



Bone and Joint Decade **PUNE DECLARATION**

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We are faced with a large and growing burden of musculoskeletal conditions related to an aging population and injuries caused by traffic and violence. There is still a lack of epidemiologic data in developing countries necessary to support strategies for the prevention and improvement of standards of care for musculoskeletal conditions. Ongoing surveillance of the burden should be a priority in all countries; both on individuals and on communities. To meet these knowledge gaps, methods of ascertaining and collating data need to be implemented. There is an urgency reflected in the predicted rapid increase in musculoskeletal problems in less developed countries. Concerted actions are needed.

Strategies for prevention and programs for disease control which are appropriate for developing countries need to be introduced and changes monitored. Partnership with global, regional, national and local governmental and non-governmental organisations is essential.

Programmes for public and patient education, and for identifying those with a high risk or with early indicators of potentially progressive musculoskeletal conditions, need to be evaluated and disseminated widely. We must learn from and draw on successes. Initiatives such as the COPCORD Programme and the COPCORD Bhigwan Project in India are recognised by the Bone and Joint Decade as excellent examples of good practice which consider surveillance, education, prevention and control. This good practice should be disseminated and implemented globally.

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