

IOF- Osteoporosis Diagnosis Course with Densitometry Certification Report on 2006 activities

Introduction

As regulations in the field of densitometry are becoming more and more strict, the IOF, in partnership with national or regional osteoporosis societies, has developed a non-profit-making training course for physicians and other health professionals to better equip them for the growing epidemic of osteoporosis.

The IOF Osteoporosis Diagnosis Course, With Densitometry Certification covers not only the latest knowledge on clinical aspects of osteoporosis but also technical aspects such as radiation safety, quality control, interpretation of the results and fracture risk assessment.

Message from IOF course leader (Marius Kraenzlin)

“When we developed this course, we had no idea of the enormous success it would prove to be. Before the end of 2006, the next year was already fully booked!”

Teaching faculty

Steven Boonen (Belgium), Pierre D. Delmas (France), Jean Pierre Devogelaer (Belgium), Hans-Peter Dimai (Austria), Ignac Fogelman (UK), Claus Glüer (Germany), Stefan Goemaere (Belgium), Marius Kraenzlin (Switzerland), Uri Liberman (Israel), Nick A. Pocock (Australia), René Rizzoli (Switzerland), Ego Seeman (Australia), Jan Stepan (Czech Republic)

Course content

This one-and-a-half day course comprises 12 lectures of 45 minutes, including 5-10 minute discussions, with an optional 2-hour certification exam at the end.

- Osteoporosis: the scope of the problem
- Pathophysiology of osteoporosis
- Clinical evaluation
- Overview of bone densitometry methods
- Radiation safety and quality control
- Diagnostic use of densitometry (2 lectures)
- Risk assessment
- Monitoring skeletal changes
- Clinical management: prevention
- Clinical management: treatment
- Clinical case studies

“The course syllabus was refined during two pilot projects in Indonesia and in Bangkok and met with great success in Hong Kong in May,” says Dr. Nansa Burlet, IOF Medical Affairs Advisor. *“We will continue to develop the scope and content of topics covered to include the latest developments in the field of osteoporosis diagnosis.”*

We strongly believe that this course is a valuable tool in increasing the knowledge and expertise of health professionals and that it will have an impact on the quality of care available internationally. We highly recommend our member societies to host such a course in their countries.”

Organisation

This course is supported by IOF's corporate sponsors. With these funds, IOF pays for the travel and honoraria for two faculty speakers. The national societies holding the course are responsible for the local running of it, and are financially responsible for advertising the course, translation of the course handouts, the meeting venue and equipment costs, and the hotel accommodation for the IOF course faculty members. IOF does not charge a fee for participation in the course, and makes no money from it, but national societies are welcome to charge a fee if they wish to do so.

The courses are open to all interested parties anywhere in the world.

IOF Osteoporosis Diagnosis Course, with Densitometry Certification

A one-and-a-half day course offered in partnership
with national or regional osteoporosis societies

Course Leader: M. Kraenzlin



Courses held in 2006

In 2006, more than 250 participants attended the course in six locations:



Hong Kong course participants

Hong-Kong, China

“We are grateful for the kind support of the IOF to allow this Diagnosis Course with Densitometry Certification to be held successfully in Hong Kong, and we hope that it can become an annual event,” said Professor Annie Kung, President of OSHK.



Spa, Belgium

“With IOF’s collaboration, the Belgian Bone Club (BBC) was able to organize, in collaboration with the WHO Collaborating Center in Liège, an Osteoporosis Diagnosis Course from 24 to 26 November 2006. This course provided an excellent opportunity for some of the participants to stay on and take part in a radioprotection course which is required for DXA operators by Belgian Law.” Dr Jean-Pierre Devogelaer, BBC Board Member.



Graz, Austria

“We were very pleased with the number of participants – nearly 80 – and are proud to announce that 97% of those who took the examination passed. Our translation of the course materials means that it is available for anyone else wanting to hold the course in German in the future.” Professor Hans-Peter Dimai, AUSBMR Member



Bangkok, Thailand

“Thai Osteoporosis Foundation hosted the IOF Osteoporosis diagnosis course with densitometry certification in 2006 and the response from Thai clinicians was very positive. As osteoporosis is a growing problem in Thailand, it is vital that we continue to build the knowledge and skills to diagnose and treat this condition. Thanks IOF for making this possible.” Kanruetai Songpatanasilp, TOPF Member



Chavannes-de-Bogis, Switzerland

“Having been one of the initiators of the course, and involved in its development, it was thrilling to be one of the first societies to hold the course.” René Rizzoli, President ASCO

Next events

Ten courses are scheduled for 2007. Participant registrations are currently being accepted for these courses, to be held in the following locations:

- Irish Osteoporosis Society, Dublin, Ireland, 16-17 February 2007
- Vietnam Rheumatology Association, Hanoi, Vietnam, 12-13 March 2007
- Romanian Foundation of Osteoarthrology, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, 11-14 April 2007
- IOF Latin America, Lima, Peru, 2-3 May 2007
- Osteoporosis Society of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China, 18-19 May 2007
- Russian Association on Osteoporosis, Moscow, Russia, 21-22 May 2007
- Malaysian Osteoporosis Society, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2-3 August 2007
- Estonian Osteoporosis Society, Tartu, Estonia, 5-6 September 2007
- Serbia Osteoporosis Society, Niska Banja, Serbia, 11-13 October 2007
- Czech Society for Metabolic Skeletal Diseases, Luhacovice, Czech Republic, 27-28 October 2007

National Societies are now invited to apply to hold the IOF Osteoporosis Diagnosis Course, With Densitometry Certification in 2008.

IOF would like to thank Amgen, whose unrestricted educational grant funded the development of this course, and the courses held in 2006.

