

World Health Day '04 - Focus on Road Safety



The World Health Organization's World Health Day is held annually April 7. This year's theme is Road Safety.

In recognition of World Health Day 2004, the WHO will issue its *World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention* to stimulate road safety commitments worldwide. The United Nations will address road safety at its General Assembly meeting on April 14 (see related article, page 4), and will host a special stakeholders' meeting on April 15.

The Bone and Joint Decade, working collectively with several international organizations, assisted Fuad Al-Hinai, Permanent Ambassador to the United Nations from the Sultanate of Oman, in putting road traffic injury prevention on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Decade is now asking all National Action Networks to:

- Implement World Health Day activities
- Undertake ongoing activities to disseminate information on factors causing road injuries
- Work with other groups to identify specific causes of road injury
- Encourage discussion on prevention activities

Road injury relates directly to major limb trauma, one of five focal conditions that represent 80 percent of the burden of all musculoskeletal disease as identified by the United States Bone and Joint Decade. Two other focal conditions closely associated with road safety are back pain and childhood musculoskeletal conditions.

The burden

Road traffic injuries pose a global public health crisis. Each year, road traffic injuries kill more than a million men, women and children worldwide. Tens of millions more are injured - some of whom face permanent disability. In the United States, road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death for individuals ages 1 to 34, and they represent the greatest health threat to American citizens traveling or living abroad. Each year, more than 40,000 U.S. citizens are killed in motor vehicle crashes, with more than four million more suffering injuries severe enough to require emergency treatment.

Some other facts:

- Fifty percent of road traffic fatalities worldwide involve young adults aged 15-44 years - the most economically productive segment of the population.
- In 1998, more than 70 percent - almost 850,000 - of people killed in road accidents were under 45 years of age.
- For every road traffic death, there are approximately 25 serious injuries.
- Economic costs in the U.S. are five percent of GDP.
- By 2020, traffic injuries are expected to have moved from ninth to third place on the list of the fifteen disorders causing the most death and disability worldwide.

Preventable key factors responsible for road traffic injuries

- Driving under the influence of alcohol
- Speeding
- Under-utilization of seat belts and child restraints
- Poor road design and roadway environment
- Unsafe vehicle design
- Under-implementation of road safety standards

Decade actions

The Decade invites all Participating Organizations to support this road safety effort, by:

- Raising awareness of the burden;
- Identifying issues within your field of expertise that directly relate to cause and effect;
- Addressing those issues and developing preventative solutions; and
- Working with other groups to address related issues.

Information kit

The CDC's Injury Center has developed an information kit, *Family Road Safety: Protect the Ones You Love*. The materials contained in the kit are designed to draw attention to road traffic-related injury, disability and death and to promote safe travel in local communities.

To view the kit visit www.cdc.gov/injury. To request a printed copy, send your mailing address to ohcinfo@cdc.gov.

For More Information

www.who.int/world-health-day/2004/en

www.who.int/world-health-day/2004/toolkit/en

www.paho.org/English/DD/PIN/whd04_main.htm

www.cdc.gov/ncipc/whd2004

www.cdc.gov/injury

www.nts.gov

www.nhtsa.dot.gov

www.aaafoundation.org/WorldHealthDay/index.cfm?button=whd

www.boneandjointdecade.org/usa
(See Road Safety, under Projects)

Inside:

See what Decade supporting associations have planned for the coming months. Learn about Decade initiatives that are happening locally and worldwide. Updates on current USBJD projects and activities.

NEWS FROM PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

ASBMR Launches Bone Curriculum Site

The American Society for Bone and Mineral Research recently announced the launch of its Bone Curriculum Web site, online at <http://depts.washington.edu/bonebio/ASBMR/ASBMRRed.html>.

This site was developed under the direction of the ASBMR Education Committee, and is designed for use by educators, librarians, students from high school through medical school, as well as residents, fellows, physicians and others interested in bone disease. The ASBMR Bone Curriculum Web

site provides a wealth of information, resources and course materials for those interested in learning more about bone disease, research and treatment.

As Americans are living longer and are growing older in record numbers, it becomes even more important to transmit information about diseases such as osteoporosis. The ASBMR is committed to providing such information through initiatives such as the Bone Curriculum Web site. This site provides accessible information

and insights into areas such as bone growth, structure and function, growth and remodeling, nutrition and biomechanics. It also provides useful and often dramatic graphics that highlight specific problems (interactive illustrations of the effects of stress on bone), along with visual guides (animated demonstrations of fracture repair) for those learning about bone. Also featured is a resource list for those interested in exploring specific areas of bone research and/or treatment in more depth.

USBJD Welcomes New Members

We welcome organizations that have endorsed the Decade and are now official Participating and Associate Members of the USBJD. Their pledges of support are much appreciated, and we will be making special recognition of these organizations throughout the Decade. These commitments will ensure the USBJD is able to coordinate activities for all organizations supporting the Decade in the U.S.

New USBJD Participating Members

- American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
- American College of Surgeons
- Life Chiropractic College West
- Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation

New USBJD Associate Members

- Aventis Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
- EBI, L.P.
- Hologic, Inc.

Monthly Audioconference Program Launched

The Association of Rheumatology Health Professionals, a U.S. Bone and Joint Decade member, launched its monthly Audioconference Series on January 29.

Designed to meet the needs of busy health professionals involved in the management of patients with arthritis and other rheumatic diseases, the audioconferences will be offered monthly through June. Each 60-minute session explores an aspect of the most current information available about arthritis care and office management.

Audioconferences are scheduled from 12:00 - 1:00 PM (Eastern Time). Registered par-

ticipants receive session materials prior to the call. The audioconference series is an excellent in-service education tool, and participants can join in from the comfort of their office or conference room - all for a single registration fee and a toll-free call.

The ARHP Audioconference Series is supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Abbott Immunology, a founding supporter of the USBJD.

For more information and to register, visit the ARHP Web site at www.rheumatology.org/arhp/education/audioconf.asp.

Participants Sought for ICF Core Sets

USBJD Participating Organizations have been invited to participate in the testing and implementation of ICF Core Sets, which concerns the measurement of outcomes for a number of musculoskeletal conditions.

Preliminary studies and consensus conferences for 12 chronic health conditions were completed last year. The next stage is the implementation and testing of the Core Sets. The validation of the ICF Core Sets will take place on a worldwide basis, in

order that the quality of the ICF Core Sets in a variety of settings and cultures can be ensured. Professor Nicolas Walsh is the U.S. coordinator.

Interested organizations should contact agarza@phys.med.uni-muenchen.de to obtain the "Association Intent Form," as well as a newsletter that outlines the project objectives in full.

Calendar of Events

April

- 22-25 AANA Annual Meeting
- 29-May 1 POSNA Annual Meeting
- 30-May 7 AAOHN Annual Health Occupational Conference

May

- 1-6 AANS Annual Meeting
- 2-5 ASES International Congress
- 6-7 TMJ Annual Scientific Meeting
- 14-16 ASIA Annual Meeting
- 15-19 NAON Annual Congress
- 20-23 AOTA Annual Conference
- 20-23 AAOS/OTA
- 23-26 BONES Annual Conference

June

- 2 USBJD Annual Board Meeting
- 15-19 NATA Annual Meeting
- 16-20 ABJS Annual Meeting
- 22-24 AOA-OREF-Zimmer Resident Leadership Forum
- 23-26 AOA Annual Meeting
- 24-26 OIF National Conference
- 24-27 AOSSM Annual Meeting
- 30-July 3 APTA Annual Conference

July

- 12-14 LLRS Meeting
- 22-24 MSTs Annual Meeting
- 23-25 LLRS:ASAMI-North America
- 23-26 AOS
- 28 AOFAS Annual Fellow Conference
- 29 AOFAS Annual Summer Meeting

More information is online at www.usbjd.org/projects/index.cfm?pg=calendar.cfm

To add your association's meeting or event to the Calendar of Events, please send details to Rachael Oats at rachaelo@nata.org.

NATIONAL NEWS

Capitol Hill Meetings Planned

The Bone and Joint Decade is planning an initial luncheon meeting with senators and representatives on Capitol Hill in the late spring/early summer. The meeting is being held to heighten policymakers' awareness of the burden of musculoskeletal disease, to discuss advances in research and to determine what more needs to be done to reduce the burden.

Such a meeting was described as a major contributing activity to the successes of the Decade of the Brain in the 1990s.

The initial meeting will focus on osteoporosis. It is being organized by the National Osteoporosis Foundation, the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research, the Orthopaedic Research Society and American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

Louise Slaughter (D-NY) has agreed to be the lead sponsor for this session and will be one of the members of Congress invited to speak. Dr. Stephen Katz, Director, National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, and Dr. Richard Carmona, U.S. Surgeon General, will also participate.

An international expert on osteoporosis will be on hand to discuss the burden of the disease. A patient representative will present perspectives on osteoporosis and will discuss advances in research and treatment solutions. The patient will outline how the disease has affected his/her life and how s/he is dealing with related issues. The benefits of medication, diet and nutrition and physical activity will also be addressed.

PAs Double in Decade

The American Academy of Physician Assistants reported that nearly 50,000 physician assistants (PAs) were estimated to be in practice by January 2004 - more than double the number in practice a decade ago.

One-third of all PAs work with family practice physicians, and more than 3,000 PAs work with orthopaedic surgeons. Of the 192 million patient visits to PAs in 2003, more than 18 million were for musculoskeletal disorders and/or injuries, and another 5 million for osteoporosis. Only respiratory/ear, nose and throat infections surpassed musculoskeletal disorders in the number of estimated visits for specific disorders.

National Campaign to Get Kids Physically Active is Working

Survey Findings Prove the VERB™ Campaign is Motivating Youth to Get Active

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released results from a survey that indicate physical activity among the nation's youth is increasing as a result of a national youth media campaign launched by the agency in 2002. The award-winning multicultural campaign known as VERB™ had one of the largest effects, a 34 percent increase, in weekly free-time physical activity sessions among 8.6 million children ages 9-10 in the United States.

A telephone survey of 6,000 youth and their parents was conducted in 2002 prior to launching the VERB™ campaign and it was repeated among the same families in 2003. A rigorous analysis of the data collected made it possible to measure changes in physical activity attributed to the VERB™ campaign among youth ages 9-13 in the U.S. population.

"The results of this evaluation are impressive and substantiate that the VERB™ campaign has surpassed expectations and is responsible for improving physical activity levels among youth," said CDC Director Dr. Julie L. Gerberding. "Our national, multicultural efforts are helping young people to

realize that physical activity is fun, cool and can be a part of everyday life. This is critical to reducing the epidemic of overweight among today's youth."

The Youth Media Campaign Longitudinal Survey, conducted by an independent research company, also showed that the VERB™ campaign was especially effective in shrinking the gap in physical activity levels between boys and girls. There was a 27 percent increase in free-time physical activity sessions among U.S. girls in the entire 9-13 age range. Likewise, six million children from lower-middle income households registered a 25 percent increase in free-time physical activity sessions despite the barriers they faced including transportation issues, safety concerns and less access to physical activity resources.

In communities that received higher levels of VERB™ marketing activity, the increases in physical activity were even more dramatic. The CDC found that the number of least active 9-10-year-olds was reduced by 33 percent as a result of the VERB™ campaign. The number of least active 9-13 year old girls decreased even more, by 37 percent, in these communities. There was a

38 percent decline among least active 9-13-year-olds from lower-middle income households.

"Obesity costs the country 117 billion dollars a year in medical expenses," said Dr. James Marks, director, CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. "Marketing programs like this one are proving to be successful in reducing the health and economic impact of this disease and are encouraging us to adopt similar strategies to address other priority health problems."

For more information on the VERB™ campaign, log on to www.cdc.gov/VERB. Also, check out www.VERBnow.com (for tweens, ages 9-12) and www.VERBparents.com.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protects people's health and safety by preventing and controlling diseases and injuries; enhances health decisions by providing credible information on critical health issues; and promotes healthy living through strong partnerships with local, national and international organizations.

NIH Consensus Development Conference on Total Knee Replacement

The final consensus statement of the consensus conference on total knee replacement, held December 8-10, 2003 at the NIH, can be seen at http://consensus.nih.gov/cons/117/117cdc_statementFINAL.html.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UN Assembly to Increase Road Safety Awareness, Reports Released

On April 14, 2004, the United Nations will hold a General Assembly meeting to promote global road safety awareness and solutions. This will be the first time that the UN General Assembly has ever devoted a special session to this topic. This meeting represents the culmination of four years of effort by Dr. Bruce Browner and Dr. Wahid Al-Kharusi of the Bone and Joint Decade International Steering Committee to bring this topic to the UN.

Secretary General Kofi Annan and the President of the General Assembly are expected to speak about the growing crisis of road traffic injuries, particularly in developing countries.

The heads of WHO, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World

Bank are expected to call for action in a number of areas to reduce the global toll of road traffic injuries. The General Assembly will likely endorse the *World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention*, and may call for a voluntary UN Road Safety Charter for governments, non-governmental organizations, civil societies, multilaterals and the private sector. They are also expected to coordinate a UN meeting in 2005 that brings together ministers of health, transportation and law enforcement, to formally adopt the Charter and facilitate the development of country plans for road safety (see related article, page 1).

The BJD/WHO report, *The Burden of Musculoskeletal Conditions at the Start of the New Millennium* is now online at www.boneandjointdecade.org/activities/activities_report.html.

A new report, *Osteoporosis in the European Community: Action Plan*, was presented November 12, 2003 at the European Parliament. This report outlines the six key steps necessary to prevent fragility fractures that result from osteoporosis. To view the plan in its entirety, go to www.osteofound.org/advocacy_policy/eu_policy_project.html.

The BJD eLecture series continues with a monthly webcast followed by a live chat. The webcasts are open to all members.

April's topic will focus on the enhanced usage of PubMed.

For more information or to participate, please contact Sara Martin at smartin@skynet.be.

CONDITIONS

Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva: Rare and Incurable One Man's Quest To Raise Awareness

What is FOP?

Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva (FOP) is a rare genetic disorder that causes bone to form in muscles, tendons, ligaments and other connective tissues.

FOP causes bridges of extra bone to form across the joints in characteristic patterns, progressively restricting movement. FOP is a disease in which the body produces not only too much bone, but an extra skeleton that immobilizes the joints of the body.

Children with FOP appear normal at birth except for congenital

malformations of the great toe. During the first or second decade of life, children form painful fibrous nodules over the neck, back and shoulders, which mature into bone in a process known as heterotopic ossification. FOP then progresses along the trunk and limbs of the body, replacing the healthy muscles with normal appearing bone. These bridges of bone significantly restrict movement, and any attempt to remove them results in explosive new bone formation.

Raising awareness

Gary Whyte, of New Jersey, has taken on a

campaign to significantly increase awareness into the rare and so far incurable disease of fibrodysplasia ossificans progressiva and to promote the need for more research.

He has made presentations on FOP to numerous clubs, churches, temples, community groups, to mayors, members of Congress, U.S.

New York Governor George E. Pataki recently proclaimed March 2004 as FOP Awareness Month in New York State.

Senators, N.J. State Senators, N.J. State Assemblymen and Assemblywomen, New York Governor Pataki's office and the Office of Health under New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg. He has obtained 231 proclamations supporting awareness and further research into FOP, and in support of the Bone and Joint Decade.

Recently, through his public education and awareness efforts, the New York City Council recognized the Bone and Joint Decade and proclaimed the month of February 2004 as Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva Month in the City of New York. This event demonstrates the tremendous role that individuals and patient groups offer the Bone and Joint Decade.

The USBJD congratulates and thanks Gary

for his efforts to advance this important cause.

For more information

If you would like to support Gary Whyte's quest or to send him a proclamation / resolution, he can be reached at (718) 442-7525, or at gwhyte@bonita.com.

To learn more about FOP research being conducted by Dr. Frederick Kaplan at the University of Pennsylvania, visit www.ifopa.org/research/report5/index.htm.

Focal Condition Development

Beginning in August, each *USBJD Newsletter* will contain a feature article focusing on one of the Decade's five focal conditions:

- Arthritis - Osteoarthritis and Rheumatoid
- Back pain
- Childhood musculoskeletal conditions
- Osteoporosis
- Major limb trauma

We need your help to make these articles as comprehensive as possible. If you, or a member of your organization, wishes to serve as a resource/expert in one of the above areas, please e-mail Rachael Oats at RachaelO@nata.org.

PROJECT UPDATES

Resources for Research

Many organizations and researchers are simply not aware of the extent of available information and resources pertaining to musculoskeletal diseases and disorders. With this in mind, the Research Committee of the USBJD is developing a list of resources that support research into these conditions.

This activity will:

- Assist the Decade in its role of disseminating information across the broad-based, multidisciplinary national network;
- Encourage knowledge sharing; and
- Provide a forum for exchange.

The Decade is looking for books, journals, position papers, guidelines, statistical references, and similar resources, but not a listing of scientific papers.

If your organization is not one of those that has already done so, please provide a list of the resources you have available and that are current, including:

- Resource title
- Reference listing section/heading
- Keywords
- Brief description
- Date of publication
- Distribution method (Web site address, contact e-mail or other source)
- Availability of resource to researchers outside your organization
- Cost (if applicable)
- Name and contact details of person supplying information

Send your listing to tobyking@usbjd.org, with "Research Resources" written in the subject field.

You may also fax (847) 823-0536 or mail the information to the United States Bone and Joint Decade, 6300 N. River Road, Rosemont, IL 60018.

Partnership with the National Association of Chain Drug Stores Foundation (NACDSF)

Patient information sheets developed by Decade members are now on the NACDSF Web site. Topics include neck pain, low back pain and carpal tunnel syndrome. The latest information sheet, *Youth Workers and Bone and Joint Health*, developed by the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses, will be posted soon.

USBJD Resource Kits

Resource kits on the five key condition areas are being developed. The first of

these, focusing on osteoporosis, will be ready for the initial Capitol Hill luncheon meeting. Others will follow - on arthritis (osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis), back pain, childhood musculoskeletal diseases and major limb trauma. Each kit will contain a description of the condition, facts on the burden of disease, current therapies and diagnostic tools, recent and expected advances towards new and improved treatment options, references and resources. The kits will be used in upcoming meetings and presentations.

Strength in Motion Challenge Update

The Strength In Motion Challenge (formerly the Arthritis Challenge) is an official activity of the United States Bone and Joint Decade. The goal of the Challenge is to inspire Americans to pursue strength training, aerobics, proper nutrition and appropriate remedies to manage joint health and

pain.

The Challenge campaign is building strong momentum for its upcoming launch. Recent developments include:

- Many local Arthritis Foundation chapters and physician practices have expressed an interest in participating in the Challenge.
- Simon Brand Ventures, a member of the Simon Property Group, Inc. - the nation's largest real estate investment trust mall owner, with approximately two billion shopper visits per year - is a Challenge partner for upcoming mall events.
- The Challenge campaign will include a case study with a National Institutes of Health Multipurpose Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Diseases Center. This study will be published in a prominent medical journal and will provide an additional platform for media discussion.
- Discussions continue with a number of industry leaders in a variety of categories concerning multi-year partnerships to advance the Challenge.
- Challenge organizers are pursuing a long-term relationship with a leading sports league as a Challenge partner.

The Challenge is striving to partner with parties who have an interest in reaching a highly attractive demographic of 70 million Americans including 300,000 youth, 19 percent of 18-44-year-olds, 42 percent of 45-64-year-olds, and 59 percent of those over 65 who are affected by joint pain, which is heavily driven by obesity.

Please visit the USBJD Web site to learn more about upcoming Challenge activities. If you have an interest in partnering to advance the Challenge, please contact Peter Apatow at pma@citecapital.com.

National Awareness Week 2004 October 12-20

Please make plans to celebrate this week by distributing patient empowerment tools and information on bone and joint conditions and the burden; by publishing special articles in journals; by making arrangements for special notices on the Web; by developing special tip-sheets and press releases; and by making arrangements for a spokesperson to be interviewed by your local media. Don't forget to update us on your activities!

Young Investigators Committee Update

The need to develop young investigators in the field of clinical investigation in musculoskeletal diseases is one of the major goals of the Bone and Joint Decade.

Statistics show that very few are entering the field of clinical investigation in this area. One of the major hurdles to a young clinical investigator's success is sufficient mentoring in how to write and secure a grant in clinical research. There is a similar need to increase the number of basic sciences and grant application skills.

The goal of the Decade's Young Investigators Committee, led by Nancy Lane, MD, is to understand trends in the application for grants and develop strategies to better promote young investigator recruitment, retention and collaborations in clinical and basic science, bone and joint research and careers.

The first goal of this committee is to secure funding, to allow 40 young clinical investigators to attend a grant-writing workshop for two consecutive years to obtain mentoring in their specific investigational area by skilled mentors. A similar basic science program will be the next step.

PROJECT UPDATES

Communications Plan Update

The USBJD Board of Directors has approved the Communications & Education Committee's request to proceed with a specific, detailed communications/marketing/public relations plan. The committee reviewed a proposed plan - submitted by an external firm - and made recommendations to the board on which aspects of the plan should take priority.

These include:

- Production of an "attention-getting" display to be used at professional meetings and trade events, consumer meetings, health fairs and other public events;
- Development of a major national media relations campaign that includes National Awareness Week as a springboard to creating tools that have a life beyond that week. This campaign incorporates the compilation of a comprehensive database of various journalists at both print and electronic outlets;
- Creation of icons and short messages to add to e-mail messages from organizations;
- Development of enhancements to the USBJD Web site that compel members of the general public to visit the site; and
- Production of a well-researched media kit featuring human interest stories

about advances in the care and treatment of people with musculoskeletal diseases

To fund these elements, the USBJD will utilize some existing financial resources and will initiate external fund raising activities.

Protect Your Bones - Educational Program to Raise Awareness

Raising awareness of musculoskeletal disorders among adolescents is a priority of the BJD. Dr. Michael DeFranco, of the Cleveland Clinic, has taken on this project with the 'Protect Your Bones' Campaign.

Eight high schools, four public and four private, will be chosen for the pilot project, to be run in Cleveland, Ohio. Plans call for medical students at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) and The Cleveland Clinic Foundation (CCF) to learn the course material (currently in development) from residents and fellows at both institutions. The medical students will then make presentations to high school freshman and sophomores, receiving elective credit for participating in this community service project. Means to measure retention of the lecture material will be built into the program.

Recipient students will be invited to develop

the lecture material by creating displays on the subject material, which will be placed in the hospital lobbies at CCF and CWRU during National Awareness Week. One of the displays will be chosen to be a permanent exhibit at the local health museum.

The one-hour presentation will consist of a focused discussion in three areas of musculoskeletal disease: trauma, arthritis, and osteoporosis. Spine problems, especially back pain, will be discussed under each of these categories. Four of the five conditions discussed in this lecture are being emphasized by the Decade with childhood conditions as the exception. Concepts will be used to make the sessions appealing to high school students. Local professional athletes and celebrities will be recruited to make announcements on the importance of musculoskeletal health, which will be incorporated into the presentation as video clips. The concept of looking and feeling good throughout life will be used to discuss trauma, arthritis, and osteoporosis.

Dr. DeFranco is hoping all disciplines involved in the Decade will participate in some way in the project. Once successful in Cleveland, the project will be offered to other regions, and ultimately to other developed and developing countries.

Project 100 Update

Musculoskeletal education is an issue of great importance to the International BJD as well as the U.S. effort. Musculoskeletal physiology and disease are under-represented in undergraduate medical education, given the increasing burden of musculoskeletal diseases.

Under the leadership of Joseph Bernstein, MD, the Project 100 committee has continued to make progress toward the goal of having musculoskeletal education as part of the required curriculum in all United States Medical Schools. A Musculoskeletal Educators Conference was held October 10, 2003. This conference had broad representation from USBJD member organizations and was attended by Dr. Michael Whitcomb, Senior Vice President for Medical Education at the Association of American Medical Colleges. Dr. Bernstein and Dr. Martin Boyer met with Dr. Whitcomb at the AAMC in March. As a result, the AAMC will convene a special panel to write an *Objectives Special Report* regarding the importance of musculoskeletal education.

The *Report* is the product of the AAMC's Medical School Objectives Project and will be distributed to Medical School Deans. The purpose of the MSOP is to "reach a general con-

sensus within the medical education community on the skills, attitudes, and knowledge that graduating medical students should possess."

An expert panel will be selected by the AAMC to help address special topics and present findings on learning objectives. Members of Decade organizations are encouraged to participate in this panel if contacted.

Additional progress has been made with the National Board of Medical Examiners. Dr. Peter Scoles, Vice President - Assessment Programs at the NBME, invited the USBJD's Project 100 committee to submit a proposal for a shelf examination for musculoskeletal education in medical schools.

A shelf exam is a standardized test written and distributed by the National Board in a particular subject (like surgery). Clerkship directors can then reach to the "shelf" to get a prepared exam, rather than creating one for themselves. They'll know that the exam is valid and they'll have a good sense of how their students retained information because scores can be compared across the board. Schools may also be more apt to create a new course in musculoskeletal medicine

knowing that they don't have to create an exam from scratch.

The committee is looking for individuals from USBJD member organizations to come to the National Board headquarters in Philadelphia to review the data bank of musculoskeletal questions and to develop new content for this "shelf" examination. The work is scheduled to begin this spring.

So far 56 medical schools have declared their support for the Decade. If your school or alma mater is not on the list of supporting medical schools (www.usbjd.org/friends/index.cfm?pg=participant_med.cfm) and you would be prepared to carry the message to the dean, please e-mail tobyking@usbjd.org.

See which Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine have declared their support for the Decade at www.usbjd.org/friends/index.cfm?pg=participant_osteo.cfm.

Anyone who has questions and/or comments or who is interested in participating in these initiatives should contact Dr. Bernstein (via tobyking@usbjd.org).

USBJD SUPPORTERS

Founding and Participating Members, Participating Organizations, Corporate Participating Organizations, Medical Schools, Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine & Media Partners:

Abbott Laboratories
 ACR - Research and Education Foundation
 Aircast, Inc.
 Albany Medical College
 American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine
 American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons
 American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons - Board of Councillors
 American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons - Corporate Advisory Council
 American Academy of Osteopathy
 American Academy of Pediatrics
 American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
 American Association for Dental Research
 American Association for Hand Surgery
 American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
 American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons
 American Association of Neurological Surgeons
 American Association of Occupational Health Nurses
 American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery, Inc.
 American Board of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
 American Chiropractic Association
 American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons
 American College of Rheumatology
 American College of Surgeons
 American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine
 American Juvenile Arthritis Organization
 American Occupational Therapy Association Foundation
 American Orthopaedic Association
 American Orthopaedic Association - Academic Issues Committee
 American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society
 American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine
 American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopaedics
 American Osteopathic Association
 American Osteopathic College of Radiology
 American Physical Therapy Association
 American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons
 American Society for Bone and Mineral Research
 American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery
 American Society for Surgery of the Hand
 American Society for Testing and Materials - Medical & Surgical Materials & Devices Committee
 American Society of Orthopaedic Physician's Assistants
 American Spinal Injury Association
 Arthritis Foundation
 Arthroscopy Association of North America
 Association of Academic Physiatrists
 Association of Bone and Joint Surgeons
 Association of Children's Prosthetic-Orthotic Clinics
 Association of Rheumatology Health Professionals
 Aventis Pharmaceuticals
 Boston University School of Medicine
 California Orthopaedic Association
 Cervical Spine Research Society
 Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine at Midwestern University
 Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
 Clinical Orthopaedic Society
 Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons
 Congress of Chiropractic State Associations
 Council of Musculoskeletal Specialty Societies
 Crippled Children's Rehabilitation Effort
 Dartmouth Medical School
 DePuy Spine, Inc.
 DePuy, Inc.
 Des Moines University
 Eastern Virginia Medical School of the Medical College of Hampton Roads
 EBI, L.P.
 Elsevier Science
 Emory University School of Medicine
 Foundation for Chiropractic Education and Research
 George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences
 Harvard Medical School
 Health Volunteers Overseas
 Hip Society
 Hologic, Inc.
 Indiana Hand Center
 Indiana University School of Medicine
 International Society of Arthroscopy, Knee Surgery, and Orthopaedic Sports Medicine
 J. Robert Gladden Society
 Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine of A.T. Still University of Health Sciences
 KMedic, Inc.
 Knee Society
 Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
 Life Chiropractic College West
 Limb Lengthening and Reconstruction Society
 Loma Linda University School of Medicine
 Medical College of Georgia School of Medicine
 Medical College of Wisconsin
 Medical University of South Carolina College of Medicine
 Medtronic Sofamor Danek
 Michigan Osteopathic Association
 Michigan State University College of Human Medicine
 Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine
 Mid-America Orthopaedic Association
 Midwestern University Glendale Campus
 Morehouse School of Medicine
 Mount Sinai School of Medicine of New York University
 Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation
 Musculoskeletal Tumor Society
 National Association of Chain Drug Stores Foundation
 National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses
 National Athletic Trainers' Association
 National Osteoporosis Foundation
 Natural Bio Care
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Advocacy Efforts Key to Decade's Success

As demonstrated in the pages of this newsletter, a number of important USBJD activities and initiatives are underway. These include efforts in advocacy, education, and communications that broaden our support and advance our goals.

As we advance and as another National Awareness Week approaches this fall (October 12-20), I would like to again emphasize the importance that each of us shares as individuals and as organizations to the mission of the Bone and Joint Decade. This is clearly evident in the efforts of Gary Whyte. Gary's advocacy efforts for Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva are described on page 4 of this issue. Through his advocacy for FOP, Gary has raised awareness of the burden of musculoskeletal disease in general and of the mission of the Bone and Joint Decade. Single-handedly, Gary has spearheaded an effort through which more than 230 municipalities, with the recent addition of New York City, have declared the Bone and Joint Decade. A

signed proclamation by New York City Council supporting the Bone and Joint Decade and recognizing FOP can be seen on our Web site, (www.usbjd.org, go to *Projects*, then *FOP*).

The Bone and Joint Decade provides a platform through which Gary and all of us can amplify our messages. In this manner, the Bone and Joint Decade provides a brief but vital opportunity to enhance public awareness and appreciation for the burden of musculoskeletal disease, and the need for advances in research, education and patient care.

Several issues have become clear as we move through the Decade. Among these is the importance of working together, whereby our individual voices grow to a resounding refrain in support of musculoskeletal diseases.

Foremost is the critical role that patients, and their friends, families and advocacy groups play in the Decade. There is no

more compelling story to support the Decade than that of the need for increased research on behalf of children and others afflicted with a serious musculoskeletal disorder.

Thus, it is ultimately our patients, our friends, our family members or our own disabilities that touch us in a personal way that provide an overwhelming incentive to move forward with a unified voice in support of the Bone and Joint Decade.

Let us now begin our plans in earnest for this year's National Awareness Week and the remainder of the Decade.

Sincerely,



Regis O'Keefe, MD, PhD

About the Newsletter

The U.S. Bone and Joint Decade Newsletter serves as a means of communication between the members of the National Action Network (NAN) and other affiliated organizations. To submit a story idea or an article, or if you have comments, please contact:

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