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### Neuromodulation Experts Fly down to Acapulco Bay

#### Abstract

The 8th world congress and 11th annual meeting of the International Neuromodulation Society (INS) was held at the Fairmont Princess Acapulco Hotel in picturesque Acapulco, Mexico. The conference held in December featured upcoming techniques in [spinal cord](#) and [peripheral nerve stimulation](#), as well as several provocative case series reviews in the field of [deep brain stimulation](#). Novel technologies were also showcased by presenters around the conference theme 'Neuromodulation: Technology at the Neural Interface'.

#### Complete Article

29 Jan 2008

New insights into [deep brain stimulation](#) were explored by Dr Konstantin Baev of St Joseph's Hospital, Arizona whose research has helped to boost the understanding of [neuromodulation](#) mechanisms in [Parkinson's disease](#). Dr Baev has conceptualised a model whereby electrostimulation of the basal ganglia acts to disrupt errant predication signalling, thereby alleviating motor symptoms in Parkinson's disease. It is hoped this model, based on the neural network computational principle, may be of benefit across a range of neuromodulation modalities.<sup>1</sup>

A review of [peripheral nerve field stimulation](#) in the treatment of [chronic pain](#) was presented by Dr David Abejón de Peurta de Hierro University Hospital, Madrid. His investigation of peripheral nerve stimulation in areas inaccessible to [spinal cord stimulation](#) such as the abdominal wall, paravertebral and parascapula zones revealed a positive outcome for [intractable non-cancer pain](#).<sup>2</sup> A multicentre trial is expected to follow on from this research as a result of some very successful outcomes.<sup>2</sup>

Dr Konstantin Slavin presented findings from a prospective multicentre study investigating the efficacy of spinal cord stimulation (SCS) three months postimplantation. The trial used the visual analogue scale to rate patient pain scores post implantation. In addition, changes in medication use, quality of life and adverse events were also assessed.<sup>3</sup> It was found that the use of spinal cord stimulation decreased the pain rating by an average of 58.6 % in participants and resulted in an increase in quality of life.<sup>3</sup> The technique also provided good to excellent pain control in up to 77.3% of patients with up to 81.8 % of patients reporting less reliance on paincontrolling medications following implantation.<sup>3</sup>

Dr Bradley Carpentier discussed the efficacy of SCS implantation across a range of chronic neuropathic conditions. SCS appeared to be effective at relieving all pain complaints examined by the study with the exception of axial lumbar pain.<sup>4</sup> Six months post implantation pain control was rated as improved in 30-90% of cases of refractory chronic pain.<sup>4</sup> In addition, SCS was associated with relatively low rates of complications in this investigation.<sup>4</sup>

On a similar note Dr Line Jacques discussed the effectiveness of Spinal cord stimulation as part of a treatment approach to manage pain in failed Back Surgery patients. Results from a randomised controlled study in 100 patients with neuropathic leg pain indicate that SCS can provide additional pain reduction and improvement in health related quality

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of life over a period of two years.<sup>5</sup>

New technologies in SCS were showcased in the form of a novel Italian designed implant which utilises "Current fractionalisation" to reduce refractory axial [low back pain](#).<sup>6</sup> This device was trialled in a pilot study involving patients with unresolved back pain despite conventional SCS.<sup>6</sup> The early results achieved with this device are promising and may lead to future improvement in control of unresolved low back pain.<sup>6</sup>

The 3rd Scientific Meeting of the Australian Chapter of the International Neuromodulation Society will take place at the Perth Convention Centre on March 30, 2008. This meeting also incorporates The 28th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australian Pain Society.

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