October 2000

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

Activity week

The first annual Bone and Joint Decade Action Week will be held October 12-20th 2000. We will use this week on annual basis to highlight the variety of activities happening globally in the musculoskeletal areas. A press release is attached for your use through your network or organisation. We hope everyone will be able to translate it as necessary. The International Steering Committee asks all recipients of this Infoletter to send the press release to your major local newspapers. We also encourage you to send success stories, and anything else about the Activity Week or any similar local or national action to the BJD International Secretariat for use in making the idea an even bigger success in 2001.

Govermental support

France: A French endorsement was read by Professor Liana Euller-Ziegler, lziegler@taloa.unice.frat the opening of the EULAR Congress in Nice June 21st. The endorsement was signed by the French Minister of Health Dominque Gillot. Prof. Euler-Ziegler is one of the leaders behind the newly launched European Manifesto for People with Arthritis/Rheumatism in Europe.

Argentina: Prof. Luis Muscolo, gaston.prataviera@hospitalitaliano.com.ar BJD network co-ordinator, has been influential in talking with the Health Ministry. On July 11th, 2000 Argentina’s Minister of Health, Dr Hector Jose Lombardo, declared a special governmental act endorsing the Decade. An official Launch of the Argentine BJD Program will be held on October 11th, 2000.

Russia: The Russian First Vice Minister of Public Health, Prof. A I Wyalkov, signed a BJD supporting document March 16th 2000. Prof A I Wyalkov is also the chairman of the organising committee of the BJD in Russia.

Global Road Safety Partnership

A Global Road Safety Partnership meeting with eleven participating countries has been held in Romania with the participation of Dr Karsten Dreinhofer from the BJD, karsten.dreinhofer@medizin.uni-ulm.de. For more information about the Global Road Safety Partnership, please see www.bpdweb.org.

National Action Networks on the Move

Finland: The VI National Musculoskeletal Days will be held in Helsinki November 23-24th. The days will signal the official opening of the BJD in Finland and will be opened by the Minister of Health Maija Perho, followed by a presentation on the BJD by the BJD International Steering Committee member Prof. A D Wooff. For more information contact the Finnish BJD co-ordinator: Mats Gronblad, mats.gronblad@hus.fi.

South Africa: A BJD event will take place in Durban 6th–7th of October. A Community Awerness Programme will be presented for patients and others, and subjects as arthritis, back pain and trauma to bones and joints will be discussed by health professionals. For more information please contact Prof. Girish Mody, modyg@med.und.ac.za.

Poland: During two days in September a congress organised by the Polish Ortho- paedic and
Traumatologic Society was held in Krakow together with a press conference. The congress included a symposium on "The Bone and Joint Decade 2000 - 2010 - Year 1". For more information, please contact the Polish BJD co-ordinator Jacek Kruczynski, jacek@rose.man.poznan.pl

Saudi Arabia: A symposium on the Bone and Joint Decade, is to be held Oct 28 - Nov 1, 2000 in Riyadh. Several papers on the BJD will be presented, beginning with HE, Prof Hussain Jazairy, the WHO Regional Director. This symposium will be inaugurated by HRH Prince Naif Bin Abdulaziz, the Minister of Interior in the presence of HE, Prof Osama Shobokshi, the Minister of Health for Saudi Arabia. For more information please contact Kathy Banks, kathy@sfh.med.sa

National Action Network Meeting in Oman November 26th–28th, 2000

Thanks to the invitation and generosity of BJD co-ordinator for the Sultanate of Oman, Dr. Wahid Al-Kharusi, BJD network co-ordinators will be guests of the Oman Health Ministry November 26th-28th. The annual NAN meeting will provide an opportunity to: learn about the newest initiatives of the Decade, discuss and share strategies to enhance Network collaborations and to learn how other NANs are implementing the Decade's mission. The new guidelines and charters for recognised NANs will be presented as well.

The homepage address

The BJD homepage is being redesigned for ease of navigation and a new look. The structure is being designed to be usable by national co-ordinators and networks. More information will be available at the NAN meeting in November and in future Infoletters.

New staff member

Anna Liljedahl, our very important contact person in BJD, is going to have a baby and is taking a leave from beginning of November. The new contact secretary from October 2nd is Agneta Jonsson. Anna and Agneta will work together until the beginning of Nov- ember. Agneta can be reached at e-mail: bjd@ort.lu.se.

The homepage

To speed up the content and technical level of the homepage and to be able to assist the networks with their homepage structures, Ola Olsson, ola.olsson@ort.lu.se, is responsible for the technical development and maintenance of the homepage since September 15.

The new flyer

A new flyer with information about the BJD has been printed. You can download it from our homepage, www.boneandjointdecade.org.

If you would like hard copies, please send your name and full address to bjd@ort.lu.se and we will send you some. Please use the flyer for distribution to potential BJD interested parties in your country.

The Map.

BJD is constantly updating a world map for BJD supporting countries and networks. Please see the map on our homepage: www.boneandjointdecade.org.