2020 FFN VIRTUAL REGIONAL EXPERT MEETINGS
A MAJOR SUCCESS

Over the weekend of 24-25 October 2020, three unique, multidisciplinary, online Fragility Fracture Network (FFN) Regional Expert Meetings (REMs) took place simultaneously (adjusted for time zones) in Asia Pacific and Europe (both in English), and Latin America (in Spanish). The meetings were hosted using a state-of-the-art virtual meeting platform to deliver engaging, interactive, and informative presentations, workshops, and poster exhibitions, as well as industry sponsored exhibition booths and satellite symposia, with live networking opportunities throughout. It would have been possible, if somewhat ambitious, to join sessions 24 hours a day throughout the weekend. In total, more than 1,500 delegates participated in the REMs.

This event enabled clinicians, researchers, scientists, activists, and partners with an interest in fragility fractures to interact in a truly global way, despite the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic. It also leads the way for further global, regional, and national FFN events including a major virtual element to the 2021 global congress in Toronto 28-30 September 2021. The success of the meetings has been assured by the hard work of the FFN Regionalisation Committee, led by committee president, Professor David Marsh.

The opening remarks of all three REMs highlighted the global burden imposed by fragility fractures and the work of FFN in bringing the need for skilled, expert, multidisciplinary care into focus throughout the world. The four pillars of FFN’s Call to Action (CtA) were highlighted in each of the REMs. Presentations, plenaries, breakout sessions, symposia, and live panel Q&A sessions generated discussion about how to drive positive change globally and in individual countries.

In each REM, Professor David Marsh launched the new FFN Clinical and Policy Toolkits to support implementation of the CtA. These can be downloaded from https://www.fragilityfracturenetwork.org/cta/. Translations into Arabic, Italian, Mandarin and Spanish will be published online soon, with a range of other languages to follow in the coming months.

Recordings of the presentations delivered during all three meetings can be found on the following FFN websites:
» Asia Pacific Meeting (English): FFN Malaysia website
» Southern Europe Meeting (English): FFN Greece website
» Latin America Meeting (Spanish and Portuguese): FFN Brazil website

This great success paves the way for future FFN meetings, events, and congresses to be partially or fully virtual, with the subsequent ability to reach wider audiences globally, using technology and face-to-face communication to their best advantage.

Q&A SESSION IN PROGRESS AT EUROPE REGIONAL EXPERT MEETING
FFN PRESIDENT AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS HONOUR

FFN President, Jay Magaziner, has been awarded a highly prestigious prize as Founders Week ‘Researcher of the Year’ at the University of Maryland in acknowledgement of his work as a pioneer, mentor, and one of the world’s pre-eminent researchers in hip fracture recovery.

Jay is Professor and Chair of Epidemiology and Public Health at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and Director of the Center for Research on Aging. He has been President of FFN since September 2019; the tenure is usually for one year but, during this period of global instability, Jay offered FFN much appreciated organisational continuity by agreeing to remain in the post until the next FFN congress in the Fall 2021.

As a leading scholar and expert in the epidemiology of aging, Jay pursues research on aging in three interrelated areas: the consequences of hip fracture, health and long-term care, and methods for studying older populations. The focus of this work is on identifying ways to enhance functioning and improve the quality of life for older people. He has been continuously funded by the National Institute on Aging (NIA) since 1983 for studies on dementia in nursing homes and hip fracture outcomes. His work on hip fracture focuses on issues relating to hip fracture recovery, which has earned the first two consecutive MERIT awards from the NIA. Jay also directs a training program in the epidemiology of aging and the University of Maryland Claude D. Pepper Independence Center.

Jay has published extensively in internationally recognized journals and served as editorial board member for multiple journals, and as a reviewer for the Veterans Administration, Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR), and the National Institutes of Health. He has served in many leadership positions locally, nationally, and internationally including the Governor’s Commission on Aging Services in Maryland, the Gerontological Society of America, and the FFN.

Jay was a founder of The University of Maryland at Baltimore Long-Term Care Project, an umbrella organization established to recruit and oversee research in Maryland’s nursing homes, The Baltimore Hip Studies, a program designed to evaluate outcomes, develop and test interventions to improve outcomes after hip fracture, the Program in Aging, Trauma and Emergency Care, designed to increase understanding and improve outcomes of emergency care for older persons; and The University of Maryland Center for Research on Aging, whose mission is to advance interdisciplinary aging research across the University of Maryland. Such a well-deserved award.

Jay told the FFN Newsletter: “I am proud to serve as president of the Fragility Fracture Network. It provides me the opportunity to work with a fine group of colleagues from around the globe to put knowledge gained over many years to work in a way that can have a meaningful impact on those sustaining fractures and the people and institutions that provide care and support for them.”

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

All FFN face-to-face meetings, congresses and events are currently postponed due to COVID-19 global restrictions on gatherings and travel. FFN boards and committees are working to solve the gaps in FFN’s activity that this creates by seeking online solutions to enable meetings to go ahead in the future. Such solutions will either enable events to take place entirely online or through a blended mixture of online and face-to-face events. Further details will be published in this newsletter and on the FFN website.

LATEST CONGRESS NEWS

The FFN Annual Global Congress originally planned for September 2020 has now been rescheduled to 28-30 September 2021 based in Toronto Canada, but with plans in place for the meeting being delivered virtually. The congress programme will be rolled forward from the postponed 2020 event. Save the date: more details will be available early in 2021.

SICOT WEBINARS FOR ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

SICOT, the Société Internationale de Chirurgie Orthopédique et de Traumatologie, is hosting a series of webinars for orthopaedic surgeons; each one partnered with another organisation. The next event will be in January 2021 with a focus on fragility fractures and endorsed by FFN. For more information see http://www.sicot.org/webinars.

ORTHOGERIATRICS 2ND EDITION 2021 EBOOK PUBLISHED AS OPEN ACCESS

Professor Paolo Falaschi and Professor David Marsh. Orthogeriatrics. The management of older patients with fragility Fractures. 2nd Edition 2021 Springer

This new open access edition, supported by the Fragility Fracture Network aims at giving the widest possible dissemination on fragility fracture (especially hip fracture) management and, notably, in countries where this expertise is sorely needed. It has been extensively revised and updated by the experts of this network to provide a unique and reliable content in one single volume.

The open access version can be accessed at: https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007%2F978-3-030-48126-1#about
PUBLICATION WATCH

Asia Pacific Fragility Fracture Alliance (APFFA) Education Toolkit and Patient Handbook

Aligned with the FFN Global Call to Action, the collective primary purpose of APFFA is to drive policy change, improve awareness and change political and professional mindsets to facilitate optimal fragility fracture management across Asia Pacific.

October 2020 saw the launch of the APFFA Primary Care Physician (PCP) Education Toolkit; a comprehensive, educational asset designed to arm PCPs, with practical resources to aid the identification, assessment and ongoing management of those at risk of fractures, and thereby improve the safety and quality of patient care. This coincided with the launch of a patient handbook for bone health and fragility fracture prevention.


UK NHS CLINICAL GUIDE FOR THE PERIOPERATIVE CARE OF PEOPLE WITH FRAGILITY FRACTURES DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

This guidance has been written by a multidisciplinary group of anaesthetists, surgeons and orthogeriatricians to support clinicians in decision making and can be downloaded from: https://icmanaesthesiacovid-19.org/guidance-on-perioperative-management-of-patients-with-fragility-fractures

FFN WEBSITE NEEDS HELP FROM MEMBERS TO IMPROVE RANKING

Members are encouraged to help the FFN website to climb up search rankings by searching “Fragility Fracture Network” in search engines and to ask their colleagues to do the same. This will enable the profile of FFN to grow as larger numbers of searches improve its ranking, meaning that FFN is more likely to appear on the first page of search results.

FFN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGS) – HOW TO JOIN UP

The FFN regionalisation committee would like to thank everyone who attended the recent FFN Regional Expert Meetings and consequently becoming a member of the global FFN. All FFN members have many opportunities to participate and utilise the resources members have developed to date such as the Policy and Clinical Toolkits that were released at the Regional Expert meetings. Importantly, members are encouraged to join in on activities of any of the Special Interest Groups (SIG). Everyone is most welcome to join one or more. The SIGs are:
- Perioperative SIG
- Hip Fracture Audit SIG
- Hip Fracture Recovery Research SIG
- Physiotherapy SIG
- Vertebral Fragility Fracture SIG
- Secondary Fragility Fracture Prevention SIG

Becoming a member of any of these groups gives you opportunities to focus on specific issues of fragility fracture care and to meet many like-minded colleagues internationally. SIG activities involve webinars, research and quality improvement, survey participation and sharing of resources across jurisdictions; to name a few. The FFN enables involvement in SIGs with as little or as much input as you choose, and membership is completely free.

https://www.fragilityfracturenetwork.org/membership/
JOURNAL WATCH


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FFN IS FREE TO JOIN
Encourage your colleagues to join FFN. Membership is free.
Click here to join https://www.fragilityfracturenetwork.org/membership/ and click on “Join the FFN”.

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