

Proposal for a scientific session at the:

World Congress on Public Health, Istanbul

Reducing the public health burden of osteoporosis in men and women

Session Coordinator: J.A. Eisman

Osteoporosis is a major public health burden with substantial impact of the causally related fragility fractures on morbidity, premature mortality and health care costs. It is clear that hip fractures constitute a large part of this impact but it is equally clear that a wide range of fragility fractures not only signal increased risk of future fractures, including hip fractures, but that these other non-hip fractures occur in younger individuals, both men and women. All of these fragility fractures signal increased risk of future fracture, generate major health care costs and are associated with premature mortality.

There are also unequivocal data that current public health approaches have been largely unsuccessful, i.e. population-based preventative approaches are largely ignored and at the individual level: Of those who have had a fragility fracture event, the large majority do not get investigated or treated to reduce their risk of further fractures. These care failures are more marked for men than women, even though men do worse than women post-fracture.

Some more focused interventions related in time to hospital admission/discharge have been remarkably effective in capturing the high-risk individuals. The participants in this proposed session have all published on such approaches and been involved in efforts to implement improved care at the Government/Public Health level.

This session is conceived as several keynote talks on approaches that have been applied and have worked in different medical settings. It is also proposed that additional oral presentations will be chosen and posters will be on display, selected from abstracts submitted from other public health professionals outlining the situation in their health care environments and approaches they have tried with a description on the evaluation of the outcome.

It is envisaged that a summary document will be developed to guide future developments in this challenging area of public health improvement.

The suggested main talks and proposed speakers are as follows:

Osteoporosis: The Scope of the Public Health Problem:

J.A. Eisman

Delivering Assessment & Treatment for Fracture Secondary Prevention: A Global Problem:

P.J. Mitchell

Strategies for More Effective Fracture Secondary Prevention – Canada

E. Bogoch

Strategies For More Effective Fracture Secondary Prevention -United Kingdom:

A.R. McLellan

Overview of Key Elements of Successful Strategies for Effective Secondary Fracture Prevention: What Does and Doesn't Work?

J.T. Harrington

Strategies for More Effective Fracture Secondary Prevention – Oceania

J.A. Eisman