



The **Hungarian** NAN celebrated the **Arthritis Day** in the theatre-hall of the Danube Palace (Duna Palota) - as usually -, on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October from 9 to 13 hours. The Vice President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Professor Norbert Kroó opened the Arthritis Day for an audience of 280 patients, professionals, representatives of the Ministry of Health and National Health Insurance, and the media.

Géza Bálint, the National Coordinator outlined the economical and social burden of musculoskeletal diseases, as well as the Decade's initiatives in this respect.

Prof. Gyula Poór, President of the Association of Hungarian Rheumatologists spoke about the effectivity and cost-effectivity of early diagnosis and treatment of arthritis, while Prof. Miklós Szendrői, orthopaedic surgeon, Ambassador of BJD about the cost-effectivity of total hip and knee endoprosthesis implantation. Gábor Héjj, the national supervisor of rheumatology analysed the data of outpatient and hospital care of arthritic patients in Hungary. Patients with rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, juvenile idiopathic arthritis spoke about their experience with their disease, DMARD and biological treatment. Márta Péntek, rheumatologist and László Gulácsi, health economist talked about their study concerning the quality of life of RA patients in Hungary, and the direct and indirect costs of their treatment.

A press conference and a presentation of a new patient-information book, published on the occasion of Arthritis Day followed the program.

The Arthritis Day was ended with a reception.

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**The Hungarian League against Cancer and the Hungarian Society of Rheumatic Patients (member of the NAN) signed a Co-operation Agreement lately.** They declared working together informing professionals, patients and the whole society about

- ◆ causes of pain
- ◆ options of pain relief
- ◆ methods of pain relief and improvement of physical functions at home
- ◆ making aware the decision makers and the society of the social, psychological and economical burden of chronic pain.

The participants plan actions, civil conferences, forums, media campaigns with the slogan **“TOGETHER AGAINST PAIN!”**

Dr. Judit Ortutay

President

of Hungarian Society of Rheumatic Patients