health of the Republic of South Africa, Dr Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, signed the declaration of the Bone and Joint Decade. For more information please go to [www.boneandjointdecade.org](http://www.boneandjointdecade.org)/South Africa or contact Prof Girish Mody, NAN coordinator, e-mail: modyg@nu.ac.za

**China:** The Chinese minister of health gave his support to the Bone and Joint Decade on October 12, 2002.


Speeches were also given by Cao Zeyi, chairman of the Chinese Medical Association and Prof. Qiu Guixing, president of the Chinese Orthopaedic Association.

The official endorsement ceremony was followed by a Bone and Joint Disease Symposium to celebrate the World Arthritis Day with lectures given among others by Prof. Shibi Lu, Prof. Qingming Yang, Prof. Jifang Wang and Prof. Nicolas E. Walsh.

The International Steering Committee (ISC) has decided, in accordance with international praxis using the terms today, to name China as China and Taiwan as Chinese Taipei and also changed to name Chinese Taipei and Hong Kong SAR as Regional Action Networks. For more information, [www.boneandjointdecade.org](http://www.boneandjointdecade.org)/News/Highlights.
Asian Association for Dynamic Osteosynthesis

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the organisation two meetings were held in Hong Kong and Shanghai on October 5/6 and 8/9 focussing on Road Traffic Injuries and Geriatric Fall Injuries.

The president of the society, Dr. W.Y. Shen, and the chairman of the organising committee, Prof. K.S. Leung welcomed to that meeting, co-sponsored by the Bone and Joint Decade, more than 500 guests. International faculty included Prof. Duan (Beijing Traffic Management Bureau), Prof. Liu (China Osteoporosis Foundation), Prof. Dinesh Mohan (Indian Institut of Technology), Prof. Melvin Rosenwasser (Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center), Dr. Falk Zeidler (Daimler Chrysler), Dr. Gilbert Taglang (President AIOD, Strasbourg) and Dr. Karsten Dreinhöfer (BJD).

Guest of honour delivering welcome speeches focussing on the importance of the BJD were Dr. E.K. Yeoh (Secretary for Health and Welfare and Food, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China), The Hon. Yiu-Chung Tam (Chairman, Elderly Commission, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China) and Prof Yunyu Hu (Bone and Joint Decade, China).

The Annual Network Coordinators Meeting took place at Hotel Inter-Continental, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 12–13 September, 2002, followed by an International Lecture Symposium on 14 September. Participants from 38 countries, members of the International Steering Committee and 16 patient representatives attended the meeting. The local hosts for the meeting were Dr Marcos E Musafir, member of the BJD International Steering Committee and Dr José Sérgio Franco, NAN Coordinator.

The theme for the meeting was “Springboard to Partnerships”. The meeting gave great opportunities for the NAN coordinators/NAN representatives and the Patient representatives to communicate with each other and with the members of the BJD International Steering Committee about efforts and activities within their Network. Separate meetings named Face-to-Face meetings between a NAN coordinator/NAN representative and a member of the ISC were running parallel to the meeting according to a specified schedule. A summarized report from the meeting will be sent out to the NANs.

A press conference took place on September 12, 2002 and the press release may be found on www.boneandjointdecade.org/News/Highlights. During the press conference representatives from the 5 different regions, Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America, and North America signed the Global Declaration that unites nations in the Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010.

All NAN coordinators signed the Global Declaration at an International Awards Dinner where the Award Recipients from 2001 and 2002 received an Award and a certificate.

The Brazilian Government decided to declare 2003 The Year of the Prevention of Musculoskeletal Injuries. For more information please contact Dr. Marcos E Musafir, e-mail: mmusafir@uol.com.br

Musculoskeletal eCooperative Portal Project

Rome MSeC 1-2 October, 2002

The third Musculoskeletal eCooperative Meeting was held in Rome October 1-2 2002. Representatives for all Scandinavian orthopaedic surgeons, rheumatologists in Sweden, UK (rheumatology and orthopaedic societies), Austria
(orthopaedics), Brazil (rheumatology), SICOT, EFORT and ILAR were participating. The meeting focused on two major topics, namely development of content and marketing of the MSeC portal to the members. As several of the participating Societies plan to launch their MSeC Portals during the autumn 2002, the strategy for marketing is of special interest. Each Society also developed a detailed plan for both content and marketing for the coming 6 months, which will be evaluated at next MSeC meeting in 2003.

**Paris MSeC 3-4 October, 2002**
The Rome Meeting was immediately followed by an administrators Advanced Training Course in Paris on 3-4 October, 2002. This was a follow up to the Training Course held in London in April this year.

The aim was to instruct and train the administrators in advanced portal handling as well as introduce the recently implemented E-mail system. The course was technically and pedagogically successful and the participants managed to upload a lot of new content. The new E-mail client was also of great interest and considered as a valuable new feature to the Portal. A new improved Portal design was also presented during the meeting.

The goal with this altered design is to improve both performance and impression of the portal to the users.

For more information please contact Göran Magyar, BJD Info/Webmaster, e-mail: goran.magyar@ort.lu.se

**EU Indicators for Monitoring Musculoskeletal Conditions Project**
The group met on September 20 to 22 in Oslo hosted by Prof. Dag Bruusgard and continued working on the draft of a book with the working title “Musculoskeletal Pain and Functional Limitation - The great Public Health Challenge for the 21st Century”. Based on an European Survey and literature review applied indicators are collected, reviewed and a recommendation for further standardized usage will be developed. For more info, e-mail: dag.brusgaard@samfunnsmed.uio.no

**European Bone and Joint Health Strategies Project**
The 3rd expert meeting was held from October 10-13 in Barcelona to work on interventions and strategies recommendations. The goal was to:

1) Confirm definitions of populations (at risk, early/mild, late/severe)
2) Confirm targets for interventions for the different conditions
3) Confirm effect of interventions on key outcomes, separately considering lifestyle, pharmacological, surgical and rehabilitation interventions.

Proposed recommendations were reviewed and common themes identified. In workshops strategies for different populations (normal, at risk, early/mild stage and late/severe stage) were developed and potential ways for implementation discussed. For more info: Prof. Anthony D Woolf, e-mail: woolfa@dialin.net

**BJD Action Week October 12-20, 2002**
A global press release has been sent out to highlight activities conducted around the world during Action Week 2002. The press release may be found on www.boneandjointdecade.org /News/Highlights.

The Week is designed to call global attention to your organisation’s awareness, education and advocacy activities conducted during this targeted week.
To have your activities included on the BJD website, please send in photos, press-cuttings and activity descriptions after the event to the BJD Secretariat, bjd@ort.lu.se

The BJD Ambassadors
On August 27, 2002 the Nomination Committee appointed the following BJD Ambassadors:

Edward Benzel, MD, USA
Giorgio Brunelli, MD, Italy
Joseph Croft, MD, USA
Eduardo de Rose, MD PhD, Brazil
Scott Haldeman, MD DC PhD, USA
Benjamin Horgan, Australia
Miklos Szendröi, MD PhD DrSc, Hungary
Michael Weinblatt, MD, USA

A list of all appointed BJD Ambassadors may be found on www.boneandjointdecade.org /News/Highlights.

The BJD Ambassador Program
Purpose: To recognize and honor global and national thought leaders in the musculoskeletal patient and health professional communities (patient advocate, clinician, educator, researcher, etc.) as Bone and Joint Decade Ambassadors.

Ambassadors will be responsible for promoting the mission of the Bone and Joint Decade within their countries, assisting National Network developments, facilitating contacts and making recommendations to the International Steering Committee.

New BJD Ambassador Instructions in relation to duties and responsibilities will be worked out soon. A specific task group has been set up for this.

The BJD International Award
On August 27, 2002 the Nomination Committee decided to give the 2002 BJD International Awards (1500 USD) to:

Brazil National Action Network in the category: Awareness
For more information please contact Dr. Józef Sergio Franco, NAN coordinator, e-mail: jsfranco@trendnet.com.br

US National Action Network in the category: Special Achievement
For more information please contact Prof. Stuart L Weinstein, NAN coordinator, e-mail: stuart-weinstein@uiowa.edu

A list of all appointed BJD Ambassadors may be found on www.boneandjointdecade.org /News/Highlights.

National Action Networks Activities:

Canada: The National Action Network has completed its survey of medical school curriculum devoted to musculoskeletal diseases and has also surveyed the curriculum for family practice residencies throughout Canada relating to exposure to diseases of the musculoskeletal system.

The results of this survey have been communicated to the Canadian Orthopaedic Association and form part of the Canadian Orthopaedic Association “Canada in Motion” campaign to improve public perception and government perception of the impact of musculoskeletal disease across Canada.

It is anticipated that this information will be used to try and bring uniformity to the curriculum for medical schools in Canada regarding exposure to conditions of the musculoskeletal system and to increase the number of educational hours both in medical school and in family practice training devoted to conditions of the musculoskeletal system. For more information please contact Dr. James P. Waddell, NAN coordinator, e-mail: waddellj@smh.toronto.on.ca

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Germany: On August 23rd the German Health Minister, Ulla Schmidt, invited representatives of the German NAN to Berlin. Prof. W. Puhl, German NAN Coordinator, Patroness L. Mohn, Former President of the German Parliament R. Stüssmuth and Dr. K. Dreinhöfer, BJID, discussed with the Minister potentials of the BJD in Germany, especially in regard to Prevention Programs for Musculoskeletal Conditions. For more info www.boneandjointdecade.org /Germany

The German Orthopaedic Societies (DGOOC and BVO) held their annual meeting under the presidency of Prof. Hein (Halle) in Berlin September 25 – 28, highlighting the BJD in the opening ceremony and all through the meeting. In collaboration with the German BJD Task Force on Osteoarthritis a kick-off meeting for development of German Guidelines on OA was initiated under the leadership of Prof. H.P. Scharf (Mannheim).

The German PMNR Society (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Physikalische Medizin und Rehabilitation) held their annual conference under the presidency of Prof. Gutenbrunner in Hannover on October 3-5. A special session was dedicated to the Bone and Joint Decade and highlighted interdisciplinary cooperation in “Prevention of Musculoskeletal Conditions”. Presenters included H.H. Raspe, G. Ebenbichler, H. Minne and H.-R. Casser.

The German patient organisation for Osteoporosis (Bundesverband für Osteoporose) held a well attended meeting on the World Osteoporosis Day 2002 in München with more than 1000 visitors. Prof. W. Puhl (German NAN Coordinator) and Mrs. H. Kaltenstadler (President of the BfO) highlighted the BJD during the meeting and strengthened the link between patient and scientific societies in the German NAN. Patroness of this event was Karin Stoiber, First Lady of Bavaria, guest speakers included Olympic Gold Medal Winner Rosi Mittermaier and Actress Dr. Marianne Koch. For more: Prof. Wolfhart Puhl, NAN coordinator, e-mail: wolfhart.puhl@medizin.uni-ulm.de

Italy: The Italian National Action Network has been registered as a non-profit organization (ONLUS in Italian) in summer 2002. The president of the NAN and of the ONLUS is Dr. Bianca Canesi, e-mail: reumatologia@ospedale-niguarda.it

Recent initiatives of the Italian NAN include:

- An editorial on the BJD published in “Reumatismo”, the official journal of the Società Italiana di Reumatologia (Reumatismo 2002; 54: 214-6).

- Lecture on the BJD during the annual congress of the Italian league against rheumatic diseases and the patients associations (Siena 12-13 April 2002).

- Endorsement of the following projects:
  - AMICA (Italian multidisciplinary approach to the treatment of osteoarthritis) which studied more than 30,000 patients suffering from osteoarthritis and the therapeutical approach of GPs and specialists.
  - INSIEME (National research on the socio-economic impact of rheumatic conditions) which is evaluating quality of life and disability in RA patients as well as their degree of satisfaction of the care they receive.
  - MIDA (Measure of pain in osteoarthritis), a multicenter study on the characteristics of pain in patients with knee and hip osteoarthritis in relationship with disease...
• activity and geographic origin.
• A campaign promoted by the associations of patients and the Italian league to investigate the needs of patients with musculoskeletal conditions seen in general care.

Future initiatives include:

• A general workshop with the participation of physicians, researchers, patients, industry and politicians to evaluate possible areas of intervention in musculoskeletal conditions (Padova, 14 December 2002).
• An educational campaign on osteoarthritis through the net will start in spring 2003. It is directed mainly to general practitioners and will be followed next year by a similar initiative on osteoporosis.
• An educational campaign focusing on prevention of musculoskeletal conditions in the workplace and at school is being studied.

South Africa: The Kwa Zulu Natal Department of Health and the Rheumatology Unit of the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine, University of Natal held a Rheumatology Workshop for Primary Health Care Trainers and Nurses on September 6, 2002.

A Rheumatology update, which included lectures and a practical workshop with patients, was held on October 6, 2002, in Durban, organized by the Rheumatology Unit of University of Natal.

Prof Girish Mody is the convenor of a working group, which will shortly be publishing National Guidelines for South Africa on:

a) Approach to a patient with Arthritis  
b) Gout  
c) Osteoarthritis  
d) Rheumatoid arthritis

The formal launch of the National Action Network of South Africa was held at the Hilton Hotel, Sandton, Johannesburg on October 11, 2002. Dr. K Chetty, Deputy Director General Department of Health, attended the Launch Symposium. For more information www.boneandjointdecade.org/South Africa or contact Prof. Girish Mody, NAN coordinator, e-mail: modyg@nu.ac.za

Spain: On 24-27 September 2002, the Spanish Society of Orthopaedic and Traumatology, SECOT, organized the "39 National Meeting" in Barcelona. On 25 September there was a presentation on the BJD and a special program with a focus on Osteoporosis with a symposium covering all aspects from basic science to recommendations for orthopedic surgeons for the prevention of fractures.

Dr. Enric Cáceres Palou, President of the National Congress of SECOT, and Dr. Fernando Gómez-Castresana Bachiller, President of SECOT, gave talks on musculoskeletal disorders. The Catalanian government has agreed to the BJD and Spain is now moving forward for a national endorsement.

For more information please go to www.boneandjointdecade.org/Spain or contact Dr. Enric Cáceres Palou, NAN coordinator Spain e-mail: ecaceres@hsp.santpau.es

For further information on activities in the different countries www.boneandjointdecade.org

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**The BJD logo**
By displaying the logo of the Bone and Joint Decade at key meetings or in journals, your organisation demonstrates a connection to and support for the global initiative involving over 750 organisations to improve the quality of life for people with musculoskeletal disorders worldwide. See the BJD logo guidelines [www.boneandjointdecade.org](http://www.boneandjointdecade.org)/Get Involved/Promoting your organisation’s connection to the BJD

**The BJD website**
Please send information and photos (fine quality) on activities and events to the BJD Secretariat, [bjd@ort.lu.se](mailto:bjd@ort.lu.se) and we will put it on the web. Please visit and inform in your country about [www.boneandjointdecade.org](http://www.boneandjointdecade.org) and download information.

**Next Infoletter**
will be sent out on December 18. For information to be included, please submit before December 4.

**The Bone and Joint Decade Secretariat**
If you have any questions or need any assistance please feel free to contact our Secretary in Lund, Agneta Jönsson, [bjd@ort.lu.se](mailto:bjd@ort.lu.se)

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**ACT NOW!**
We appreciate any information on the activities in your country during the Action Week, small or large eventually with photos, press cuttings etc. to be sent to the BJD Secretariat in Lund.

**Corporate partners for research and education**

**Corporate partners for technical development**