



March 1, 2014

Newsletter #5

## Visit the WIKISTIM “Booth” at the “Mechanisms of Action: Electrical Stimulation of the Nervous System” conference ([moaconference.com](http://moaconference.com)) in Orlando March 28-30

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Krames has graciously offered us space in the exhibit area to demonstrate WIKISTIM to conference attendees. We hope to have Internet access to demonstrate WIKISTIM in real time, but if this is not feasible, we will prepare a video demonstration. If you are going to attend this important meeting, please plan to visit us.

We again acknowledge with thanks our travel grant from Greatbatch, Inc., and the grant support we have received in 2014 from Boston Scientific, Inc., and from St. Jude Medical to continue development of WIKISTIM.

### February Accomplishments

- Updated the data fields in the website after abstracting an additional 40 papers in January; revised entries in our first batch of papers to correspond with the added, deleted, and moved data fields
- Conducted our monthly search of PUBMED, acquired new PDFs, and added the citations to the WIKISTIM database, which now comprises 1068 citations, of which 69 are fully abstracted, completed entries
- Increased the number of registered users
- Sent individual emails to corresponding authors (and co-authors, as appropriate) of completely abstracted papers inviting them to review our work
- Continued to update the *Practice Parameters for the Use of Spinal Cord Stimulation in the Treatment of Chronic Neuropathic Pain* ([neuromodfound.org](http://neuromodfound.org)—see below)
- Worked with our engineer to create a drop-down sort function that displays a linked list of “completed” datasheets. To find this list, simply follow the link under HELP or 1) from the “Search” page, click on the link to “Searchable Papers”; 2) note that the top row of the table has sort drop-downs for Authors, Title, Journal, Year, and Sec[tion]; 3) click on the drop-down for “Sec” until “Completed” appears at the top of the list; 4) the links to completed papers will appear in alphabetical order by first author
- Reviewed the entire site (all 1068 entries) to identify those with truncated titles (n = 12 that display only the last half of the title when searching by author) and those that are not responding to the search by author (n = 17); these represent a small percentage of the total, and we are trying to fix the problem because we are dedicated to quality control (we are happy, however, that all entries display properly in the list of “Searchable Papers”)
- Created a link to NEWS (next to HELP on the HOME page) to archive these newsletters and provide easy access to them
- Added approximately 80 synonyms for words and names with accents so that a search for Alo (for example) will display Aló (this remains to be tested fully)
- Worked with our engineer to incorporate a spam filter to stop bots from registering (and save the time required to remove the handful that have been appearing each week)

### Goals for March

- Prepare our “exhibit booth” for the March 28-30 Mechanisms of Action conference ([moaconference.com](http://moaconference.com)) (for which we also submitted an abstract)
- Develop a way for people to search within neuromodulation categories: SCS, DBS, PNS, TENS, DRG, etc.
- Continue to link to the Practice Parameters ([www.neuromodfound.org](http://www.neuromodfound.org)) and update that website as needed

- Continue to populate ( by searching the SCS mechanisms literature and uploading as many as 250 citations/week dedicated to this task) a new branch of WIKISTIM that will comprise SCS experimental studies
- Continue to prepare in general for the Mechanisms of Action conference (moaconference.com) in March by developing new data fields and categories to support non-clinical, experimental work and by abstracting data from mechanisms papers authored by meeting faculty
- Continue to invite authors of all completed datasheets to review our work and to submit datasheets from additional studies
- Continue quality improvements (including testing all synonyms for accented names)
- Conduct the monthly search of the literature
- Develop additional sources of funding
- Set up meetings with potential sponsors at the Mechanism of Action conference

### Ongoing Goals

- Complete 460 additional datasheets by the end of 2014 (for a total of 500 added this year)
- Improve and safe-guard the specificity and sensitivity of the search results as we expand in scope
- Increase the number of registered users by increasing awareness of the existence of and benefits of WIKISTIM
- Explore ways to secure long-term funding
- Continue to solicit feedback
- Identify authors and researchers who will submit datasheets for WIKISTIM

### What are the “Practice Parameters”?

In 2007, we published the “Practice Parameters for the Use of Spinal Cord Stimulation in the Treatment of Neuropathic Pain” in a special issue of *Pain Medicine* and on-line ([www.neuromodfound.org](http://www.neuromodfound.org)). This information covers the same data captured by WIKISTIM in a different format. For each topic, we present questions and answers, with a citation only list of the reports that support the answers (whenever available). This document is not meant to provide medical advice, but it can be used as a “guide.” We have added important reports published since 2007, but we need to conduct regular reviews to keep the information as current as possible. We are using the opportunity of linking WIKISTIM entries to the appropriate sections of the Practice Parameters in order to update this equally important resource. The Practice Parameter site does not require registration at this time.

### In Further News

Our most recent paper is now available in *Neuromodulation* as an on-line e-publication: North, RB, Recinos, VR, Attenello, FJ, Shipley, J, Long, DM. Prevention of percutaneous spinal cord stimulation electrode migration: A 15-year experience. The paper should appear in print in the near future.

### Who Will Use WIKISTIM? Everyone in our field!

- Authors who write a series of papers can use WIKISTIM to confirm that data reported in a new paper are congruent with data reported in a prior paper. Over the years we have seen several cases of data discrepancy. WIKISTIM should help reduce this
- Busy clinicians who need answers to clinical questions or literature support for reimbursement
- Representatives of industry who are seeking regulatory approval or need comparative data for approved devices
- Researchers who want to determine research needs, review background information, prepare evidence tables, etc.
- Authors working on scientific publications who could profitably search WIKISTIM and, if they are writing a protocol or research report, could use the WIKISTIM data category template as an outline for their work (and could then submit the completed datasheet to us as soon as their report is accepted for publication, expediting entry and facilitating readership and citation)
- Authors and readers who wish to query and correct inconsistencies in published scientific papers
- Critical thinkers who want to discuss published reports without the typical space and time limitations of Letters to the Editor
- Investors and other interested lay people who are exploring neuromodulation therapy
- Regulatory agencies and third-party payers who need a basis for decision-making

## Features of WIKISTIM

- Published neuromodulation data abstracted and categorized
- Custom Google search engine
- Users download datasheets and can perform their own meta-analyses
- Users submit data from published papers
- Discussion of papers unlimited by time and space
- Links to PUBMED abstracts and to SCS Practice Parameters ([neuromodfound.org](http://neuromodfound.org))

## Value of WIKISTIM

- **NEW!** As does the National Library of Medicine (PUBMED), WIKISTIM includes data on uses of neuromodulation therapies that might be considered “off-label” in the USA
- Improved patient care
- Support for reimbursement efforts
- Facilitated regulatory submissions
- Improved quality of published reports
- Inspiration for research and innovation
- Facilitated communication

## You Can Help!

WIKISTIM is being developed with startup funding by The Neuromodulation Foundation, Inc., as a resource for the neuromodulation community. You can help by spreading the word and encouraging people to register on the site. You can also help by making a tax-deductible donation: The Neuromodulation Foundation, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) organization. Please contact [janeshipley@gmail.com](mailto:janeshipley@gmail.com) for donation information. We accept all donations, no matter how small, and will acknowledge them with gratitude.

## Disclosure

WIKISTIM includes citations of studies of the use of neuromodulation therapies for indications that are or might be considered off-label or experimental in the United States.

## Thank you for your continued interest in WIKISTIM!

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