



December 2018 News

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If you are encountering this newsletter for the first time, please visit WIKISTIM's [ABOUT](#) section, which describes the site's unique resources and is accessible without registration.

Giving Any Day

We didn't contact you on "Giving Tuesday" in late November because we know what it is like to have an email box full of appeals. It is timely, however, to remind everyone that we are able to produce WIKISTIM and keep it free only through the kind generosity of our donors (listed below). We hope you will join them! Please consider making your donation via PAYPAL using this [DONATE](#) link or by sending a check to The Neuromodulation Foundation, 117 East 25th Street, Baltimore, MD 21218. Please encourage institutional and corporate sponsors as well. We'd love to add your name and theirs to our list of financial supporters below! The Neuromodulation Foundation is a charitable nonprofit 501 (c)(3) corporation, which means that all donations are tax deductible to those who can benefit in this way. We hope that all of you benefit in many ways from WIKISTIM and will help us continue to develop this resource and make it even more valuable.

Who Are We?

Several months ago, we began highlighting a member of our editorial board in each newsletter. As we introduce ourselves, we are adding hyperlinks from the list of board members at the end of this email to the newsletter where the board member was featured. This month, we are featuring Kristl Vonck, MD, PhD, our deep brain stimulation for epilepsy editor.



Kristl Vonck is an Assistant Professor of Neurology at Ghent University Hospital, Ghent, Belgium, where she had her medical training and also earned her doctorate with a thesis entitled, *Neurostimulation for refractory epilepsy, clinical efficacy and mechanism of action*. Dr. Vonck has held international training

positions at Guy's Hospital in London, Yale University School of Medicine in Connecticut, and the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa.

Dr. Vonck's research interests include neurostimulation, bioelectronic medicine, and neurophysiological home-monitoring of neurological disorders. In the translational research setting of the 4Brain Research Team, her team investigates the mechanism of action, efficacy, and side effects of several neurostimulation modalities. Both in animals and patients, the team pursues answers to crucial questions on stimulation parameters, open and closed loop neurostimulation applications, seizure detection and prediction algorithms, and invasive versus non-invasive neurostimulation to promote the application of neurostimulation as a valuable treatment option for neurological disorders. Under her direction, proof-of-concept and early innovative techniques for neurological monitoring@home are validated at the Excellence Center for Neurophysiological Monitoring of Ghent University Hospital before being investigated in a home environment. She has published widely in international peer-reviewed journals (>150 abstracts and >120 papers), authored seven book chapters, and made 150 international presentations.

Dr. Vonck joined WIKISTIM as deep brain stimulation for epilepsy editor until such time as we have a section on vagus nerve stimulation, which is also one of her research interests.

Implanted Technologies Under Scrutiny

You might be aware that the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists has launched a series called "Implant Files," which results from their year-long critique of implanted medical devices, with an emphasis on regulatory standards, industry incentives to physicians and facilities, and adverse events. The North American Neuromodulation Society's (NANS) board of directors has found that the reporting from the Associated Press "minimizes the benefit that SCS therapy offers patients suffering with chronic pain and fails to provide a balanced assessment of the therapy." NANS has formulated "key messages" about the effectiveness of SCS, FDA approval, and SCS patient care and monitoring to counter this adverse publicity. NANS also noted that it supports the FDA's plans to launch a National Evaluation System for Health Technology database. Please check the [NANS website](#) for information resources.

In related news, CNBC has [reported](#) that the FDA is in the process of changing its 510(k) expedited approval process for new medical devices, which has relied on comparison with already approved technology ("predicates" or "older base products"). The FDA is proposing requiring that such predicates be no more than 10 years "old," which we assume to be linked to the approval date.

WIKISTIM Paper in *Neuromodulation*

We are pleased to report that the electronic version of paper *WIKISTIM.org: An On-line Database of Published Neurostimulation Studies*, the first to appear under the new heading "Neuromodulation Resources," has been published and can be accessed via the Neuromodulation website.

What Have We Been Working On?

In November, we attended two important meetings. First, we went to Cleveland for "Neuromodulation: The Science 2018." The meeting series is the brainchild of our DRG editor, Dr. Elliot Krames, joined by Dr. Eric Grigsby, and this year's edition offered three days of excellent sessions covering neural engineering, bioelectronics, optogenetics, and recent findings for each of the stimulation targets included in WIKISTIM as well as vagus nerve stimulation. With no break-out sessions, the meeting allowed registrants to absorb the information presented without the feeling that they might be missing something. The next conference will be held in 2019 or 2020, and we will be sure to inform you when details are available from the organizers.

Next, we attended a two-day meeting in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the International Neuromodulation Society and the Institute of Neuromodulation as part of the Initiative on Methods, Measurement, and Pain Assessment in Clinical Trials (IMMPACT). This meeting's specific emphasis was on designing RCTs for clinical trials of SCS. The proceedings of this meeting will be transcribed and available in the near future. We'll report details as they become available.

Each of these meetings was timely in that each informed our revision of our data fields for all sections to support creation of our new section on noninvasive brain stimulation and facilitate the hyper-abstracting of reported data. We are sending the revisions to our section editors for their input as we consider how best to format and present them on the website.

December 2018 STATISTICS

Membership

In November, we added 26 subscribers, for a total of 807. Thank you for spreading the word!

Number of citations in each section

- DBS 4624, with 2 completed WIKISTIM abstracts
- DRG 86, with 9 completed WIKISTIM abstracts
- GES 476
- PNS 53
- SCS 2254, with 129 completed or partially completed WIKISTIM abstracts
- SNS 907

SUPPORT FOR WIKISTIM 2017-2018

Individual supporters

- Thomas Abell, MD
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Nonprofit support

- The International Neuromodulation Society (publicity and conference registration)
- The Neuromodulation Foundation, Inc. (WIKISTIM's parent organization)
- The North American Neuromodulation Society

CITATIONS ADDED for December 2018

DBS

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DRG

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GES

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SCS

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