

What is the Bone and Joint Decade?

The Bone and Joint Decade 2000–2010 (BJD) aims to improve the health-related quality of life for people with musculoskeletal disorders worldwide. The initiative provides the umbrella organisation by which professional organisations, patient advocacy groups, governments, industry and researchers interested in the musculoskeletal area are partnering. The goals are to raise awareness, identify needs, empower patients, promote cost-effective prevention and treatment and advance understanding through research and education within the area.

What is the impact of musculoskeletal disorders?

Musculoskeletal disorders such as joint diseases, osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, low back pain, spinal disorders, severe trauma to the extremities and disabling conditions in children affect hundreds of millions of people around the world today. This figure will increase sharply because of the predicted doubling of the number of people older than 50 by the year 2020. Some examples of the size of the problem:

- * *Back pain* is the second leading cause of sick leave.
- * 25% of health expenditure in developing countries will be spent on *trauma-related care* by the year 2010.
- * Fractures related to *osteoporosis* have almost doubled in number in the last decade; 1 in 3 women over the age of 50 will suffer a fracture caused by osteoporosis.
- * *Joint diseases* account for half of all chronic conditions in persons aged 65 and over.



Research & education should reflect the burden of musculoskeletal disorders

How did it all start?

The initiative was instigated by a group of healthcare professionals who felt that the significant impact from bone and joint disorders on society, the healthcare system and the individual, needed to be addressed on an international level with particular focus on the use of resources. An inaugural Consensus Meeting was held in Lund, Sweden in April 1998 culminating in a proposal for the BJD as well as the formation of an International Steering Committee, consensus document and a plan for continued work. The BJD was formally launched at the headquarters of the WHO in Geneva, Switzerland January 2000.



Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General, who endorsed BJD on the 30th of November 1999, together with Professor Nicolas Walsh, USA, Professor Anthony Woolf, UK and Professor Lars Lidgren, Sweden

What does the BJD hope to achieve?

Four key strategies/goals have been identified.

- * *raise awareness of the growing burden of musculoskeletal disorders on society.*
- * *empower patients to participate in their own care.*
- * *promote cost-effective prevention and treatment.*
- * *advance understanding of musculoskeletal disorders through research to improve prevention and treatment.*



The Bone and Joint Decade is partnership

How will the goals be achieved?

The BJD is a global campaign establishing priorities, providing information and support to national and international organisations representing patients with musculo-skeletal disorders and healthcare professionals. BJD will enable them to act and achieve goals through partnerships at national, regional and international levels. Among other activities participants in the campaign will:

collate and structure existing data for further research to establish the true burden of musculoskeletal disorders to predict increases and relate this data to financial costs.

inform and encourage the society to reduce the burden of musculoskeletal disorders by shifting indirect to direct health care costs.

design public awareness / education campaigns on prevention of musculoskeletal disorders and communicate them within the National Action Networks for support.

encourage National Action Networks to meet with national governments and public health authorities to seek their endorsement and continuous support to recognize, document and remediate the burden of musculoskeletal disorders.

produce guidelines for patients on each condition, to enable them to participate actively in their own health care and to manage their condition more effectively.

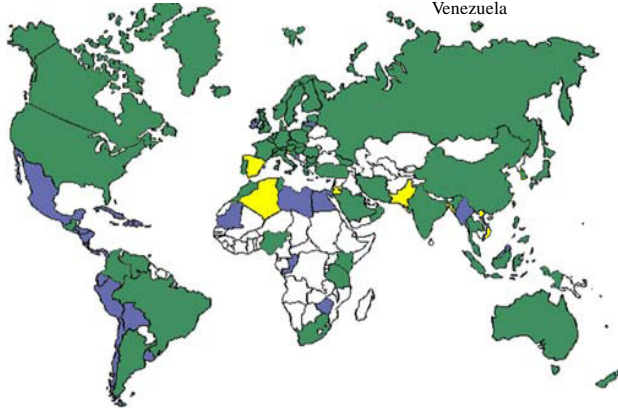
advocate for research funding and education reflecting the burden of musculoskeletal disorders in the society.

Who supports the BJD?

The BJD is supported by more than 750 national and international patient, professional, scientific organisations and journals. Today, 96 countries have established BJD national co-ordinators. In 61 countries BJD National Action Networks are creating their own national goals and agendas with participants from various professional and patients' musculo-skeletal organisations. 61 national governments have endorsed the Decade. A UN endorsement was signed by Secretary General Kofi Annan and approved by WHO Director General Gro Harlem Brundtland on January 13th, 2000. The World Bank is also giving its official support.

Supporting governments — April 2007

Argentina	Hong Kong SAR	Philippines
Australia	Hungary	Poland
Austria	Iceland	Portugal
Belgium	India	Qatar
Brazil	Indonesia	Romania
Bulgaria	Iran	Russia
Canada	Israel	Saudi Arabia
China	Italy	Slovakia
Chinese Taipei	Japan	Slovenia
Colombia	Kenya	South Africa
Croatia	Kuwait	South Korea
Czech Republic	Lebanon	Sweden
Denmark	Lithuania	Switzerland
Estonia	Malaysia	Tanzania
Finland	Morocco	Thailand
France	Netherlands	Tunisia
Georgia	New Zealand	Turkey
Germany	Nigeria	United Kingdom
Greece	Norway	USA
Guatemala	Oman	The Vatican
		Venezuela



Coordinators

- with network and supporting government
- with network ■ without network

Corporate partners for research and education

Pfizer and Novartis

Corporate partners for technical development

Amgen, Gelita AG, Torre Lazur McCann,
Wyeth, Biomet Europe

How can I or my organisation get involved?

Contact the BJD co-ordinator in your country or the International BJD Secretariat, bjd@ort.lu.se, to get actively involved in national BJD activities.

Why is the BJD important?

For the first time the BJD has brought together patient and professional organisations of different areas within the musculoskeletal domain. The partnerships, facilitated by the BJD, will better enable all to fulfill their national goals and to assist the less fortunate in other countries so that we can achieve the aim of the Bone and Joint Decade 2000–2010 *to improve the health-related quality of life for people with musculoskeletal disorders throughout the world.*

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THE BONE AND JOINT DECADE 2000–2010



For prevention and treatment of
musculoskeletal disorders

www.boneandjointdecade.org