



MAR 14 2011

Dr. Joshua Jacobs  
President  
United States Bone and Joint Decade, NFP  
6300 North River Road  
Rosemont, IL 60018

Dear Dr. Jacobs:

I am writing in response to your letter regarding the transition of the U.S. Bone and Joint Decade to the U.S. Bone and Joint Initiative. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has been pleased to participate in the U.S. Bone and Joint Decade as proclaimed by President George W. Bush on March 21, 2002. Several components of the NIH partnered with your organization during the decade to raise the awareness of the American people about the growing burden of musculoskeletal disorders on society, to promote prevention activities and empower patients through educational programs, and to advance research in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of these disorders.

As the U.S. Bone and Joint Initiative moves forward, the NIH would be delighted to continue its collaboration with your organization and others to explore the development of new research and education programs. These efforts will help to bring about significant advances in the knowledge, diagnosis, and treatment of musculoskeletal conditions, and increase the number of resources at the disposal of the healthcare professions and the public at large. I encourage you and your colleagues to continue to work with Dr. Steve Katz, Director, National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) and his staff about the needs and opportunities within your community.

Per your request, Dr. Joan McGowan, Director, Division of Musculoskeletal Diseases, NIAMS, has been selected to serve as the official NIH liaison to the Initiative. Please feel free to contact her directly at (301) 594-5055 in order to discuss the progress of the Initiative and future directions.

On behalf of the NIH, I congratulate you on your achievements over the past decade and look forward to our continued partnership in the future.

Sincerely,

Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.  
Director

cc: Stephen I. Katz, M.D., Ph.D.  
Director, NIAMS