



## The BJD After 2010

As the decade approaches its final year, the **Bone and Joint Decade International Steering Committee** arranged to meet in London recently to discuss **the continuation** of the BJD initiatives **after 2010**. The result of discussions was a resounding accord to carry on.

Beginning in 2007, we will develop a model that will sustain the BJD beyond 2010 and continue to be inclusive of all relevant stakeholders globally. "Our resolution for continuing as an organisation is to ensure that the valuable achievements, unique programmes and networks which have been built up since the Decade's initiation, will have a communication platform on which to continue and flourish even after the end of this decade," said Prof Lars Lidgren, Chairman, ISC.

The result of the ISC's dialogue is now a plan of action based on the BJD Strategic Document presented in Durban, November 2006 (available on [www.bjdonline.org](http://www.bjdonline.org)). As a fundamental element to the strength of the organisation, the National Action Networks have a vital role to play in the new BJD constitution. This will be further discussed at the network meeting in Australia in October 2007.

The first step will be to establish a structure for initiating a global musculoskeletal forum. The BJD is currently a multi-discipline, multi-nation network which acts as a facilitator and a catalyst for change – this will continue. We will aim to operate as a 'think-tank' – the officially recognised source of expertise and information in the global musculoskeletal arena.

As a second step, the BJD will **encourage increased regional collaboration**. Regional councils (Europe, Africa, Asia-Pacific, and the Americas) may be formed to take the lead on regional issues, and use the existing networks and regional organisations **to influence regional policy for musculoskeletal health and science**. Their focus will be in harmony with the central mission of the BJD, but with a local flavour.

We will also foster the **development of patient advocacy** by the use of existing organisations to assist new organisations, particularly across regions, and in developing countries. Knowledge sharing across networks is one of the most valuable commodities, and will be applied to advocacy as well as science.

Our collective vision is a society where prevention, treatment and care of people with musculoskeletal disorders are of high standard and accessible around the world. Our work is focused to this end. The mission of the BJD has been, and will continue to be, promoting musculoskeletal health and science worldwide. These goals will not end when this decade ends; rather, this is an enduring commitment.

With the changes that the BJD will undergo during the coming years, we will lay the foundation for a lasting **world-wide Musculoskeletal Forum for Bone and Joint Disorders** which will provide a platform for continued progress.