

For immediate release

Bone and Joint Decade 2010 -2020 United Kingdom. 19 September 2011.

United Nations General Assembly Non-communicable Diseases Summit, New York

The NCD Summit 2011, officially called the 'High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases' will take place September 19-20 2011 in New York. It is expected that the Summit will generate global commitment and momentum to implement the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases.

The General Assembly is prioritising four types of non-communicable disease (NCD):

cardiovascular diseases [heart or blood vessels (arteries and veins)]

cancers

chronic respiratory diseases

diabetes

These make the largest contribution to mortality in the majority of developing countries.

The Bone and Joint Decade welcomes this meeting of the United Nations General Assembly and will be represented in New York by International Coordinating Council Member **Deborah Kopansky-Giles**.

The Bone and Joint Decade is committed to raising global awareness of musculoskeletal conditions and ensuring that these are among the leading major health concerns in the minds and actions of opinion formers throughout the world.

However, by focussing on the four types of NCD that make the largest contribution to mortality the United Nations is leading national governments into prioritising non-communicable diseases with high mortality rather than others.

The Bone and Joint Decade is therefore dedicated to widening the priorities of the United Nations and national

governments to also focus on non-communicable diseases with high morbidity but low mortality of which musculoskeletal conditions is a major contributor.

There is much common ground, cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes are largely preventable by tackling four common risk factors: tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and the harmful use of alcohol. The same can be said for musculoskeletal conditions.

The Bone and Joint Decade urges the 24% of the worlds population affected by musculoskeletal conditions, be they patients, carers, or health professionals to write to their UN Ambassador in New York and demand that musculoskeletal conditions be prioritized by both the World Health Organisation and the United Nations. Together we can make a difference.

