Report

IOF European Parliament Osteoporosis Interest Group and
11th EU Osteoporosis Consultation Panel Meeting
Brussels, December 6, 2011

The IOF European Parliament Osteoporosis Interest Group and the 11th EU Osteoporosis Consultation Panel meeting took place on December 6, 2011 at the Hotel Silken Berlaymont, Brussels.

The focus of this meeting was on IOF’s major programmes for 2012:
- EU 27 Project, EU Policy Scorecard Project
- IOF ‘Capture the Fracture’ Programme
- IOF Interactive Maps (Vitamin D-deficiency, FRAX and hip fractures)

The meeting was attended by 4 MEPs from the IOF EP Interest Group and 17 members of the EU Osteoporosis Consultation Panel.

Professor Juliet Compston, chair of the EU Osteoporosis Consultation Panel, welcomed the MEPs and the members of the EU Osteoporosis Consultation Panel. She gave a brief overview of IOF’s 2012 programmes.

Dr. Silke Collins-Tracey, IOF Policy manager, gave an update on ‘Outcomes from the High Level UN Summit on NCDs in September 2011 and the European Health Forum Gastein 2011’.

High Level UN Summit on NCDs
Silke briefed the participants on:
- The History of the Summit
- The actual Event
- Hurdles that needed to be overcome
- Challenges
- The Way Forward

The NCD Alliance will continue their work towards putting non-communicable diseases high on the global agenda.

The European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) has been providing an important platform for discussion for stakeholders in the public health arena for more than 15 years. The theme for 2011 was ‘Innovation and Wellbeing – European Health in 2020 and beyond’. Participants at the forum were policy makers, politicians, governments, industry, science and academia as well as civil society.

Annually, the EHFG recognises also a health policy initiative that makes a significant contribution to meeting health challenges in Europe. The IOF programme OsteoLink, the first global online and in-person social network dedicated to improving communications around osteoporosis was shortlisted for this award. The IOF was delighted that OsteoLink was one of nine shortlisted projects, even though OsteoLink didn’t win the award.
MEP Mary Honeyball, Co-chair of the EP Osteoporosis Interest Group informed that she has been committed to the vision of IOF for over a decade. She spoke on ‘Audits as policy tool’. The current data in the IOF-EFPIA report is astounding. It is important to present these data to politicians who are unaware of the enormous burden of disease of Osteoporosis. Mrs. Honeyball will continue to work towards disseminating these important audit reports to the EP Osteoporosis Interest Group members, other MEPs and governments.

Professor John Kanis, IOF President, introduced one of the major 2012 projects of the IOF, the EU 27 Project. He spoke under the heading ‘Osteoporosis: Burden, Healthcare Provision and Opportunities in the EU – EU 27 Project’.

The project will be an extension of the IOF-EFPIA report - Osteoporosis: Burden, Healthcare Provision and Opportunities in the EU. Prof. Kanis presented current statistics on the burden, health care provision and opportunities for the future with regard to osteoporosis in the EU5+countries (France, Italy, Germany, Spain, UK and Sweden). The IOF-EFPIA study should be used by policy makers to lobby their governments in order to make osteoporosis a priority on national health agendas as it contains staggering data on the burden of osteoporosis.

2010 Highlights from 5 EU+ countries

- People with osteoporosis: 17.8 million
- People with new fragility fractures: 2.2 million
- Deaths due to fracture: 34,000
- QALYs lost due to fracture: 1,000,000
- Cost of care: 31 billion Euros
- Cost of QALYs: 55.6 billion Euros
- Fractures saved by closing a treatment gap: 750,000 by 2025

The first draft of the EU 27 project will be ready for review at the end of December 2011.

MEP Dr. Anja Weisgerber, Co-chair of the EP Osteoporosis Interest Group discussed how IOF could work with the European Parliament to get osteoporosis on national health agendas with either a written or an oral question with debate.

- The advantage of submitting written questions to the European Commission is that the Commission is obliged to answer them in writing.
- If one is not satisfied with the answer to a written question, asking an oral question with a subsequent debate would be a step forward to bring awareness of osteoporosis to policy makers.

Dr. Weisgerber informed the audience also about the new funding programme of the European Commission: Horizon 2020, a Framework programme for Research and Innovation of the European Commission which has importantly a component for health projects funding.

Professor John Kanis followed on by giving an outline of the EU Policy Scorecard Project.

The following questions were addressed:
- What is a score card?
- Why have scorecards?
- What should be measured?
• Qualities of a good scorecard
• Scorecard presentation

The two studies which will form the basis of the policy scorecard is the IOF-EFPIA report, which provides an analysis and data describing the burden of osteoporosis in 5 EU countries plus Sweden, while also highlighting recent advances and on-going challenges for prevention and treatment of the disease.

The second study, the RAND study, provides insight into the quality of care of osteoporosis across Europe and shows how quality indicators can be used to improve such care. The policy scorecard has two components – a scientific- and a patient centered one.

A meeting of the Osteoporosis Advisory Panel will take place in Brussels on 16th December 2011 to address the different aspects of creating an EU policy scorecard.

The EU policy scorecard project will be finalized by the end of December 2012.

IOF ‘Capture the Fracture’ Programme was introduced by Dr. Silke Collins-Tracey. The IOF is developing a global campaign to facilitate the implementation of coordinator-based, multidisciplinary models of care for secondary fracture prevention, in view of the following statistics:
• Fragility fractures are estimated to occur every three seconds globally.
• A prior fracture doubles a patient’s future fracture risk.
• Healthcare systems are evidently failing to respond to the first fracture.

Literature review has shown that establishing a coordinator-based multidisciplinary approach to patient care is most cost-effective in preventing a second fracture. This information is outlined in the key position paper prepared by David Marsh et al. together with the IOF CSA Fracture Working Group (http://www.springerlink.com/content/e81n020693737705/). This paper provides the scientific basis for the programme.

The ‘Capture the Fracture’ programme will develop a best practice framework, and promote and facilitate its implementation for the management of fragility fractures.

The programme will be communicated through a dedicated and sustainable website that will include:
• Information to health professionals
• Country-specific tool-kits for the implementation of a coordinator-based systems
• Map of best practices
• Related research publications
• Information on seed funding
• List of coalition partners

The website will be up and running by 2013.

With global endorsement, this program will make an enormous difference for patients as well as provide significant healthcare savings.

The audience was asked to support this important IOF programme and disseminate this information as well as any future correspondence to their national governments and their local osteoporosis organisations.

The official media launch of the IOF ‘Capture the Fracture’ programme will take place at the upcoming IOF-ECCEO12 European Congress on Osteoporosis and Osteoarthritis in March 2012, Bordeaux, France.
Judy Stenmark, COO, IOF, presented the IOF Interactive maps on Vitamin D-deficiency, FRAX, and Hip Fractures.

Aim of the IOF Interactive maps:
- The Vitamin D-deficiency map is compiled to get a global view of the Vitamin D status in country-specific populations. Two different age categories were selected: Childhood and adolescence (<18 years) as well as adults (>18 years). The Vitamin D-deficiency maps were prepared in collaboration with DSM.
- The FRAX map illustrates the country difference of the 10-year major osteoporotic fracture probabilities in a given individual.
- The Hip fracture map illustrates the country difference of age-standardized hip fracture incidences worldwide.

These maps will be hosted on the IOF website by mid-January 2012.

In her closing remarks, Judy Stenmark informed that the theme for World Osteoporosis Day 2012 will be ‘Capture the Fracture’ and she gave the key dates for IOF meetings in 2012. Judy also encouraged all participants to take part in these meetings/congresses and training programmes.

2012 Key dates

- 2012 is the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations (EY2012).
- Launch event: European Year of Active Ageing, January 18-19, Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 21st IOF Advanced Training Course on Osteoporosis, January 31- February 2, Geneva, Switzerland.
- IOF Business Meetings, March 20-21, Bordeaux, France.
- IOF-ECCEO12, March 21-24, Bordeaux, France.
- IOF Regionals – 1st Latin America Osteoporosis Meeting, May 24-27, São Paulo, Brazil.
- IOF Active Ageing event, June (TBC), Cyprus.
- IOF Regionals - 2nd Middle East & Africa Osteoporosis Meeting & 6th Pan Arab Osteoporosis Congress PAOC’6, September 27-October1, Jordan.
- World Osteoporosis Day European launch, October, Brussels, Theme: ‘Capture the Fracture’.
- IOF Regionals - 3rd Asia-Pacific Osteoporosis Meeting, December 13-16, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.