



The Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010 **PRESS RELEASE**

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Global Trauma Forum Set to Improve Trauma Care Worldwide

17 October 2009 | GENEVA (SWITZERLAND) -- This year on World Trauma Day, new hope is emerging to reduce the shocking number of trauma deaths that occur each year globally. The World Health Organization, with the help of the Bone and Joint Decade, the Ministry of Health of Brazil, the State Government of Rio de Janeiro, is bringing together trauma experts for the first Global Forum on Trauma Care. The goal of the Trauma Forum, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 28-29 October 2009, is to focus global attention on affordable and sustainable improvements in trauma care services which should be applied around the world.

Trauma is a leading cause of death and disability globally, especially in developing countries, where over 90% of trauma deaths occur. Dr Marcos Musafir, Trauma Expert with the WHO and BJD Steering Committee Member said: "At least two million of the five million people who die from trauma injuries each year could be saved simply by improvements in trauma care capabilities. It is our duty to act on this fact and make immediate changes to the way emergency care services are organised in countries around the world."

In 2007 the World Health Assembly adopted Resolution 60.22 on trauma and emergency care services which recommends several concrete steps that would help to strengthen trauma care services globally. In this context Forum Participants will be tasked to:

- Agree on a set of strategies and messages around which to advocate in the future
- Develop an agenda for action for the next decade
- Issue a consensus statement summarising the decisions reached
- Expand upon the already established global network for advocacy

Some Facts about Trauma and Road Traffic Accidents:

- Globally about 5.8 million people die each year from injury-related causes. Almost one quarter of these 5.8 million deaths result from road traffic injuries; another quarter result from suicide and homicide.
- And for those 5.8 million deaths, 23 to 34 million more are injured in road traffic accidents.
- This boils down to this: every 30 seconds, someone dies from a traffic accident on the world's roads.
- 25% of health expenditures of developing countries will be spent on road trauma-related care by the year 2010.
- Road traffic accidents are the leading cause of death and disability for people under age 45.
- Approximately 75% of road deaths are men, partly attributable to preventable causes such as high-risk behaviours (i.e. speeding, drink driving, and lack of safety measures while operating a motorcycle).

Launched in January 2000, the Bone and Joint Decade is an NGO comprised of National Action Networks in 65 countries and with the support of more than 750 related organisations globally. Its mission is to advance understanding of musculoskeletal disorders worldwide through research and to improve the quality of life for those affected. The Bone and Joint Decade initiative works closely with the United Nations and the World Health Organization. For more information, please see www.bjdonline.org.

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For further press information, please see

http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/media/events/qftc/en/index.html or contact the Bone and Joint

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