

ENABLING ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS TO PREVENT FUTURE FRACTURES

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A major new tool to help orthopaedic surgeons better diagnose and treat osteoporosis, which globally affects one in three women, one in five men and costs billions of dollars to diagnose and treat, was launched today.

The educational training package consisting of four in-depth lectures plus one summary lecture, was announced today at a symposium chaired by Prof. Ghassan Maalouf (International Osteoporosis Foundation/Bone and Joint Decade) and Prof. Wolfhart Puhl (European Federation of National Associations of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, EFORT), at the EFORT congress in Florence, Italy and will be made available to orthopaedic surgeons worldwide.

Orthopaedic surgeons have an important role to play in diagnosing and treating osteoporosis, noted Professor Cyrus Cooper, chairman of the IOF Committee of Scientific Advisors. A fragility fracture can be the first indication a patient has osteoporosis. Orthopaedic surgeons are often the first healthcare professionals to see such patients and can play a pivotal role in referring a patient to a bone specialist, who will help diagnose the underlying disease and provide appropriate care.

The materials were developed by three major organizations fighting osteoporosis worldwide International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF), International Society for Fracture

Repair (ISFR), and the Bone and Joint Decade (BJD).

The training package is in the form of a CD teaching kit, with lectures on:

- Challenges on fragility fracture treatment (Prof. Dave Marsh).
- Pathogenesis of fragility fractures: A biomechanical view (Dr. Mary Bouxsein).
- Osteoporosis and fractures: The size of the problem (Prof. Kristina Akesson).
- Fragility fractures: Clinical pathways (Dr. Karsten Dreinhöfer and Dr. Ghassan Maalouf).
- Summary lecture (Dr. Mary Bouxsein, Dr. Aenor Sawyer and Dr. Nansa Burlet).

In addition to the material for physicians, the CD also includes information to help the general public better understand bone health:

- Osteoporosis FAQs: Frequently Asked Questions.
- Prevention of osteoporosis: Skeletal health across the lifespan.

The CD and additional information for health professionals are available on the IOF (www.iofbonehealth.org), the ISFR (www.fractures.com) and the BJD (www.bjdonline.org) websites.