



Neuromodulation News: January 2014

A Message from the President

I am writing this on New Year's Eve. Already my friends and colleagues in the East have welcomed in 2014 and soon it will be my turn. What will 2014 bring to the field of neuromodulation and to the International Neuromodulation Society and its chapter societies?

This year, 2014, is our off-congress year. However our INS Congress Chair and President-Elect Dr. Tim Deer, the INS executive scientific committee, and Canadian Neuromodulation Society President Dr. Michel Prudhomme are working hard on creating another great meeting for [6th to 11th June 2015](#) in Montreal. A [call for session ideas](#) has been sent to INS Full Board and suggestions are being received and considered until 28th February 2014.

The INS and its members are also working with SIGN (Special Interest Group of IASP for Neuromodulation) to enhance an official IASP symposium at the IASP world congress in Buenos Aires on 5th October 2014. This is important progress for our field of neuromodulation as many IASP members have very little knowledge of and access to neuromodulation for pain. Prof. Jose A. Lopez of Cadiz University in Spain is leading this initiative on behalf of the SIGN board. The Argentina neuromodulation society (SANE) in combination with the Polish neuromodulation society will be holding its own satellite symposium immediately following IASP congress in Mendoza. Details of this will follow.

Our Emeritus Director-at-Large Dr. Elliot Krames has also been busy creating a meeting on "Electrical Stimulation of the Nervous System: Mechanisms of Action". Although this is not an INS event, many of our members and executive staff will be taking part. Our current lack of more complete understanding of the mechanism of action of neurostimulation holds our field back from wider adoption. By bringing together thought leaders from neuroscience, bio-engineering, post-doctorate fellows, clinicians and members of industry, it is hoped that it will generate a better understanding of "where we presently are regarding [mechanisms of action], where we have to go and what we need to do to get there." If interested please visit <http://moaconference.com/>.

As president of the INS it is of special interest to me to be made aware of new innovative technologies and applications. I am also struck by the interest shown from the conversations I have had with the investment community, which bodes well for our field. Neuromodulation is very much seen as a centerpiece for management of long-term conditions particularly where pharmacological and invasive strategies are either less effective or less safe or both. However we have to produce the data that convince our colleagues, patients and payers. It's this poverty of supporting clinical and cost-effectiveness evidence that also holds back our field from wider adoption.

I remain concerned that reimbursement in many advanced health care economies is not being made available for many applications, such as spinal cord stimulation (SCS) for chronic critical limb ischaemia, refractory angina and visceral pain. Industry partners are reluctant to invest unless they have intellectual property with a new innovation. Despite this some do invest knowing that by doing so "all boats will rise in the harbour". Just look at the benefits Medtronic, Inc.-sponsored research achieved for SCS reimbursement. I hope that all other companies will look to see how they might contribute to this. At a recent review of NICE TA159 (the guidance that recommended SCS for neuropathic pain within the UK) it was determined that no new suitable evidence was available to expand upon this guidance. Broadly that means no general access to SCS for ischaemic or visceral pain. The tragedy is that unnecessary cardiac interventions, abdominal and pelvic surgeries and limb amputations continue.

This is one reason that I have initiated an INS research strategy. As a global society we would be unable to support clinical or basic science research on our own. However we can use our expertise to try to both promote areas of research that we believe need further investigation and to support larger grant applications made to other research bodies.

I believe that collectively we are not ambitious enough. Time and time again we re-visit the assumptions made about the incidence and prevalence of failed back surgery syndrome (FBSS), refractory angina, Parkinson's disease, refractory migraine, and disabling incontinence and yet we know that neuromodulation is only touching 2 to 3% of those that would benefit. If we believe in what we are doing, we have to be an advocate for these patients. This means that we have to decommission ineffective therapies, enhance and modify disease management pathways, unblock the resistance to referral, speed

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the process to assessment and treatment and throughout focus on the patient's interests.

Looking back on 2013 I would like to draw your attention to one aspect of society activity that you may not have noticed. Nancy Garcia, INS's Public Education and Website Manager, has been working on many projects but one that gives us particular satisfaction is the HONcode certification. You may notice the HON seal on each page of our website, www.neuromodulation.com. Meeting the certification requirements aligns with the INS goal of providing value to members and the public by enhancing visibility of our emerging field. The seal reinforces the objective credibility we strive to achieve in content that has been developed through collective effort to raise awareness and increase appropriate access to therapies. The HON code is a voluntary certification system for websites that adhere to quality principles of providing authoritative, up-to-date, and balanced health information. Chartered in 1995 in Geneva, the Health on the Net Foundation is a nonprofit organization that promotes and upholds these quality standards. The HON code is the oldest well-recognized code of conduct guiding providers of health information. Displaying the HON code seal indicates to readers our commitment to provide trustworthy health information.

I hope that many of you are by now aware of our [Expert Panels](#) accessible to members on the INS website. We select topics that either align with the articles coming forward in the online early view journal or simply a topic that we believe is suitable for peer discussion. We are very grateful to our moderators who have fielded questions and contributed to the discussion – from 13 to 27 January, in our latest panel, we anticipate that both Dr. Rick Weiner and Dr. Peter Goadsby will lead an interactive peer discussion on occipital nerve stimulation for refractory headache. All the discussions are archived and are clearly a great resource as each continues to attract ongoing views long after active moderation has closed. Please stay alert to upcoming topics, make sure details of your member profile on our site are complete, and try to contribute so your knowledge and interest can be shared.

Our most recent panel on the for and against paddle and cylindrical SCS lead placements attracted many pillars of the SCS worldwide community and generated this remark about this feature's value from Prof. Richard North - "In conclusion, congratulations are due INS for providing these 'Expert Panels.' In an era of evidence-based medicine, randomized controlled trials are too often privileged over 'expert' opinion, and this is a useful opportunity for broader discussion, extending the life and expanding the reach of refereed publications."

We are starting to source short educational pieces using movie clips that fulfill the mission and quality standards of the INS website. We hope that some of these will appear in 2014. I am very grateful to Dr. Marc Russo, the INS secretary, who was happy to see about editing his short movie on occipital nerve stimulation, to ensure that it is not only generic but even blind to his own clinical practice. I hope that you will find the ensuing piece helpful to your referrers, patients and trainees. If you are aware of similar generic educational explanatory movies please could you [contact](#) Nancy Garcia with your suggestions.

In our efforts to add value to your INS membership we are going to create a public directory of members clinic contacts. This will only be done with your permission. Please visit the [Members Only Section](#) of the website and keep your profile updated. There you may indicate if you wish your contact details to be made available on the public directory, which is also a box to tick on our membership [application and renewal forms](#), which allow you to indicate your areas of specialization as well as your affiliation.

As you can see the INS is still looking forward and is acting proactively. We wanted to be a rallying point. I do hope you feel that we are doing our bit! I wish you a very happy and productive 2014.

Dr. Simon Thomson, MBBS, FFPMRCA
President of INS

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Director-at-Large Nominations

The INS Board of Directors invites you to participate in the election of two Directors-at-Large, who shall serve for a term of three years on the INS Board. In accordance with the INS Bylaws, the Nominating Committee shall nominate two candidates and the general membership of the INS may nominate up to five candidates for each of the open positions.

The INS Nominating Committee has nominated the incumbent directors-at-large as the candidates:

[Dr. Jaimie Henderson](#)

[Dr. Konstantin Slavin](#)

Please click on the links above to view the candidates' mission statements, biographical sketches and curricula vitae.

The INS Bylaws provide INS members an opportunity to propose write-in candidates prior to the election. By this notice, we invite you, our membership, to nominate write-in candidates who you feel have made significant contributions to the field of neuromodulation and who would add considerably to the leadership of the INS Board of Directors. The candidates must be current INS members.

of Events



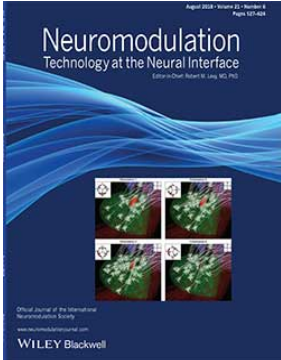
Save the Date:
6-11 June 2015

**INTERNATIONAL
NEUROMODULATION
SOCIETY**

12TH WORLD CONGRESS
Neuromodulation: Medicine
Evolving Through Technology

MONTREAL, QC, CANADA
Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel

ABSTRACT DEADLINE
14 February 2015



Neuromodulation
Technology at the Neural Interface

Official Journal of the International
Neuromodulation Society

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Unique Member Benefit



INS Expert Panel

Members may [log in](#) and visit the members-only section's Global Discussion Forum to participate; watch for updates on our [Expert Panels](#) announcement page.

Each write-in candidate must provide:

- 12 letters/emails of support or supporting signatures from INS members (in one document)
- A curriculum vita
- A biographical sketch for the ballot, not exceeding one page
- A color photo
- A statement of intent, of roughly 200 words
- Confirmation of current INS membership

Self nominations are permitted. The deadline for submission of write-in documentation to the INS Executive Office is Feb. 14, 2014. Please submit all documents via e-mail to ins@neuromodulation.com. There shall be a limit of five (5) write-in candidates for each post, ten (10) in total.

All chapter members are members of the INS and eligible to vote. If your email address in your INS profile is current, you will receive an email on Feb. 17 that will direct you to the INS's online ballot, where you will be able to vote for two (2) of the slated candidates. The candidates elected by a majority of INS members will be announced by the 17th of March, 2014.

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Call for Proposals - 12th World Congress in 2015

The International Neuromodulation Society invites members to submit proposals for plenary and breakout lectures for its 12th World Congress, which will take place in Montreal, Quebec, Canada on 6-11 June 2015. The Congress' title, "Neuromodulation: Medicine Evolving Through Technology," emphasizes our field's transformative force on the treatment of disease states – how it is approached now and will be approached in the not too distant future – and proposed topics should reflect this theme as well. The Scientific Committee will consider basic science, clinical studies and biomedical engineering presentations on neuromodulation for:

- Neurological disorders, including chronic pain and cancer pain
- Brain disorders, including epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, dystonia, traumatic brain injury, stroke, psychiatric disorders, etc.
- Cardiovascular disorders, including heart failure, angina and peripheral vascular disease
- Gastrointestinal disorders
- Pelvic organ motility disorders
- Neurorehabilitation
- And more

All proposals must adhere to the [proposal instructions](#) and must be submitted electronically to inscongress@neuromodulation.com.

The submission deadline is: 28 February 2014

We thank you for your consideration and we hope you will participate in the creation of our scientific program.

Looking forward to receiving your proposal,

Timothy Deer, MD
INS Congress Chair and President-Elect

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Date for INS 13th World Congress Selected


We are pleased to announce that the INS 13th World Congress will take place in Edinburgh, Scotland on 27 May – 1 June 2017. Please stay tuned for more details to follow on the INS website, www.neuromodulation.com.

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Occipital Nerve Stimulation is Topic of January Expert Panel

From Monday, Jan. 13 - Monday, Jan. 27, Drs. Peter Goadsby and Rick Weiner will co-moderate an INS Expert Panel on the evidence for, and challenges of, occipital nerve stimulation for refractory headache. INS Expert Panels are accessible to all members through [logging](#) into the Members-Only Section of the

INS website and visiting www.neuromodulation.com/members-only-section, then following the menu to the Global Discussion Forum. For more about the co-moderators and a link to recent work in this area that appears in an early view article in *Neuromodulation: Technology at the Neural Interface*, please visit the [Expert Panel announcement](#). Instructions for navigating to the forum after logging in, including screen shots, are also posted there.

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Please Update Your Member Profile

In coming months the INS will explore adding the option to be listed in a public directory that would be available by clicking a future link on our home page at www.neuromodulation.com. If you wish to participate, please make sure your professional affiliation and other details are current in your member profile. Only members who opt-in on their member profile form will be listed publicly. If you do choose to be listed, keeping your member information up-to-date is to your benefit -- and also avoids frustration on the part of any members of the public who seek to contact you based on the directory.

In addition, members can find each other by logging into the Members-Only Section and exploring that directory (which has more dynamic features than a public directory would). You can choose to add a thumbnail-sized photograph of yourself that displays alongside your name and location in the Global Discussion Forum where our Expert Panel members-only discussions take place. To view and update your profile, enter the password-protected part of our site at www.neuromodulation.com/members-only-section and click the top menu item, Edit My Profile.

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***Neuromodulation: Technology at the Neural Interface* to publish two additional issues starting in 2014**

With the new year, to accommodate increasing submissions and interest in the field, the International Neuromodulation Society journal, *Neuromodulation: Technology at the Neural Interface*, has increased its publication schedule from six to eight issues annually. With a growing rejection rate that has reached 60% and has markedly improved the journal's quality, there still is a need to expand the editorial space available in each issue to publish high-caliber manuscripts.

Issues of Volume 17 in 2014 will be published in January, February, April, June, July, August, October, and December. INS members will receive the additional issues as part of their membership for no additional charge.

Neuromodulation fills a unique role by meeting the needs of a diverse readership for scientific and clinical peer-review articles that increase understanding of mechanisms of neuromodulation and evaluate existing and emerging applications. Studies published in the journal help to develop and refine indications and techniques for an ever-expanding field including pain, headache, movement disorders, spasticity, paralysis, psychiatric disorders, epilepsy, sensory deprivation, gastric dysfunction, obesity and incontinence.

By publishing international and national conference abstracts in the journal for open public access by non-subscribers, the society enables collaboration and communication. In addition, journal content is available free online within institutions in the developing world through participation of the publisher, Wiley-Blackwell, in the World Health Organization's HINARI Initiative.

Since its creation in 1998, the journal has grown from four issues a year, to six in 2011 and now to eight in 2014, and has been indexed in PUBMED to retroactively include all articles published since its inception.

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Chapter News Australia and New Zealand

New options, emerging tools, worker's compensation and medical outcomes are among the themes of the upcoming annual scientific meeting of the Neuromodulation Society of Australia and New Zealand (NSANZ). The meeting will be held on Sunday, 13th April immediately prior to the Australian Pain Society annual scientific meeting in Hobart, Australia.

NSANZ will contemplate a potential future device registry as part of its session on outcomes. Although the meeting agenda is still under development, the organizers know they intend to invite discussion comparing high-frequency neurostimulation for chronic pain, dorsal root ganglion stimulation, intrathecal

therapy, and the possibilities of neurostimulation regimes using 32 independently programmed electrical contacts.

The emergence of MRI-conditional neuromodulation systems and implications of wireless technology are also on the agenda. In looking at outcomes, NSANZ has asked Dr. G. Baranidharan, the incoming secretary of the Neuromodulation Society of the United Kingdom and Ireland, to discuss the UK experience.

Benelux

The Benelux Neuromodulation Society (BNS) has been active to broaden its field of interest for neuromodulation this past year. Despite the fact that pain is still an under-treated syndrome, BNS board members also think that urological (incontinence) problems need more attention. Recently, Dr. Evert Koldewijn (functional urologist, Eindhoven, the Netherlands) joined the BNS board for this.

On November 13th, Dr. Maarten Moens, (neurosurgeon, Free University Brussels, Belgium, BNS board member) successfully defended his PhD thesis on "Functional neuroimaging in patients with failed back surgery syndrome treated with spinal cord stimulation".

In 2013 the BNS board and its members were active in visiting the INS congress in Berlin. Many of them chaired a session, presented a lecture, or presented a poster.

The interesting pro-and-con debate at the congress on motor cortex stimulation (MCS) led to a European meeting on this topic on November 30th in Brussels, organized by the BNS (see picture). By exchanging experiences and ideas between different clinicians active in this field, we were able to create a platform for future clinical studies. A questionnaire was designed to get an impression from centres that could not send representatives to the meeting. Despite the fact that many questions remained unanswered, the attendees from Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands agreed to design a data registry to follow MCS patients prospectively. Also, a more "sensitive" outcome parameter, apart from pain relief, should be looked for. The BNS board is trying to draft a manuscript that can be considered for publication, following this meeting.

BNS meeting on motor cortex stimulation, Brussels, November 30th, 2013



Pictured from left to right are:

Mrs. Evy Bamps, executive secretary BNS, Hasselt, Belgium
Mrs. Dr. Monique Steegers, anesthesiologist-pain specialist, Nijmegen, the Netherlands
Dr. Uli Beese, anesthesiologist-pain specialist, Groningen, the Netherlands
Dr. Louis Journee, Clinical Neurophysiologist, Groningen, the Netherlands
Prof. dr. Michiel Staal, neurosurgeon, Groningen, the Netherlands, chairman BNS board
Dr. Benoit Pirotte, neurosurgeon, Brussels, Belgium
Dr. Maarten Moens, neurosurgeon, Brussels (Free University), Belgium, BNS board member
Dr. Robert van Dongen, anesthesiologist-pain specialist, Nijmegen, the Netherlands, BNS board secretary.
Dr. Jan Holsheimer, Clinical Physicist, Enschede, the Netherlands
Dr. Wim Duyvendak, neurosurgeon, Hasselt, Belgium, BNS board treasurer
Prof. dr. Jan Vesper, neurosurgeon, Dusseldorf, Germany
Mrs. Henny Janssen, Clinical Neurophysiology-assistant, Nijmegen, the Netherlands
Dr. Paul Blijham, Neurologist-Clinical Neurophysiologist, Nijmegen, the Netherlands
Prof. dr. Patrick Herregodts, neurosurgeon, Brussels (Free University) Brussels, Belgium
Dr. Erkan Kurt, neurosurgeon, Nijmegen, the Netherlands

In 2014, from October 29-30, a national symposium on all the different aspects of neuromodulation (i.e. various indications, pro-and-con debate, political issues and reimbursement) will take place in

Groningen, the Netherlands, honouring the 25 years of neuromodulation in the Netherlands. The organizers are very busy arranging the programme.

In the spring of 2013, after working for 13 years with all BNS board members so far, our first executive secretary Marje de Regt, wanted "to step back". The board expressed their gratitude for her support and efforts in an informal farewell dinner. Fortunately, Mrs. Evy Bamps (nurse practitioner in pain management, Hasselt, Belgium) took over. She works in close collaboration with Dr. Wim Duyvendak, BNS board treasurer.

In 2014 the board of the BNS will change its membership: Dr. Robert van Dongen, secretary, and Prof. Michiel Staal, chairman, will retire. Dr. Mike de Jongste and Dr. Maarten Moens are nominated as chairman and secretary-elect. Moreover new members are invited to apply for participation in the board, through an official voting system.

Canada

Since 2007, the Canadian Neuromodulation Society (CNS) has been a proud chapter of the INS. We continue to grow and thrive as a society and 2013 proved to be another very productive year.

1) Annual Conference:

Our annual meeting continues to be the highlight of the year and our meeting in 2013 was no exception. This year's conference was held in beautiful Victoria, British Columbia and was host to several internationally renowned keynote speakers. The Kumar award recipient for 2013 was Dr. Michael Stanton-Hicks whose presentation was entitled: "CRPS 1: Pathophysiology, patient selection and treatment". Dr. Konstantin Slavin received the Dr. Tasker award and his presentation on "Peripheral Nerve Stimulation for Pain: Review and Update" was also very well received.



Dr. Michel Prudhomme presenting Dr. Konstantin Slavin with the 2013 Tasker award.



Dr. Michael Stanton-Hicks, Kitty Zanata from Medtronic (Kumar award sponsors), Dr. Kris Kumar, and Dr. Michel Prudhomme presenting Dr. Stanton-Hicks with the Kumar award.

Overall, the conference was very highly rated by all those in attendance. A new format was initiated at this year's conference that included nationally known clinical teams presenting difficult cases along with an invited expert speaker. Invited experts included Dr. Michael Saulino as well as Drs. Stanton Hicks and Slavin. These were titled "Troubleshooting" sessions and covered DBS for movement disorder (Dr. Chris Honey, Mini Sandhu, RN, with Dr. Slavin), spinal cord stimulation (SCS) for chronic pain (Dr. Andy Parrent, Barbara Eden, with Dr. Stanton-Hicks) and Intrathecal Pumps for Pain (Dr. Bill McDonald,

Louise Malysh, RN with Dr. Michael Saulino). The format allowed for significant audience participation and was very well received.

Other invited speakers included Dr. Jerzy Gajewski on the role of SNM in painful bladder/interstitial cystitis, Dr. Nelson Svorkdal on angina and patient selection for SCS along with Dr. Michel Prudhomme and Dr. Kris Kumar on cost effectiveness of SCS in four neuropathic pathologies.

The Board wishes to thank the 2013 Scientific Committee that was co-chaired by Drs. Chris Honey and Magdy Hassouna. As well, the Board is appreciative of the efforts made by Paula Chiasson and Donna Gramigna in planning this event.

2) CNS Board:

The CNS Board welcomes two new members: Dr. Chris Honey and Donna Gramigna, RN, who were elected at the 2013 Annual Conference AGM. Board members include the following: Dr. Michel Prudhomme, President; Dr. Andy Parrent, Vice President; Drs. Ivar Mendez and Kris Kumar, Past presidents; Dr. Ian Beauprie, Treasurer; Dr. Magdy Hassouna, Secretary; and Members-at-large: Dr. Bill McDonald, Louise Malysh, RN, MSN, Dr. Chris Honey and Donna Gramigna, R.N. As president, I would like to acknowledge the significant commitment of all the Board members in continuing to make the CNS a thriving society.

The Board also wishes to acknowledge the contributions of Sue Anderson, RN, member- at-large who resigned from the Board this year. Her efforts have been much appreciated and the Board wishes her well in all of her future endeavors.



CNS Board (left to right): Dr. Ian Beauprie, Dr. Kris Kumar, Louise Malysh, RN, Dr. Michel Prudhomme, Dr. Chris Honey, Donna Gramigna, RN, and Dr. Bill McDonald. Missing from photo: Dr. Magdy Hassouna, Dr. Andy Parrent, and Dr. Ivar Mendez.

3) CNS activities:

The CNS will be focusing on several projects in 2014. The national database and further development of the website, (including a 'members only' page), continue to be priorities. Partnership with the INS in preparation for the 2015 meeting in Montreal is also ongoing. New projects for 2014 include public awareness, health economic issues as well as a consensus committee on psychological assessment of neuromodulation patients.

Plans are well underway for the 2014 meeting which will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia from September 26 – 28 2014. Save the date! Further details regarding conference content and registration will be available at our website www.neuromodulation.ca in the new year.

Respectfully submitted,
Michel Prudhomme, MD, PhD
President, Canadian Neuromodulation Society

China

1. The 1st functional neurosurgery education class was sponsored by the China Neuromodulation Society (CNS). The Beijing Tiantan hospital successfully co-organized the class held May 24-26, 2013. This teaching course included a seminar by Prof. Mayo. The main content of the teaching course covered movement disorder and SPC of surgical treatment, of surgical treatment for epilepsy surgery, pain, cranial nerve disease, etc.

2. The 2nd functional neurosurgery education class was held successfully in June 2013, sponsored by

the CNS and co-organized by the First Affiliated Hospital of Harbin Medical University. This teaching course was to give priority to "Academic report and communication with others." Many epilepsy experts came to introduce related technology and experience.

3. The 6th Standing Committee Meeting was successfully held in July 2013, and indicated a good conclusion to half a year. Participants summarized the work of the past half-year and made a working plan for the future months. At the meeting, new decisions were announced and a show of hands taken of those who favor strengthening and developing the capabilities of the CNS.

4. The 2nd All Members Meeting went smoothly as well, conveying the updates and decisions on the Standing Committee Meeting. The meeting announced the election results and summarized the working plan of next year.

5. The 4th Congress of the CNS was a success from November 15-17, 2013, at the Guangzhou Asia International Hotel in Guangzhou, China. The congress theme was "case discussion" which provided a sound academic atmosphere for professional exchange. The sessions, such as lectures, symposia and advanced educational programs, covered almost all aspects of neuromodulation. Recently, the discussions were summarized to document advantageous approaches and learn from experience.

6. The CNS was established more three years ago and the committee was expanded to 36 new members this year. There are already 266 registered members. The key to continued growth will be to contribute more to the development of a neuromodulation career.

7. We will hold the 5th Congress of the CNS from August 23-25, 2014 in Ningxia, China. Preparations will be the most important issue in the coming months. Now the date is fixed, early announcements and promotion are being made to motivate progress toward the meeting. An agenda will follow soon. The theme of this congress is discussion of neuromodulation-related diseases based on international neuromodulation technology, to exchange the creative knowledge and experience in all aspects of development. A solid atmosphere of study and professional communication is being established for the meeting. With this newsletter announcement, the Chinese Neuromodulation Society issues an invitation to readers to join us for the meeting in Ningxia.

8. The 3rd edition of our CNS magazine is in preparation. We will collect all our growth experience to document the process of our development, so please stay tuned for that.

Italy

The Italian Chapter of the INS scheduled its [National Congress](#) from 13-14 January 2014.

The congress is presented in partnership with the Italian Society of Neurosurgery's Section of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery and Radiosurgery.

During the congress, certificates will be delivered to participants who pass the "1st Basic Course of Spinal Cord Stimulation with Lumbar Approach".

Also in 2014, a new theoretical and hands-on spinal cord stimulation course will be organized.

Japan

Recently, the regulated fee for deep brain stimulation (DBS) and spinal cord stimulation (SCS) became covered by government insurance. All Japanese people are covered by government insurance. Clinicians interested in cerebrospinal stimulation therapy are increasing in Japan. In time we expect they will become members of the INS.

The 8th Annual Meeting of the Japan Neuromodulation Society is scheduled for May 31, 2014 at the Toshi-Center Hotel in Tokyo. This year's conference president is Prof. Taisuke Ohtsuki (Dept. Neurosurgery, National Center of Neurology and Psychiatry, Tokyo, Japan). We will have a hands-on seminar, which is about how to regulate DBS and SCS systems in involuntary movement disorders and intractable pain. This hands-on seminar became very popular after government insurance began covering the treatment fee in Japan. The main topics of this meeting are: On-demand control of DBS and SCS, dual-lead SCS, spasticity and intrathecal baclofen, and new applications of cerebrospinal stimulation therapy.

North America

The North American Neuromodulation Society (NANS) is pleased to report that 2013 was a highly successful year for the organization. We once again initiated a variety of initiatives and programs to advance our field and benefit our members and patients. Our 2013 Annual Meeting attracted over 1,700 total attendees, of which 1,300 were medical attendees of varying specialties. We also had over 35

exhibitors and neuromodulation-related companies in attendance. By far, the 2013 meeting exceeded expectations and successfully built on the momentum created during the 2012 meeting. In 2014 we will continue working to create even greater opportunities for innovation and discovery, sharpening our focus on improving neuromodulation education and identifying the most relevant strategic priorities for our members.

In 2013 NANS formally registered and established the NANS Foundation as a separate non-profit entity. Led by Drs. Foreman and Sharan, the group is focusing on developing a program that will allow NANS to possibly provide small research grants to individuals performing neuromodulation research. Recipients will then be provided with an opportunity to present their findings at the NANS annual meeting. The Foundation is also outlining several projects that will engage our industry partners in efforts to further promote education within the field of neuromodulation and related therapies. Some of these efforts will be focused on establishing patient safety and selection guidelines. The Foundation board is planning on a strategic planning retreat during the first half of 2014 to collaborate on new initiatives.

NANS is also pleased to acknowledge the further development of our Residents and Fellows' Committee. The group was able to have a dedicated set of webpages on the NANS website created and they also held a formal session focused solely on resident and fellows' issues at the 2013 Annual Meeting. The group has also formed a leadership group and will be headed by Chen Wu, MD. Jason Pope, MD, will serve as a faculty liaison to the committee.

NANS also continued to be very active in our outreach and advocacy initiatives. We have been exhibiting and networking with our colleagues at several other related societies to promote neuromodulation and expand membership into several other specialties that are currently underrepresented. In 2014, we will continue to do the same and will look to diversify the range of other meetings we attend. Collaboration and partnership with other societies is crucial for the collective advancement of our specialty. We will also continue to focus on advocacy issues that concern all practitioners within our specialty in order to ensure that they are kept abreast of changes that affect them and their practices.

We are also pleased to announce that we currently have over 1034 active members. This is the largest active total to date. This expansion reflects the increasing diversity in neuromodulation specialties as well as the massive opportunities available in scientific discovery and evolving neuromodulation technologies and therapies. NANS members represent this wide variety of specialties, including pain medicine, anesthesiology, neurosurgery, neuromodulation, neurology, rehabilitation medicine, urology, basic science, and orthopedics and engineering.

The NANS Board is looking forward to building on this momentum in the New Year.

Sincerely,

David Kloth, MD
President, NANS

Poland

The Polish Neuromodulation Society (PTN) was honoured to organise a satellite conference for the 11th INS World Congress in Warsaw, Poland on 14-16 June 2013 with 140 delegates in attendance from 20 different countries.

The programme of events included:

- A Joint International Meeting with the Argentinian Neuromodulation Society (SANE) at Warsaw's historic Hotel Bristol on 14 June 2013. We would like to extend special thanks to Dr. Juan Carlos Andreani and Dr. Fabian Piedimonte for their cooperation on this very successful project.
- The 1st International Symposium on Peripheral Neuromodulation at the Royal Castle on 15 June 2013. Many leading experts in the field of neuromodulation shared their knowledge and experience at the event including Dr. Michael Stanton-Hicks, Dr. Elliot Krames, Dr. Robert Levy, Prof. Turo Nurmikko, Dr. Declan O'Keeffe, Prof. Samer Narouze, Dr. Porter McRoberts, Dr. Paul Wacnik and Dr. Teo Goroszeniuk.
- The 1st International Workshop in the region on Ultrasound guided Pain Interventions at the Staszic Palace, home of the Polish Academy of Sciences, on 16 June 2013. PTN member Dr. Andrzej Krol designed a state of the art hands-on ultrasound course for the conference participants.

The Polish Neuromodulation Society was delighted to have been recognized in 2013 as an official chapter of the International Neuromodulation Society. We are looking forward to a long and fruitful cooperation with the international neuromodulation community.

PTN is investigating the possibility of organizing a media event later in 2014 to further promote neuromodulation modalities in Poland. In addition to the regular international conferences and cadaver workshops, the society is also planning a series of Polish language regional meetings around Poland, in collaboration with various neuromodulation centres.

Dr. Wiesław Łach
Secretary of the Polish Neuromodulation Society

Switzerland

In 2013, the Swiss Neuromodulation Society launched its brand-new website, www.neuromodulation.ch. The site is aimed at patients (explanation of the different procedures, directory of specialists and user guides of implanted devices), physicians (guidelines, case presentations, forums, events calendar or recorded conferences) and manufacturers (latest news from the industry, lists of products available, contact information). A national database, in which the participating centers will be able to inventory their procedures and implants, will be soon integrated into the website. It will represent a useful tool for clinical research and quality benchmark.

The Swiss Neuromodulation Society held its third national meeting as a joint meeting with the Swiss Society for Interventional Pain Management (SSIPM) on the 15-16th November. The meeting took place in the Grand Hotel Majestic in Montreux, on the banks of Lake Geneva, and was attended by more than 150 participants. Renowned national and international speakers contributed to the great success of the Swiss Pain Congress, which counts henceforth among the major pain meetings in Europe. Most of the conference presentations are now available in video on our website.

The 2014 meeting of the Swiss Pain Congress is scheduled on the 21st and 22nd of November. It will be organized jointly with the SSIPM and the Neuromodulation Society of the United Kingdom and Ireland (NSUKI).



United Kingdom and Ireland

The Neuromodulation Society of the United Kingdom and Ireland (NSUKI)'s 2013 Annual Scientific Meeting was held in Oxford on September 19 and 20. Thanks go to the organising committee, especially Dr. Stana Bojanic and Mr. Ciaran Wazir, who played a key role in the success of Oxford Annual General Meeting in 2013. The Annual Scientific Meeting was very well attended with 118 registrants despite this being held shortly after an INS meeting.

NSUKI in association with Faculty of Pain Medicine, Ireland is organising a part of their meeting aimed at neuromodulation. This meeting is scheduled for 1st February 2014. We are in the process liaising with Swiss Chapter to look at a combined annual meeting in 2014.

A UK National Device Registry for Neuromodulation is under formation through NSUKI/INS leadership. Initial funding has been transferred to National Institute for Cardiac Outcome Research (NICOR) and a final meeting is planned end of February 2014. The online database should be launched in the 2nd quarter of 2014. We are currently collecting data on the implant centres and a data monitoring team has been formed to facilitate the same under NSUKI Secretary Dr. G. Baranidharan.

Education:

NSUKI will be looking at holding 1-2 educational days for referrers and pain physicians in general at the Association of Anaesthetists meeting of Great Britain and Ireland.

Research:

The RASCAL study (a multicentre randomised controlled trial of spinal cord stimulation plus usual care vs. usual care alone in the management of refractory angina: A feasibility & pilot study), funded by


National Institute of Health Research, is progressing well with the survey of practice completed and the randomized controlled trials part in progress with 27 of 30 patients recruited. The project has been granted a 1-year extension and is due to report end of 2014.

National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE):

NSUKI is registered as stakeholder for several NICE guidelines. NSUKI sent feedback comments on the NICE spinal cord stimulation guidelines and we constantly monitor new guideline proposals through email communications from the NICE.

We welcome our new elected board members Mr. R. Strachan (President), Dr. G. Baranidharan (Secretary), Dr. A. Gulve (Treasurer) and Dr. A. K. Bhaskar (Member).

Dr. Sam Eldabe
President, Neuromodulation Society of the United Kingdom and Ireland

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Chapter Events

Mark your calendars and check the Global Events Calendar and chapter sites for details of the following chapter events planned for 2014:

National Congress, Capitolo Italiano INS

Date: Jan. 13 -14, 2014
Venice, Italy

Sixth Annual Scientific Meeting of the Faculty of Pain Medicine, Ireland

(Input on neuromodulation by the Neuromodulation Society of the United Kingdom and Ireland)
Date: Feb. 1, 2014
Dublin, Ireland

Annual Scientific Meeting, Neuromodulation Society of Australia and New Zealand

Date: April 13, 2014
Hobart, Australia

28th Annual Meeting, Japan Neuromodulation Society

Date: May 31, 2014
Tokyo, Japan

Fifth Annual Congress, Chinese Neuromodulation Society

Date: Aug. 23-25, 2014
Ningxia, China

Eighth Annual Meeting, Canada Neuromodulation Society

Date: Sept. 26-28, 2014
Halifax, NS

Annual Meeting, Benelux Neuromodulation Society

Date: Oct. 29-30, 2014
Groningen, the Netherlands

Swiss Pain Conference

(Co-organizers include the Swiss Neuromodulation Society and the Neuromodulation Society of the United Kingdom and Ireland)
Montreux, Switzerland

18th Annual Meeting, North American Neuromodulation Society

18th Annual Meeting of the North American Neuromodulation Society
Date: Dec. 10 - 14, 2014
Las Vegas, Nevada, USA

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Visit the INS Booth at Upcoming Conferences

30th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Pain Medicine

Date: March 6-9, 2014
Phoenix, AZ

Mechanisms of Action: Electrical Stimulation of the Nervous System

Date: March 28 - 30, 2014
Orlando, Florida

Biennial Meeting for the American Society of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery 2014

Date: May 31-June 3, 2014
Washington DC, USA

West Virginia Society of Interventional Pain Physicians

Date: June 19-22, 2014
San Juan, Puerto Rico

15th IASP World Congress on Pain

Date: Oct. 7-11, 2014

Buenos Aires, Argentina
2014 Neurotech Leaders Forum
TBA
18th Annual Meeting of the North American Neuromodulation Society
Date: Dec. 10 - 14, 2014
Las Vegas, Nevada, USA

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