



April 1, 2014

Newsletter #6

More Great News for WIKISTIM

We have now received grant support from all three major manufacturers of neuromodulation equipment (Boston Scientific, Medtronic, and St. Jude Medical). We also have been encouraged to apply to another source for the funding that we will need to continue our work through this calendar year.

March Accomplishments

Publicity and funding

- Attended the March 28-30 Mechanisms of Action (MoA) conference in Orlando. (We again acknowledge with thanks our travel grant from Greatbatch, Inc.)
- Prepared the WIKISTIM “exhibit booth,” poster, bookmark handouts, and abstract
- Made a brief presentation about WIKISTIM
- Met with potential sponsors
- Increased the number of registered users

Quality improvements

- An alphabetical list by author of the completed datasheets can now be brought to the top of the “List of Searchable Papers” through a drop-down link (“Sec”)
- All citations listed in the updated Practice Parameters (www.neuromodfound.org and see below) link to WIKISTIM
- Invited authors of all completed datasheets to review our work and incorporated their suggestions
- All but 5 entries and one accented name now render properly in response to a search query
- Created a NEWS section accessible from the HOME page next to HELP

Content development

- Continued to identify (>350) and acquire papers and prepare entries for the new branch of WIKISTIM that will comprise SCS experimental studies
- Found two experts who volunteered to help develop new data fields and categories to support the addition of SCS experimental studies (Thank you Drs. Foreman and Linderoth!)
- Conducted a “pilot study” to test the expansion of the site beyond SCS to DBS, GES, PNS, SNM, etc. by searching PUBMED for each faculty member (~40) and topic and collecting citations and their PDF files (>500)
- Conducted the monthly search of the literature and added new SCS clinical citations
- Encouraged volunteers to submit data

April Goals

- Communicate with our sponsors to determine the best way to acknowledge their support
- Finish acquiring PDF files of all SCS experimental (non-human) studies of SCS mechanisms and techniques
- Create the SCS experimental mechanisms and techniques data categories and fields
- Upload the SCS experimental mechanisms and techniques citations
- Continue to complete datasheets and to communicate with authors
- Continue quality improvements

- Conduct monthly search of the literature
- Create links from WIKISTIM data categories (i.e., “migration”) back to the appropriate page in the Practice Parameters and continue to update entries on that website

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 75-page special issue of *Pain Medicine* and on-line (www.neuromodfound.org). This publication 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 (when available). This document is not meant to provide medical advice, but it can be and has been used as a “guide” and as a resource by clinicians and researchers. 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 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.

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)

Value of WIKISTIM

- **NEW!** WIKISTIM includes citations that are not listed on PUBMED
- 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. Our address appears below; please contact janshipley@gmail.com with any additional questions about donations. 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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