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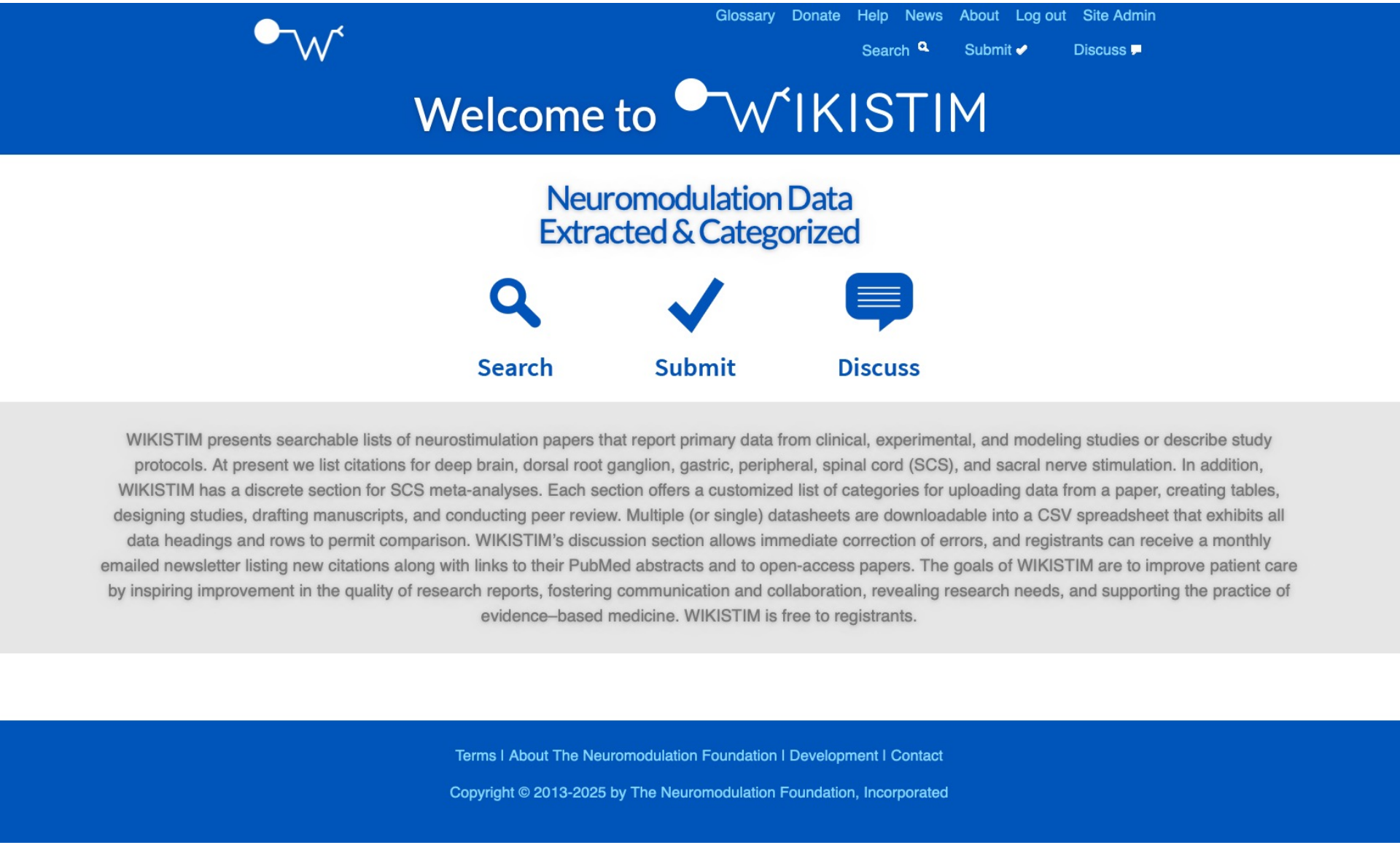

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Why WIKISTIM?

We rely on neurostimulation data to **improve patient care** by informing regulatory submissions, study design, practice decisions, reimbursement, etc.

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Challenges to *accessing* neurostimulation data:

- The repositories of abstracts (e.g., PubMed) respond best to expert search techniques that yield sufficiently specific and sensitive results. Even then, time-consuming curation is required to remove “noise” from search results.
- Abstracts routinely omit important data.
- Literature on the same topic is published in a host of journals.
- Access to this literature is expensive.

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How does WIKISTIM help us access neurostimulation data?

WIKISTIM provides human-curated, searchable citation lists of reports that provide primary data or study protocols. These lists are organized by stimulation target (currently SCS, SCS Meta-analyses, DRG, DBS, PNS, SNS, and GES, with NBS under development). Monthly updates and links are listed in WIKISTIM newsletters emailed to registrants.

Citations listed in WIKISTIM are linked to available PUBMED entries and free full-text articles.

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Challenges to *generating* neurostimulation data:

Study results can be flawed when biases and mistakes lead to inappropriate research techniques (e.g., study design, patient selection, outcome measures, data analysis, etc.) for a given study question.

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How does WIKISTIM help us generate neurostimulation data?

WIKISTIM provides data sheets comprising ~ 200 fields for each stimulation target to support data abstraction using narrative or numeric entries

Uncompleted data sheets provide templates that support the development of research protocols and preparation of manuscripts by encouraging the inclusion of important data. They also facilitate peer review.

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Challenges to *analyzing* neurostimulation data:

Meta-analyses, HTAs, "guidelines," literature reviews:

- Can (and do) incorporate mistakes
- Are fixed in time and, thus, are immediately out-of-date
- Are constrained by the subjective interests and inherent biases of the authors
- Are static rather than searchable/updatable
- Provide limited data visualization

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How does WIKISTIM help us analyze neurostimulation data?

Raw data sheets can be downloaded, completed, uploaded, and then downloaded again from search results or a citation list into a table to support rapid, up-to-date analysis and comparison of data.

When downloaded as a PDF, a data sheet presents each group heading and the fields with values added. When downloaded as a CSV file, every field appears to support comparison (downloaded table is too large to illustrate here).

Part of a screen in the Search SCS section. Citations can be downloaded into letter-oriented PDF format (see Slide 10).

Search

This database comprises citation information on 3,561 reports that report primary data on spinal cord stimulation (SCS) as well as relevant study protocols. Of these entries, 98 have been completely and another 34 partially abstracted in WIKISTIM format. We believe the citation list is comprehensive. Latest update of "epub" citations December 2024. Latest monthly update for content June 8, 2025.

Please note that entries beginning with accented authors' names might not appear in standard alphabetical order in the list of papers.

Searchable SCS Papers
SCS Data Categories

Infection Search

Sort By: Publication Date

Use the checkboxes to select multiple papers: Export to CSV

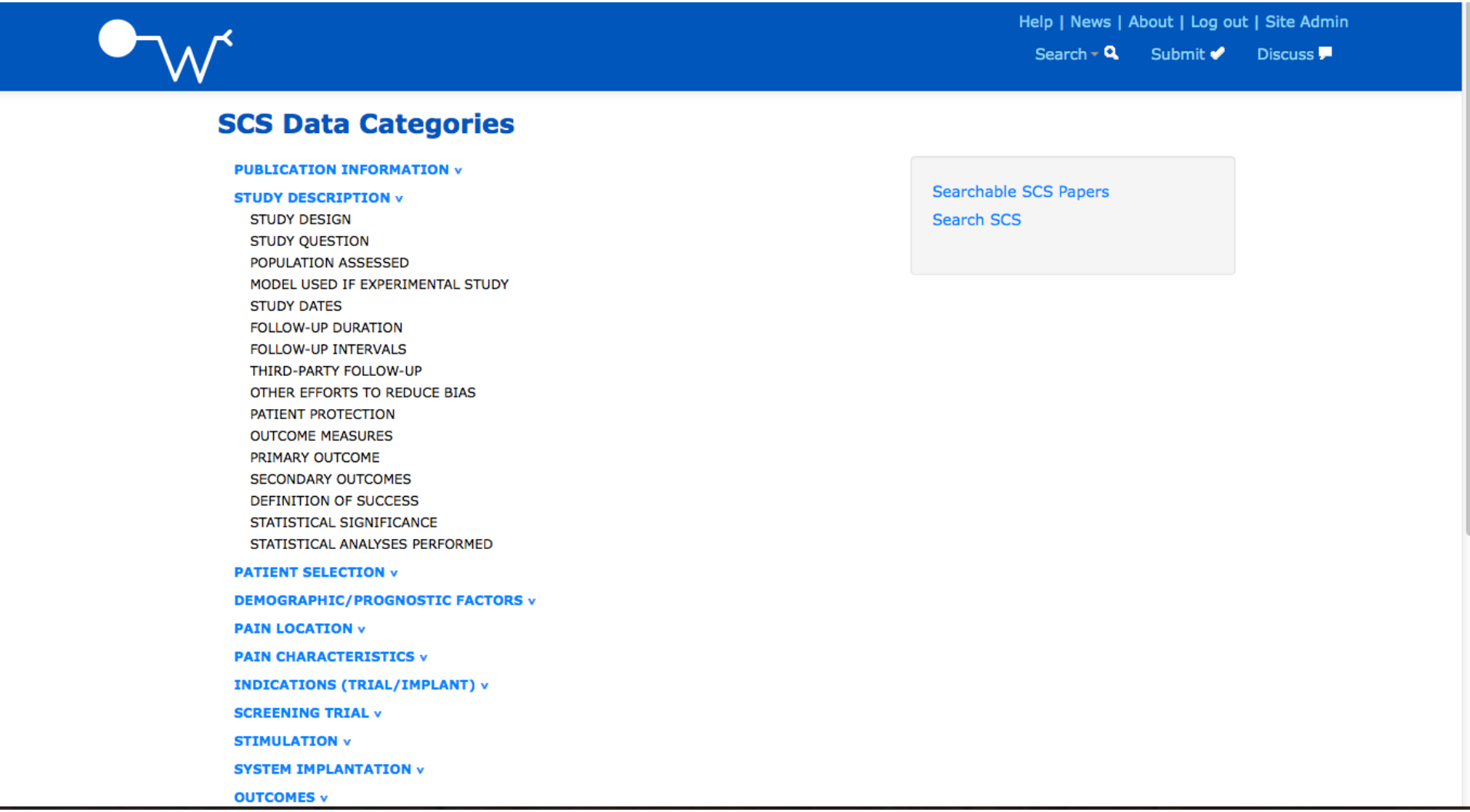
36 found.

Management and cost of spinal cord stimulator explants due to infection.
Royds J.
Neuromodulation epub, 2025.
Status:
Free Full Text PubMed

Sonication in patients with spinal cord stimulation: a new approach for infection diagnostics.
Kasapovic A, Jaenisch M, Ali T, Gathen M, Babasiz M, Bojko J, Roos J, Smajic S.
Neuromodulation 27(6):1076-1081, 2024.
Status:
PubMed

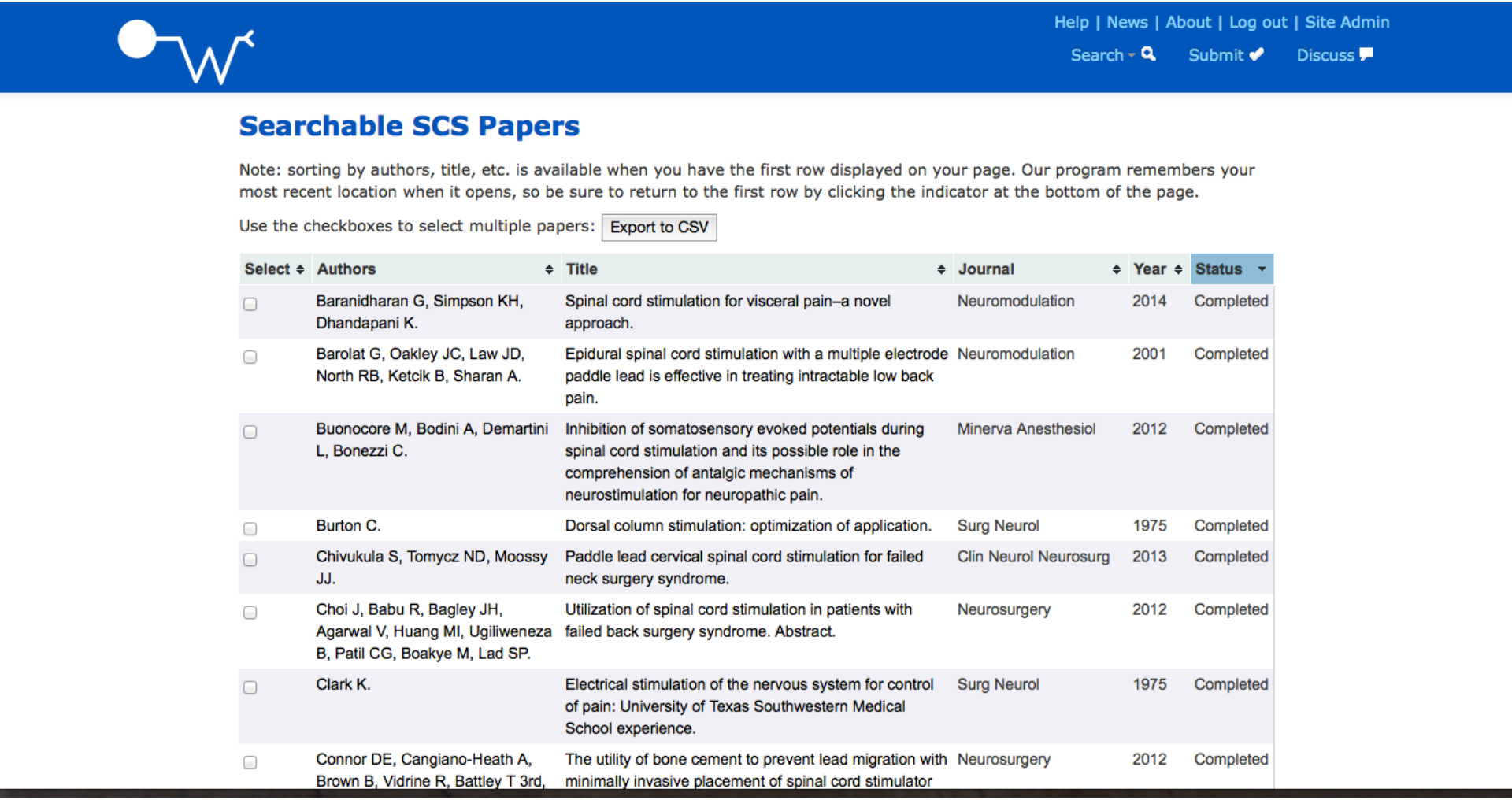
Epidural spread of surgical site infection from spinal cord stimulation trial.
Mukhdomi T, Andrassy B, Gungor S.
Pain Manag 14(5-6):235-240, 2024.
Status:
PubMed

A sample screen in the list of SCS data categories that comprise the SCS data sheet. Each heading drops down as indicated.



The beginning of a completed data sheet viewed online.

Completed data sheets can be identified by sorting the list of citations by “status” or by searching “completed” in a section.



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WIKISTIM and Collaboration

The WIKISTIM discussion section offers an excellent means for members of the neurostimulation community to discuss current topics and controversies.

The discussion section can be used to submit corrections and citations, suggest data fields and citations, and offer advice.

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Citation status as of July 15, 2025

	Aug 2021	Aug 2022	Aug 2023	Aug 2024	July 2025
Deep brain stimulation	6,364	7,061	7,747	8,466	9,141
Dorsal root ganglion stimulation	200	229	254	280	307
Gastric electrical stimulation	510	518	522	528	532
Meta-analyses (SCS)					58
Peripheral nerve stimulation	564	635	714	816	929
Spinal cord stimulation	2,745	2,938	3,172	3,350	3,592
Sacral nerve stimulation	1,090	1,139	1,186	1,242	1,311
Total	11,473	12,520	13,595	14,682	15,870

In the pipeline:

- **Non-invasive brain stimulation section**
- **Vagus nerve stimulation awaiting funding**

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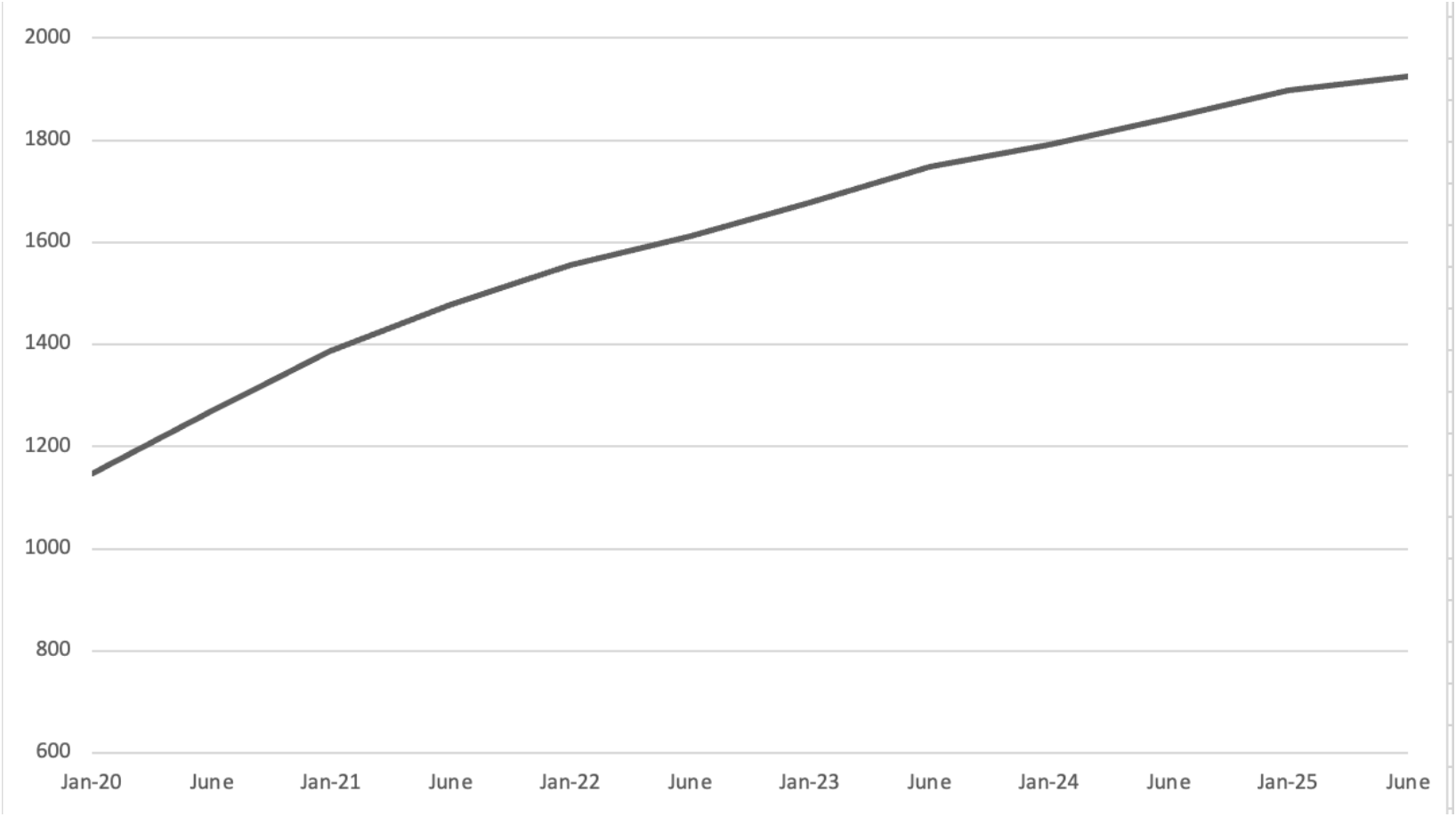
1925 subscribers ~ 34 countries as of July 2025



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The goals of WIKISTIM are to improve patient access and care by:

- Facilitating study design and reporting through use of WIKISTIM's data sheets, which provide templates for research protocols and manuscripts, encourage inclusion of important data, and facilitate peer review
- Fostering communication and collaboration
- Extending the useful life of publications
- Eliminating the need for researchers conducting meta-analyses to recreate the wheel

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Newsletter

Each month, we email a newsletter listing the citations added in each stimulation section along with links to their PubMed abstracts and Free Full Text (when available).

We add commentary when a pertinent subject calls for it.

These newsletters are archived without a password barrier under NEWS on the WIKISTIM home page.

The newsletters perform above expectation for our sector (see next slide).

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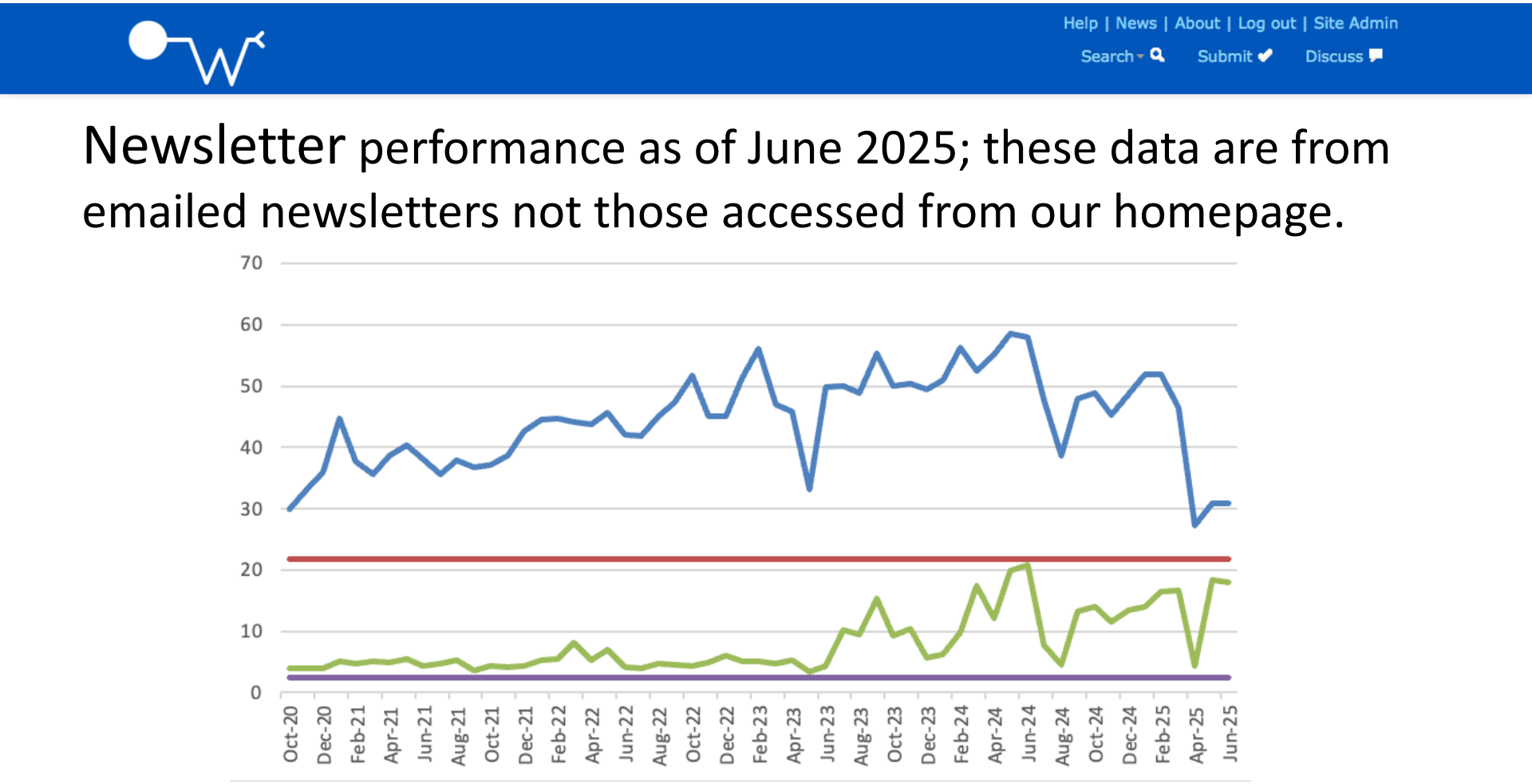

Newsletter performance as of June 2025; these data are from emailed newsletters not those accessed from our homepage.

Percent opened (blue) versus industry standard* (red) and percent clicks (green) versus industry standard (purple).

*Medical, dental, and healthcare sector mailchimp.com

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WIKISTIM What Will the Future Bring?

- Forms that facilitate online data submission (incorporating reward elements of gaming)
- Additional sections, such as VNS, and ONS
- The use of AI to fill in data sheets is undergoing investigation by an academic team
- Links from data fields to additional information
- A dynamic user experience (saved search results, customized site behavior, automatic updates of searches) with data presented graphically using cutting-edge data visualization techniques

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We urge you to join in this effort by:

- Registering for WIKISTIM (the process is free and easy)
- Spreading the word about WIKISTIM
- Making a donation and/or encouraging companies that make educational grants to support WIKISTIM
- Submitting completed datasheets
- Helping us to create new sections

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Financial support from inception to date:

BIOTRONIK NRO, Boston Scientific, Enterra Medical, Greatbatch, Medtronic, Nevro, Nuvectra, St Jude, Stimwave

The International Neuromodulation Society
The NANS Foundation
The Neuromodulation Foundation, Inc. (WIKISTIM's parent organization)
The North American Neuromodulation Society

Thomas Abell, MD; Allen Burton, MD; James Brennan, MD; David Cedeno, PhD and Pilar Mejia, PhD; Kenneth Chapman, MD; Terry Daglow; Hemant Kalia, MD, MPH, FIPP; The Donlin & Harriett Long Family Charitable Gift Fund; Mohammad Omar; SuEarl McReynolds; Richard B. North, MD; Louis Raso, MD, PA; B. Todd Sitzman, MD, MPH; Konstantin Slavin, MD, PhD; Sean Slee, PhD

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