



Bone and Joint Decade Strategic Plan 2006 - 2010 and Beyond

Background

The information contained in this Strategic Plan is a direct continuation of an earlier Bone and Joint Decade Strategic Plan which covered the first five years of the Decade.

The BJD Strategic Plan is designed to be adjusted according to organisational, environmental, economic and political differences. The Plan is global in nature and represents the overarching goals of the global initiative. As such, certain strategies may be local in action and not as relevant to regional or national interests. It is recommended that each National Action Network (NAN) develop its own national strategic plan eventually assimilating the global strategic goals.

Disorders of the musculoskeletal system encompass a wide number of diseases and conditions. In common, they cause chronic pain and are the leading cause of severe physical disability worldwide. They include joint diseases, osteoporosis, back pain, spinal disorders, childhood musculoskeletal disorders, and musculoskeletal trauma and injuries.

Mission

The mission of the Bone and Joint Decade is to promote musculoskeletal health and musculoskeletal science worldwide.

This will be achieved by:

- Raising awareness of the suffering and cost to society associated with musculoskeletal disorders.
- Empowering patients to participate in their own care.
- Promoting cost-effective prevention and treatment.
- Advancing understanding of musculoskeletal disorders and improve prevention and treatment through research.

Vision

Our vision is a society where prevention, treatment and care of people with musculoskeletal disorders is of high standard and consistently accessible in order to improve the health-related quality of life for people with or at risk of musculoskeletal disorders.

The treatment and prevention of musculoskeletal disorders and injuries should be among the leading major health concerns in the minds, actions and funding priorities of international health agencies, governments, non-governmental organisations, medical and research communities, funders, media and the general public.

Operating Principles

The Bone and Joint Decade will hold itself accountable to:

- Be organised to reflect multi-disciplines, multi-nations and involve appropriate patient and health professional societies.
- Operate in an ethical and non-commercial manner.
- Reflect the power of diversity (cultural, geographical, gender, age, ethnicity, etc.) in its organisation.
- Be flexible and creative in developing new approaches, relationships, projects and structures to accomplish the mission.
- Be a facilitator and a catalyst for change.

Some Bone and Joint Decade Achievements up to 2006

1998 Inaugural Consensus Meeting held in Lund, Sweden to establish goals and objectives for the Bone and Joint Decade

1998 The Hungarian government was the first government to endorse the BJD.

1999 Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations, declares the UN's official endorsement of the Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010

2000 The Bone and Joint Decade is formally launched by WHO Director General Gro Harlem Brundtland at the headquarters of the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland

2000 First Bone and Joint Decade World Network Conference takes place in Oman, bringing together BJD National Action Networks from around the globe.

2000 First BJD Action Week starts on Oct 12-20.

2002 Second Bone and Joint Decade World Network Conference takes place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

2003 The official Post Office of the Vatican issues a special edition aerogramme with the Bone and Joint Decade logo which has been sent around the world.

2003 Global Technical report published with the WHO: The Burden of Musculoskeletal Conditions at the Start of the New Millennium, World Health Organization (WHO)

2003 Third Bone and Joint Decade World Network Conference takes place in Berlin, Germany, hosted by the German Health Minister

2003 Experts across Europe collaborate on the Indicators for Musculoskeletal Conditions Project funded by the EU, their report entitled Musculoskeletal Problems and Functional Limitation is published

2003 US Surgeon General publishes its first-ever Report on Bone Health and Osteoporosis

2004 Global Road Safety, spearheaded by the BJD, is declared by WHO as the theme for World Health Day

2004 UN General Assembly meets to promote Global Road Safety. The General Assembly endorses the World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention, and call for a UN Road Safety Charter

2004 UN Stakeholders Forum on Global Road Safety is held at the UN in New York

2004 50 governments have endorsed the BJD (April)

2004 Fourth Bone and Joint Decade World Network Conference takes place in Beijing, China

- 2005** European Action Towards Better Musculoskeletal Health, supported by the European Commission, is published
- 2005** The BJD portal is launched
- 2005** Fifth Bone and Joint Decade World Network Conference takes place in Ottawa, Canada
- 2005** First Bone and Joint Decade Patient Education Meeting is held in conjunction with the World Network Meeting
- 2005** Halfway into the Decade, the BJD works in collaboration with broad networks in more than 60 countries and with 750 patient and professional groups around the world
- 2006** Bone and Joint Decade Minimum Standards of Care for Hip Fractures and Minimum Standards of Care for Pain
- 2006** Bone and Joint Decade Patient Advocacy Leaders (PALs) website is launched
- 2006** United Nations agrees new treaty to improve the rights of people with disabilities
- 2006** Sixth Bone and Joint Decade World Network Conference takes place in Durban, South Africa
- 2006** Second Bone and Joint Decade Patient Advocacy Meeting is held in conjunction with the World Network Meeting

What we need to do from here:

Starting now, we will aim to develop a model which will sustain the Bone and Joint Decade as an organisation beyond 2010 and which will continue to be inclusive of all relevant stakeholders.

The Bone and Joint Decade will be action/project-based and involve NANs in all activities within areas that are focused on the mission of BJD: controlling pain, and maintaining function, mobility and independence. These actions include:

- Communicate and coordinate NAN activities, seeking global opportunities.
- Support regional collaboration. Regional councils will likely be necessary in certain areas to influence regional musculoskeletal health and musculoskeletal science priorities.
- Organise global meetings for the exchange of information to stimulate and coordinate activities for the promotion of musculoskeletal health and musculoskeletal science.
- Establish formal relations with WHO as a collaborating centre for scientific activities and as an officially recognised NGO to be seen as the source of information and expertise.
- Increase co-operation and collaboration with relevant regional and international musculoskeletal organisations.
- Encourage the development of national action plans to implement the Global Strategy.
- Provide communication using the most efficient technologies to give access to information relevant to musculoskeletal health and science.

- Be a globally recognised source of information on musculoskeletal health and science.
- Maintain and further develop stakeholder relationships.
- Seek funding from a wide spectrum of sources.
- Establish a World Musculoskeletal Forum.

Actions related to themes:

Awareness

- Establish patronage.
- Create a link between the BJD Ambassadors for increased support.
- Implement standardised burden of disease data reporting and improve collation to appropriately measure the impact of musculoskeletal conditions.
- Promote measurements of burden of disease that are more relevant to non-fatal outcomes.
- Present in 2010 at the Annual Meeting and publicise a synopsis of available data from countries across the globe on impact and costs of musculoskeletal conditions to highlight current burden and changes during the Decade.
- Publish a summary of achievements by the NANs and globally during the Decade.

Empowerment

- Support development of patient advocacy and support by the use of existing organisations as models to assist new organisations, particularly in developing countries and for rare conditions.

Standards of care

- Disseminate information about changes in national health priorities and policies to reflect burden of musculoskeletal conditions.
- Implement the Bone and Joint Decade recommendations for medical education through a formal recognition programme by the Bone and Joint Decade. Further develop outcome-based methods to evaluate the curriculum.
- Develop recommendations for the education of other health professionals involved in the management of musculoskeletal conditions.

Research

- Disseminate information about changes in national research priorities and policies to reflect burden of musculoskeletal conditions.
- Create a 'musculoskeletal newswire' by identifying liaisons in different countries recommended by the NANs to highlight scientific advances that could be disseminated broadly and through the Bone and Joint Decade Network.