



Neuromodulation News: April 2014

A Message from the President

Dear INS members,

The International Neuromodulation Society celebrates its 25th year in vibrant good health. In recent months I have attended and participated in several INS chapter events in Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States. The organisers of each are reporting increased numbers of attendees and sponsors.

Interest in the INS 2015 biennial congress in Montreal is growing with nearly 40 proposals from our membership for symposia and plenary speakers. As we look ahead to the congress, we anticipate that our shared interest in implantable neuromodulation may draw more specialists – such as neurologists, psychiatrists and neurosurgeons – to our meeting and society. I think INS will be a great place for them to be, and we hope they will be persuaded to take more part in our meetings and society. We will endeavor to make it attractive for them to come, and welcome new colleagues who avidly follow one or more growing branches of neuromodulation.

So what else tells me that the INS and our field are growing? As a reviewer for the journal I am pleased to see the volume of manuscripts coming through of greater quality. Now with eight editions per year and early view online there is a continuous presence of interesting articles. I hope you have enjoyed the INS discussion forums with acknowledged experts in the field discussing subjects relating directly to the online journal output.

The INS Director at Large (DaL) elections have been held with four excellent applicants. The INS board says farewell to Professor Jaimie Henderson who will continue as Brain Section Editor of the journal. Jaimie attended every board meeting and provided us with much wisdom. I am personally very grateful to him but know that he will continue to contribute to the INS. The electorate have spoken and overwhelmingly elected Professor Konstantin Slavin to serve a second term as DaL. Konstantin builds bridges between people and societies. He offers much wise advice. So thank you for returning him to work with the Full Board. I am excited to welcome Professor Ali Rezai as new DaL to the INS board. Ali, like Konstantin, is widely respected globally and will be a great asset to the INS. I want to make special mention of Professor Luming Li who as a bio-engineer and co-founder of the Chinese Neuromodulation Society was generous enough to put his “hat in the ring” at these DaL elections.

I recently returned from the Mechanism of Action meeting led by INS Emeritus DaL Dr. Elliot Krames and INS member Dr. Eric Grigsby. This was the first event and was held in Orlando. It attracted not only many INS members from a clinical scientific background but many Ph.D. students and academic professors of physiology and bioengineering. Elliot Krames and I believe that a one-day satellite symposium in June 2015 immediately preceding the INS congress in Montreal on mechanisms of action of neurostimulation will not only attract a rich array of basic scientists but will also be of great interest to the broader INS.

There are several randomized comparison scientific studies on neuromodulation that will be reporting over the next couple of years. These range from heart failure and refractory angina to back pain and complex regional pain syndrome. There are many exciting technologies that have been launched in Europe such as sphenopalatine ganglion stimulation for cluster headache. New comparison studies are planned for a host of new technologies such as multifidus muscle stimulation for back pain.

However there are many indications for generic spinal cord stimulation that remain poorly proven and without reimbursement. This is where the INS Research Initiative hopes to make a difference. If we can get the necessary support I think this will make a substantial difference to patients around the world. Lets hope our industry partners will support this initiative and help the INS “raise all the boats in the harbour”

Randomised comparison trials are vital to prove effectiveness of our therapies when added to otherwise optimal usual care. However longitudinal studies such as registries both of disease and neuromodulation therapies themselves also give vital information. The Neuromodulation Society of the United Kingdom and Ireland (NSUKI) hopes to test its registry in nine hospitals in May and June 2014 and to roll this out

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to all by the end of the year. NANS have identified the requirement for a U.S. registry as a prime research need for their new research foundation.

The Full Board of the INS will be signing off both the Research Initiative ([see related article](#)) and the INS Endorsement Policy at its annual meeting in May 2014 in Montreal. This meeting provides an opportunity to fine-tune the programme for the 2015 congress and to survey the setting. The idea being that each chapter president will be involved, have a sense of collective purpose and to enthuse colleagues to join us at the congress in 2015.

The articles from the Neuromodulation Appropriateness Consensus Conference (NACC) will be published this year. There have been concerns about the inappropriate use of neuromodulation. It is important that INS members continue to grasp the importance of good clinical governance as it relates to neuromodulation and maintain the highest skills and practice. A recent editorial from Professor Robert Levy highlights how other fields of medicine have found that the Centre of Excellence model leads to better outcomes. In my view the interdisciplinary team is a minimum requirement for neuromodulation. It should be coupled with clear patient pathways for referral and selection, surgical expertise and good follow up arrangements. The INS will provide a press release once NACC is published.

I hope you agree that the INS is in good health. Please read more of this newsletter as it explains more of what we are trying to do to serve you, the INS member. Your continuing support of our Mission and Vision is vital and appreciated.

Since 2011 the INS has created a "Giant of Neuromodulation" award. In 2011 we presented this award to Professor Krishna Kumar and in 2013 to Dr. Elliot Krames. In April we learnt of Kris Kumar's sudden death. Kris remained both in active neuromodulation research and importantly, patient and therapy advocacy. In truth Kris's published work in spinal cord stimulation and intrathecal drug delivery has left a lasting legacy that for SCS has helped to ensure that reimbursement is available in many countries around the world. In 2010/11 he received the highest civilian honor of Canada. Kris leaves his much-loved wife, Shuhba, and his children Ashok, Usha and Rajeev in whom he had such pride. Thank you Kris.



Professor Krishna Kumar, MD, 2011 recipient of the inaugural INS Giant in Neuromodulation award and founding president of the [Canadian Neuromodulation Society](#).

The INS is a professional society and groundbreaking by our multidisciplinary nature. We owe much to pioneers like Kris but I am pleased to acknowledge that our ongoing success draws from invaluable contributors – from our volunteer board members, executive officers, chapter society leaders, meeting organisers, editorial staff, and editor-in-chief to the editorial section editors' review board. On this last note, I would like to close by noting the addition of several new editorial board members, introduced by Editor-in-Chief Professor Robert Levy in the February issue of our journal, whose scholarship aptly reflects the caliber and breadth of this unfolding field. We look forward to incorporating their wisdom and perspective as we continue to promote new knowledge and exemplary practice in all forms of neuromodulation.

Dr. Simon Thomson, MBBS, FFPMRCA
President of INS

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New Directors-at-Large Elected

In the recently completed election among a field of four candidates for two positions as Director-at-Large, Professor Konstantin Slavin, MD and Professor Ali Rezai, MD were elected to three-year terms on the International Neuromodulation Society board, and will begin their terms on May 17, 2014.

Save the Dates:
6-11 June 2015

INTERNATIONAL NEUROMODULATION SOCIETY

12TH WORLD CONGRESS
Neuromodulation: Medicine Evolving Through Technology

MONTREAL, QC, CANADA
Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel

ABSTRACT DEADLINE
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Neuromodulation
Technology at the Neural Interface
Official Journal of the International Neuromodulation Society

WILEY Blackwell

MEDLINE-Indexed, and Now Published 8 Times a Year!

Unique Member Benefit

INS Expert Panel

Members may [log in](#) and visit the members-only section's Global Discussion Forum to

Much gratitude is due outgoing Director-at-Large Professor Jaimie Henderson, MD for his productive, dedicated and energetic service since 2011. Professor Slavin is returning for a second term, and Professor Rezai joins the INS board shortly after ending his term as president of the North American Neuromodulation Society chapter in January. Reflecting the truly international nature of the society, the strong field of candidates also included Professor Luming Li, PhD, director of China's National Engineering Laboratory for Neuromodulation and co-founder and vice president of the Chinese Neuromodulation Society chapter.

As mentioned previously, each candidate would make an excellent Director-at-Large, and their contributions to the society are much appreciated. In addition, many thanks go to all the members who participated in voting.

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Thanks to All Who Sent Congress Proposals and Survey Responses

The International Neuromodulation Society received 38 proposals with ideas for plenary and breakout lectures for the 12th World Congress, "Neuromodulation: Medicine Evolving Through Technology," which will take place at the Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel in Montreal on June 6-11, 2015.

INS also thanks everyone who took time to complete and turn in a survey on the World Congress.

The INS held a drawing for anyone who submitted a proposal or survey. The member selected in the drawing, Dr. Philip S. Kim, will receive complimentary admission to the scientific sessions of the 2015 World Congress in Montreal. Congratulations to Dr. Kim!

Meanwhile, the congress proposals received will be reviewed by the INS's Scientific Program Committee, which will identify selected proposals by April 15, 2014. The sessions will cover basic science, clinical studies and biomedical engineering. To maintain an overall balance, the committee members may modify the composition of proposed topics and speakers while devising the final program.

The INS 12th World Congress in 2015 will include such topics as neurostimulation for pain, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, movement disorders, depression, obsessive compulsive disorder, cardiac disorders, peripheral vascular disease, uropelvic disorders, functional electrical stimulation for hearing and eye sight loss, stroke, and quadriplegia.

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Save the Date for the International Neuromodulation Society 12th World Congress in Montreal June 6-11, 2015

Please mark your calendars now and plan to join your colleagues in Montreal next year. The 12th World Congress, "**Neuromodulation: Medicine Evolving Through Technology**," takes place **June 6-11, 2015**.

The three-day scientific session is preceded by a two-day preconference: June 6, 2015, Fundamentals of Neuromodulation, including Mechanisms of Action; and June 7, 2015, Innovations in Neuromodulation.

With enthusiastic collaboration from the INS Canadian Neuromodulation Society chapter, the 12th World Congress is being held at the Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. This elegant meeting venue is central to cultural activities in fascinating, bilingual Montreal, and it offers state-of-the-art meeting facilities to enhance the experience of delegates to the congress.

Your abstracts, posters, and contributions will help fuel a successful and engaging meeting that will not only advance the practice of neuromodulation but also aid access by our patients to the best and most current approaches that may address a myriad of challenging conditions. Please plan ahead now to prepare your scientific work to share with peers and colleagues at the congress. **The [abstract submission](#) deadline is January 12, 2015.**

Meanwhile, INS has issued the [Exhibitor Prospectus](#) and invites companies to participate as exhibitors.

We look forward to seeing you in Montreal!

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Plan Ahead for the 2017 13th World Congress in Edinburgh – May 27 – June 1,

participate; watch for updates on our [Expert Panels](#) announcement page.

2017

The INS 13th World Congress takes place May 27 – June 1, 2017, at the recently expanded convention center in historic Edinburgh, Scotland – one of Europe's top travel destinations and innovation hubs and a bustling and vibrant venue for our increasingly popular biennial world congress. Please stay tuned for details at <http://www.neuromodulation.com/ins-congress>.

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Members May Now List Their Contact Details in a Public Directory on the INS Website

The International Neuromodulation Society now offers members the option for their details to be listed in a public directory, posted at <http://www.neuromodulation.com/public-directory>. For the convenience of users, the directory is searchable by location.

If you would like to opt in to have your basic contact details displayed in the public directory, please log in to the Members Only Section of the INS website, <http://www.neuromodulation.com/login> and click on "Edit My Profile". In the profile screen, under "Include my clinic in the public directory", you will see three choices: Yes, No or N/A (for "not applicable"). Only basic information from profiles marked "Yes" will be displayed publicly.

The basic contact information shown in the public directory includes:

- Name
- Credentials or degrees
- Title
- Institution
- Affiliation
- Specialty
- Address
- Office telephone number

Members are encouraged to keep their information current, and are solely responsible for its accuracy. The listing does not imply an endorsement by INS, nor does INS commit to vet or vouch for the listing content.

Even if you do not choose to be listed in the public directory, please remember that members who are logged in can still look up your profile, so it is recommended to keep your contact information current for this reason as well. If you like, on your profile, you may add a thumbnail photo of yourself that will be visible to logged-in members, but is not displayed in the public directory.

While logged in, you are also encouraged to explore other resources for members in the Members Only Section of the INS website – such as archived past Expert Panel discussions and the opportunity begin a new discussion on the Global Discussion Forum platform where the [Expert Panels](#) are hosted.

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The International Neuromodulation Society Proposes a Research Initiative

For some time, INS has been pursuing creation of a Research Initiative to stimulate development of important data regardless of whether the resulting application will be novel or proprietary. For example, to address reimbursement and access concerns facing generic therapies such as spinal cord stimulation, further well-designed clinical studies could be pursued even if the anticipated findings might not confer a competitive advantage to one device manufacturer over another.

To promote pursuit of more scientific knowledge concerning neuromodulation, a proposed research initiative fund would be administered by the INS. One thrust of the initiative would involve formulating scope suggestions for research and issuing a call for proposals. A successful applicant should be able to apply the resultant seed funding to further develop the research proposal with a scope that attracts the necessary funding and expertise for the project to bear fruit and be successful.

The INS's second research field in the envisioned initiative would be to encourage longitudinal study developments through the use of registry data concerning disease and therapy outcomes. Finally, the third research field that the INS hopes to support is in basic science of mechanisms of action. The next step will be for the Full Board to vote on the proposed Research Initiative during its annual meeting in

May. Please stay tuned to hear how this initiative develops.

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Neuromodulation: Technology at the Neural Interface Adds Mobile-Friendly Viewing

In a new development, some articles in the official International Neuromodulation Society journal [Neuromodulation: Technology at the Neural Interface](#) now have an enhanced feature so that the text will resize for viewing on any size screen – including small mobile platforms – as well as enabling toggling between views for streamlined navigation of figures and references.

Called Anytime, Anywhere, this enhanced-article feature is indicated by an orange and white “Enhanced Article (HTML)” logo alongside any title of an article in the table of contents that is equipped with this responsive layout and navigation.

Logged-in subscribers – including all INS and chapter members – will be able to view those articles in this mobile-friendly mode by clicking on the enhanced view link from the table of contents. If you have not already explored this capability, please take a moment to see how it can facilitate your perusal of the journal content from wherever you may happen to be.

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Discount Publication Opportunities from Wiley

International Neuromodulation Society members can now receive a substantial discount on most print books from Wiley, publisher of the official INS journal *Neuromodulation: Technology at the Neural Interface*.

For the promotional code, please [log in](#) to the Members Only Section of the INS website and follow the link for [publication discount opportunities](#).

For more opportunities to save, members may also join Wiley's [e-mail service](#) to hear about more special offers and receive announcements about new products, author appearances, and more.

We are glad to offer members this additional value from Wiley, in addition to their journal subscription.

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View Neuromodulation Videos from the International Neuromodulation Society

The first videos describing neuromodulation have been added to the International Neuromodulation Society's YouTube channel (<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1WHoarhGvExR2iXZPxrNgQ>). The collection of videos is also listed on Google + (<https://plus.google.com/+Neuromodulation/videos>).

So far, the series features explanatory content from INS secretary Dr. Marc Russo, who was videotaped as he describes chronic migraine and occipital nerve stimulation (ONS). In addition, one separate video clip features an interview with a young woman in Australia who found relief from ONS for her chronic headaches. She describes her treatment journey that ended with receiving this therapy, and how she has benefitted and been able to continue on in school and enter a health profession after previously being too impacted by the headaches to continue her job.

As mentioned in our [January newsletter](#), INS welcomes similar generic explanatory video content – please [contact](#) Nancy Garcia with your suggestions. It is hoped these short informational videos will be helpful to your referrers, patients and trainees.

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Calling Neuromodulation Book Authors

The International Neuromodulation Society lists relevant books on its website Links page, <http://www.neuromodulation.com/ins-links>. Members are welcome to notify INS if they have recently published a book about neuromodulation that might be added to that list. Please email Public Education

and Website Manager Nancy Garcia with the title, publication date, and related details. INS is committed to providing a centralized resource of such information about this field.

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