



May 1, 2014

Newsletter #7

Dr. Krishna Kumar

January 12, 1931- April 13, 2014

Dr. Kumar's invaluable contributions advanced the field of neuromodulation and will continue to resonate throughout all aspects of our scientific endeavors. He was among the first WIKISTIM subscribers, and we had the privilege of working with him on several major projects. We mourn his loss and will endeavor to keep his memory alive as an inspiration as we attempt to follow his example. He was a great clinician, an exacting scientist, and a humble friend who embodied the best attributes of humanity.

Tributes can be posted online by clicking on "guestbook" at <http://reginamemorial.sharingmemories.ca/siteContent/memorial.html?personId=252096&source=memlist>

Donations can be made to "Dr. Kris Kumar Lecture" at Hospitals of Regina Foundation, 1874 Scarth Street, #225, Regina, SK, CANADA S4P 4B3

Did you know?

Searching WIKISTIM by one of our data categories (e.g., "infection") will reveal the citations that have that field completed. As the database is populated, this search feature will become increasingly useful.

Good News: WIKISTIM has received its first five content contributions!

We are happy to acknowledge the welcome contribution of Jeyakumar Subbaroyan and Allison Foster, employee of and consultant for Spinal Modulation, Inc., respectively. Jey and Allison submitted completed datasheets for five DRG studies. We have entered one into the database, and the other four will go up this week. We met Jey at the Mechanisms of Action meeting in March, and we have worked with Allison over the years. We are delighted that they are the first two "outside" contributors to the content of WIKISTIM.

Funding update

WIKISTIM is being developed as a permanent resource for the neuromodulation community with funds from the nonprofit Neuromodulation Foundation, Inc., and grants from neuromodulation industry. You can support the development of WIKISTIM with a tax-deductible donation to The Neuromodulation Foundation, Inc., which is a 501(c)(3) organization. Our address appears below; please contact janeshipley@gmail.com with questions about donations.

We have secured sufficient funding to continue Wikistim development through September and have applied to an additional source for grant support. As we increase the depth (with completed datasheets) and breadth (with additional citations in additional areas) of WIKISTIM, the value of the website as an important resource will become increasingly apparent. In the meantime, we thank those who have underwritten our work to date.

Quality improvements in April

- Reviewed all publications listed as “epub” and added all newly available volume/issue/page numbers
- Changed the list of completed datasheets that appears at the top of the “List of Searchable Papers” through the drop-down link (“Sec”) so that it now displays more than one category (e.g., “Completed” and “SCS”); formerly “Completed” status took precedence and appeared alone
- Entered Google synonyms so that all accented names entered prior to April now render properly in response to a search query without the accent (the Google search feature needs time to catch up with the synonyms we added for the latest batch of entries)
- Changed the male/female entry on each completed datasheet from a format that rendered incorrectly in Excel downloads (e.g., “2/3” as “2-March”) to a new format (“2 male; 3 female”)
- Determined what was causing some data fields to display completed entries next to the heading while others started below the heading and fixed this problem
- Met with website engineer to discuss plans for major improvements

Content developed in April

- Uploaded 91 new citations: 27 in the new category “Modeling”; 18 in the new category “Technology”; and 66 more clinical studies in the category “SCS”
- Acquired all PDFs of the above that our library lacked
- Identified 8 more early SCS clinical papers (from 1981 to 1990) from our ongoing examination of old bibliographies (these citations and others that we discover will be uploaded in May)
- Uploaded a few more completed datasheets
- Continued to identify and acquire papers and prepare entries for SCS experimental studies beyond the models and technology studies (~90 to date)

May plans: Expand the depth of content

- Continue to complete datasheets (our goal is 500 completed in 2014) and to seek feedback from authors
- Continue small quality improvements as necessary
- Conduct monthly search of the literature and continue search of old bibliographies

Ongoing goals: Expand the breadth of content

- Finish acquiring PDFs of SCS experimental (non-human) studies
- Upload the SCS experimental mechanisms and techniques citations in a way that will not link inappropriately to the CSV sheet we are using for clinical studies, while we develop the new data fields and categories
- Work with Drs. Foreman and Linderoth to develop these new data fields and categories
- Create links from WIKISTIM data fields (e.g., “migration”) back to the appropriate page in the Practice Parameters* and continue to review entries on that website for any needed updates
- Work with website developer to allow our users to create a downloadable table that displays results from multiple papers (at the moment, users have to create tables themselves by cutting and pasting columns downloaded individually)
- 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 WIKISTIM.
- Identify authors and researchers who will submit datasheets for WIKISTIM.

REMINDERS

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

- 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

***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.

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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