



9 June 2011.

## **Bone and Joint Decade participates in global launch of World Report on Disability at the United Nations, New York on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

The **Bone and Joint Decade** participated in the launch of the landmark World Report on Disability by Dr Margaret Chan, WHO Director General, at the United Nations, New York on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2011.

The World Report on Disability was produced jointly by WHO and the World Bank ([http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789240685215\\_eng.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789240685215_eng.pdf)). It suggests that more than a billion people in the world today experience disability. Mobility problems are amongst the commonest disabilities and surveys in Australia, Canada and USA reported that arthritis, rheumatism and back problems were the most common health conditions related to disability – “rheumatism” accounted for 30% of those over 65 years in the United States who reported limitations in their activities of daily living.

People with disabilities have generally poorer health, lower education achievements, fewer economic opportunities and higher rates of poverty than people without disabilities. This is largely due to the lack of services available to them and the many obstacles they face in their everyday lives. The report provides the best available evidence about what works to overcome barriers to health care, rehabilitation, education, employment, and support services, and to create the environments which will enable people with disabilities to flourish. The report ends with a concrete set of recommended actions for governments and their partners. This pioneering World Report on Disability will make a significant contribution to implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. At the intersection of public health, human rights and development, the report is set to become a "must have" resource for policy-makers, service providers, professionals, and advocates for people with disabilities and their families.

Prof Tony Woolf, Chair Bone and Joint Decade ICC, joined leaders from other non-governmental organisations working with disabling conditions and the disabled in a discussion of the report and the needs it identifies. One need identified was better data on the nature of disabilities and their determinants to enable strategies for prevention of disability and rehabilitation to be developed and prioritised. Opportunities to work with the WHO, World Bank and other stakeholders will be discussed at a future meeting of partners to the Disability Report in Geneva 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> June, 2011. There will also be national launches of the report.



**The Bone and Joint Decade** works to reduce the burden and cost of musculoskeletal disorders to individuals, carers and society by promoting musculoskeletal health and science worldwide.

The Decade is a global alliance of academic, professional and patient organisations. Launched by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on November 30 1999, it is endorsed by the UN and WHO, with declared support from over 60 governments.

In 2010 the Decade renewed its mandate for another 10 years with the Vision “Keep People Moving”.

Its global objective is to raise the recognition of the importance of musculoskeletal conditions at the global, regional and national levels. The prevention and treatment of musculoskeletal disorders and injuries should be among the leading major health concerns in the minds, actions and funding priorities of policy makers, providers of health care and the public.