



March 2015 Newsletter

In this issue:

- Make your reservations soon!
- February: accomplishments in a short and sweet month
- February statistics
- CME credit possibility
- Section editors needed for upcoming sections
- A special thank you
- Plans for March
- How you can help
- Financial support
- Editorial Board
- Disclosure
- Contact

Make your reservations soon!

June is just around the corner, bringing with it the International Neuromodulation Society's 12th International Congress, "Neuromodulation: Medicine Evolving Through Technology," which will take place June 8-11, 2015 (with pre-conference workshops on the 6th and 7th) in Montreal, Canada. Courtesy of the INS, WIKISTIM will have a tabletop exhibit.

February: Accomplishments in a short and frigid month

February in Baltimore, the birthplace of WIKISTIM, was notable for extreme cold, snow, and icy roads. Fortunately, we work from home, but much of what we prepared will not bloom until the spring. Foremost among the enhancements that March will bring will be the addition of the SNS section. During February, we worked with Dr. Dmochowski, our new SNS section editor to create the list of Data Categories that are populated with the appropriate fields.

We also began work on our curated database of citations of studies with primary SNS data. While we have never been impressed with the counts of search results that authors of meta-analyses often report (because searches can not be duplicated from one day to the next), it is instructive to note that at 3pm on February 27th anyone conducting a PUBMED search of appropriate citations for our SNS section would find results that range from 7 for "sacral electrostimulation" to 29 for "sacral nerve root stimulation," 477 for "sacral neuromodulation," and 542 for "sacral nerve stimulation." This month, we identified 668 appropriate citations from these categories, with another 10 possibilities to check when the PDFs arrive from our medical library's delivery service. Considering that the raw numbers include countless reviews and other documents that do not contain primary data, it is clear that the initial creation of a WIKISTIM database requires a degree of obsessive attention. The positive aspect of the job is that with WIKISTIM, once we complete the onerous task of identifying potential citations, curating the list to keep only those that are appropriate, and formatting the results for uploading, this work will never have to be repeated (although of course it must be updated). Indeed, one of our founding principles is that evidence tables have been recreated too many times by too many authors.

Finally, we began to prepare the "back-end" of WIKISTIM for all of the additional sections that we anticipate. And we submitted an abstract to INS, even though there was no category for "revolutionary Internet-based publication enhancement scheme that will have an immense positive impact on our field."

February statistics

- 1717 SCS (5 new this month) and 20 DRG
- 1249 DBS (this includes 96 OCD, with 2 new this month, 1153 studies of Parkinson's disease (including some motor cortex stimulation literature) waiting for its own section), with 16 new this month
- 198 people receive this newsletter
- 157 registered users (12 new this month)

CME credit possibility

WIKISTIM offers an educational opportunity that we would like to recognize by awarding CME credits to WIKISTIM registrants who hyper-abstract data from scientific publications into our data fields. This would follow the example of the growing number of journals that offer credits to peer reviewers. The tasks are comparable in many ways, typically involving one to three hours of effort per publication, and we envision offering corresponding CME credits, depending upon the complexity of the task (e.g., one credit for a simple case study; three for large studies with multiple outcomes, etc.). We believe CME's would be an incentive to WIKISTIM datasheet completion, enriching our database and thus increasing the value of WIKISTIM for all of our users, who as a result will be able to analyze and cite our literature more effectively in their own works. We also believe that digesting a scientific paper with the level of attention required to fill in our fields is a helpful educational exercise. Our CME options range from contracting directly with ACCME to subcontracting with an academic institution or society, and we spent time in February exploring the last of these possibilities.

Section Editors needed for upcoming sections

We continue to seek nominations for Section Editors for gastric electrical stimulation and vagus nerve stimulation. Section Editors advise us, work with us to develop the data category fields, help us identify citations we might otherwise have missed, and recruit individuals to complete data sheets.

A special thank you

We would like to acknowledge with our thanks the unwavering support of Nancy Garcia, of the INS, who posted a link to our February newsletter in the Neuromodulation network group on LinkedIn (which has about 5,000 members). We hope others of you will join Nancy in spreading the word!

Plans for March

- Continue identifying new articles for the extant sections on WIKISTIM.
- Update the WORDPRESS platform that supports WIKISTIM. Just as occurs with updates on personal computers, this will require freezing the site for a short period of time.
- Release the SNS section along with its extensive and, we hope, exhaustive citation and data category lists.
- Work with Google to improve the functionality of the search engine.

How you can help

- Please consider supporting WIKISTIM with a tax-deductible donation to The Neuromodulation Foundation, Inc.
- Spread the word about WIKISTIM (all past newsletters and FAQs with detailed information about WIKISTIM are available on the home page before registration is required)
- Submit extracted data from published reports of your choice or use our datasheets as a guide when you write your paper and submit the datasheet to us upon journal acceptance.
- Notify us about any reports we might have missed for SCS, DRG, and DBS/OCD or reports you would like to see added for DBS/PD.
- Suggest website improvements (and thanks to those who have done this—we have incorporated your suggestions).
- Suggest potential donors.
- We have just opened nominations for the positions of Vagus Nerve Stimulation and Gastric Electrical Stimulation Section Editors.

Financial support (listed alphabetically by first name)

Support to date for 2015:

- B. Todd Sitzman, MD, MPH
- Greatbatch
- Medtronic
- The NANS Foundation (3-year grant commitment started Dec 2014)

We are grateful for the ongoing support of these nonprofits:

- The International Neuromodulation Society (publicity and INS conference registration)
- The North American Neuromodulation Foundation (parent non-profit, overhead and development)

- The North American Neuromodulation Society (publicity and NANS conference registration)

Support during 2014:

- Boston Scientific
- Greatbatch (travel grant to Mechanisms conference)
- Medtronic
- Neurovations/Napa Pain Institute (Mechanisms conference registration and conference booth for publicity)
- St. Jude Medical

Editorial Board

Editor-in-chief, Richard B. North, MD

Tracy Cameron, PhD, Peripheral Nerve Field Stimulation

Roger Dmochowski, MD, Sacral Nerve Stimulation

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Elliot Krames, MD, Dorsal Root Ganglion Stimulation

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Richard B. North, MD, Spinal Cord Stimulation

B. Todd Sitzman, MD, MPH, At Large

Konstantin Slavin, MD, Deep Brain Stimulation

To be determined, Vagus Nerve Stimulation

To be determined, Gastric Electrical Stimulation

Managing editor, Jane Shipley

Disclosure

WIKISTIM includes citations for indications that are or might be considered off-label in the United States.

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