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**Global Alliance for Musculoskeletal Health**  
*of the Bone and Joint Decade*

**Promoting musculoskeletal health**

*Keep people moving*

31<sup>st</sup> July 2017

Greetings to our G-MUSC Colleagues:

The executive committee of the International Coordination Council of the Global Alliance for Musculoskeletal Health (G-MUSC) has been working actively over the past several months on G-MUSC transition to a new home office in Berlin, under the leadership of Dr. Karsten Dreinhoefer, Chair. In the coming weeks the organization will transition fully to Berlin from the United Kingdom where G-MUSC has been operating for the past six years. Dr. Anthony Woolf has now transitioned to Past Chair and Jim and Madeline from home office are continuing to support G-MUSC until it is fully operational in Berlin. Thank you very much Jim and Madeline!

The G-MUSC Executive Committee (ExCo) has been overseeing the transition activities. The ExCo composition is: Dr. Karsten Dreinhöfer, Chair; Dr. Anthony Woolf, Past Chair; Dr. Kristina Akesson, Treasurer; and Dr. Deborah Kopansky-Giles, Secretary.

**The ExCo has very exciting news!** After many months of planning, we are very happy to announce that the G-MUSC Symposium and Annual General Meeting (AGM) and will be held in Berlin from October 22-23, 2017. The meeting will be in part jointly held in collaboration with the World Health Organization with support from the Federal Ministry of Health of Germany and the Japan Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. Congratulations are in order to Dr. Dreinhöfer who was able to bring together the WHO and the German government to support a very prestigious meeting that will be held alongside our World Network Meeting. The WHO Global Consultation meeting will have as its focus "Integrated Care for Older People - the path to Universal Health Coverage." Please **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW** and register your interest by contacting [office@bjdonline.org](mailto:office@bjdonline.org)

As an outcome of our G-MUSC Symposium meeting, at the request of the Federal Ministry of Health of Germany, we would like to develop and come to agreement on a 'consensus document' regarding the importance of musculoskeletal health and maintaining mobility over the life course and the role of integrated care in delivering this. As you know, maintaining mobility and a healthy musculoskeletal system is essential for quality of life and is particularly important in older people. This document will help to support the prioritization of musculoskeletal health in the WHO Healthy Ageing work. We look forward to your input into the development and finalization of this consensus document in October.

Further details will be provided shortly regarding venue location and meeting agenda, as well as a call out to all NANS for update posters.

Tentative agenda is as follows:

- 1) The G-MUSC ICC meeting will take place on Saturday, October 21, 2017 with an ICC dinner Saturday evening.
- 2) The G-MUSC Symposium will take place on Sunday, October 22 and Monday, October 23, 2017. The G-MUSC AGM will take place during this time.
- 3) The WHO 'Integrated Care for Older People – the path to Universal Health Coverage' conference will take place on October 23, 24 and 25. By invitation only.
- 4) On Monday October 23, 2017 there will be a combined morning session with the G-MUSC meeting and the WHO conference. All G-MUSC attendees will be invited to attend the morning session.

The ICC has been active over the winter and spring months in several areas for G-MUSC.

1) **G-MUSC Annual Report** – this is now being finalised for distribution to all NANS and collaborating organisations. Expect to receive a copy in the next short while. The report will also be posted on the G-MUSC website at: [www.bjdonline.org](http://www.bjdonline.org)

2) **Website updating and transfer.** Home office staff have worked on preparing for website host transitioning and updating of the website. Please keep your eye on the website for updates over the coming weeks.

3) **World Health Assembly** - Dr. Karsten Dreinhoefer and Dr. Deborah Kopansky-Giles attended the World Health Assembly in May of 2017 and attended several meetings with WHO programme staff with whom G-Musc currently collaborates on joint work. This was a very exciting time for the WHO with the election of a new Director General, after 10 years of leadership under Dr. Margaret Chan. The new DG is Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus from Ethiopia who started the post effective July 1, 2017.

During the first few days of the assembly, G-Musc representatives were able to meet with folks from the following project areas to advance our collaborative work:

- Meeting with John Beard and Islene Arauo de Carvalho from the WHO Healthy Ageing programme who confirmed that the consultancy contract for Andrew Briggs was proceeding and the expectation would be that Andrew will be on site in Geneva working on the Integrated Care for Older People programme as of September.
- Meeting with Teri Reynold, Global Alliance for Care of the Injured, who invited the G-MUSC to participate in distributing a new report, which Manjul Joshipura had input into on behalf of G-MUSC as well as new products to be released in the coming months (Trauma care checklist, basic emergency care course and the GACI registry). G-MUSC identified a 'gap' in trauma care, particularly related to discharge of elderly people, post-hip fracture without the needed coordination of care to be provided while they wait for rehabilitation. It was felt that G-MUSC could be very helpful in contributing to the development of the rehab segment (exercise protocols) and education of ED staff in these exercise protocols.

- Meeting with Alarcos Cieza from Disability and Rehabilitation regarding the active involvement of G-MUSC in the DAR 2030 strategy. Karsten Dreinhöfer has participated in the high level meeting in the WHO Executive Boardroom in February “Rehabilitation 2030 - a call for action” as a convenor and rapporteur for 23 condition-specific organizations. Further activities will now be coordinated to strengthen Rehabilitation and include it in Universal Health Coverage in all countries. Major focus of rehabilitation is maintaining or regaining function – frequently limited by musculoskeletal conditions. G-MUSC will actively being involved in all further activities.

#### 4) Projects:

- L’Oréal project is continuing, managed by Tony Woolf. This has been a very successful project with the App for hairdressers to manage their musculoskeletal health now available as a free download. For Android: [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.loreal.againstmsd&hl=en\\_GB](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.loreal.againstmsd&hl=en_GB)

For i-phone: <https://itunes.apple.com/fr/app/15-coach-lor%C3%A9al-pro/id1106342234?l=en&mt=8>

There have been over 10,000 downloads of the App worldwide and data about usage and the pain levels of individual users is being collected by L’Oréal and made available to G-MUSC for analysis. We are partnering with L’Oréal for a second year to further develop the App dashboard to include analysis of the collected data.

- Patient Partners Project continuing in the UK, UWEZO project continuing in Kenya and World Spine Care Project now expanding number of sites (3 in Botswana, Dominican Republic, Ghana and India) with governmental funding and support and funding through donations.
- Task Forces: All task forces continue to work on G-MUSC priority areas.
  - Surveillance – Led by Lyn March and Damian Hoy
  - Paediatric – led by Stu Weinstein and Helen Foster
  - Research – led by Alan Silman and Kristina Akesson
  - Education – Led by Mellick Chehade and Deborah Kopansky-Giles – this group recently published a paper in Best Practice and Research Clinical Rheumatology (2016) regarding building a sustainable health workforce to deliver integrated, evidence-based MSK care.

Best wishes

Karsten Dreinhöfer  
Tony Woolf  
Kristina Akesson  
Deborah Kopansky-Giles

## GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR MUSCULOSKELETAL HEALTH