



Neuromodulation News: January 2016

A Message from the President

Dear INS members and friends,

Greetings to the New Year and what appears to be a very encouraging outlook for the future of neuromodulation.

As I look forward to the coming year for our society in particular, I have been pleased to note many recent signs of progress already seen around the world.

Just some of those examples are evident, for example, in regional and chapter meetings; expert collaboration on peer-reviewed guidance; and an increasing number of training opportunities; as well as increasing visibility of women in neuromodulation.

For instance, we enjoyed the largest meeting yet of the annual scientific meeting of the North American Neuromodulation Society, NANS, in December. In November, the Neuromodulation Society of the United Kingdom and Ireland (NSUKI) joined with the German and Swiss chapters in London to hold a three-day scientific meeting, which included a satellite meeting of the Interventional Pain Medicine Special Interest Group of the British Pain Society. More annual meetings are on the horizon, with the Neuromodulation Society of Australia and New Zealand holding theirs from March 12 - 13 in Perth, Australia; the Brazilian and Argentinean neuromodulation societies holding a joint meeting from May 12 - 14 in Natal, Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil; and the Canadian Neuromodulation Society having just announced their 9th annual meeting for Sept. 30 - Oct. 2 in Regina, Saskatchewan - a location chosen to honor the late chapter founding president Dr. Krishna Kumar, whose long career in Regina earned him the distinction of being named the first INS Giant of Neuromodulation. In addition to what I have mentioned, more annual scientific meetings will be announced soon by other chapters, and listed on the INS Global Events Calendar. <http://www.neuromodulation.com/events>

This will be the first year that the INS offers an interim meeting, which takes place Aug. 26 - 28 in Chengdu, China (please note the new date, which is now one week later than was originally announced). We gratefully acknowledge the Chinese Neuromodulation Society for helping to present this first meeting to be co-organized by your global society in-between years in which we hold the biennial world congress.

The INS is also making progress with chapter development, having welcomed the French, Turkish, and South African chapters during the past year. We also have discussions underway with potential new chapter founders in Colombia, the Middle East, India, and Chile.

Along with this growth, INS has welcomed the first female head of a chapter, Dr. Gül Köknel Talu of Turkey, who is leading that group as president with her colleague Dr. Süleyman Özyalçın as chairperson. Dr. Talu's stepping up to that role was followed in November by the uncontested appointment of Dr. Stana Bojanic as president-elect of NSUKI. Also, Dr. Luz Elena Caceres has stepped forward as an INS member who is interested in helping create an INS chapter in her home country of Colombia. At the same time, we are very proud that in December, Dr. Lisa Stearns was named head of NANS' Women in Neuromodulation section.

INS, likewise, will have an International Women in Neuromodulation committee. Overall, more than 100 people volunteered for the 11 committees that are being formed, and members will be kept apprised of the new committees' progress as they proceed.

Meanwhile, the Neuromodulation Appropriateness Consensus Committee and the Polyanalgesic Consensus Conference are completing drafts of the updated neuromodulation therapy guidance, which we anticipate submitting by June to *Neuromodulation: Technology at the Neural Interface*.

In addition to that resource for practitioners, roughly a dozen regional chapters are involved in offering training sessions for fellows in conjunction with scientific meetings, bringing this know-how to many corners of the globe.

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**INS 13th World
World Congress**
Neuromodulation:
Technology Changing
Lives

SAVE THE DATE:
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At the INS 13th World Congress in Edinburgh, our preconference days will start with a daylong session about innovation and investment on Saturday, May 27, 2017 and be followed by our second cadaver workshop on Sunday, May 28, 2017. Also offered that day will be a special new session on non-invasive stimulation techniques.

We will soon be inviting members to propose topics, sessions, and lectures for the main scientific program of the 13th World Congress, which spans three-and-a-half days from May 29 to June 1, 2017. Please begin thinking of your suggestions, which we will solicit by May 2015.

Also, please start thinking about your travel plans. There are direct flights to Edinburgh from major hubs in North America, and Europe, and connections within Europe, starting from under 90 Euro. For travel information, visit: <http://www.visitscotland.com/en-us/travel/to-scotland/overseas>.

Meanwhile, chapters will also be invited to propose a site for the 2019 World Congress and the 2018 interim meeting. If you have opinions on those venues, please contact your local chapter. The location suggestions will be vetted for selection by the newly forming Biennial Congress Committee, in collaboration with the INS Executive Committee.

In closing, with your contributions and commitment to growth of our field, I am enthusiastic about the year ahead, and remain grateful and optimistic about our opportunities to improve our patients' lives.

Best regards to all,

Timothy Deer, MD
President of INS

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First Interim Meeting - Now Aug. 26 - 28, 2016 in Chengdu, China

The International Neuromodulation Society (INS) is pleased to join the Chinese Neuromodulation Society (CNMS) in organizing the first INS Interim Meeting with a Cadaver Workshop Program and the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Chinese Neuromodulation Society (CNMS, 7th Congress), which is now set to take place Aug. 26 - 28, 2016 in Chengdu, China.

The daylong scientific sessions will be organized on four parallel tracks. In addition to the local academic committee of almost 150 people, the international academic committee is comprised of some 20 people from Asia, Europe and the U.S. The tracks are on epilepsy; pain and the peripheral nervous system; movement disorders; and mental disease.

The scientific sessions will be preceded by a daylong cadaver workshop at Huaxi Hospital (WCH), which is very convenient to the meeting hotel and site. WCH is a leading medical center in Western China, and the teaching center of the 4,800-bed hospital was the first in Asia to receive certification from the American College of Surgeons in 2011.

Co-chairs of the 2016 Interim Meeting are Timothy Deer, MD, president of INS; Guoming Luan, MD, 7th Congress co-chair and chairman of CNMS; and Chao You, MD, PhD, 7th Congress co-chair and chairman of the CNMS in Sichuan Province.

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Chapter Updates Argentina

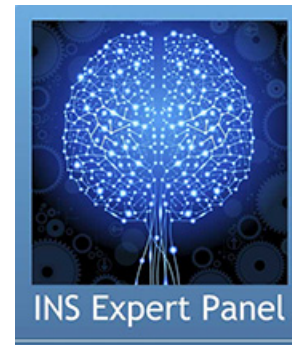
Dear INS Colleagues:

On behalf of all the members of the Sociedad Argentina de Neuromodulación (SANE), we are glad to share with you our activity during 2016 and our projected plans for the near future.

- 1) We were present at the last INS World Congress in June 2015 in Montreal, Canada, where our chapter members presented seven posters and delivered four oral presentations.
- 2) The SANE President (Dr Juan Carlos Andreani) and Past president (Dr Fabián Piedimonte) have organized a theoretical and practical course on Functional Neurosurgery and Neuromodulation at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Buenos Aires, of two years duration, starting March 2016.
- 3) We continue to develop the revue Neurotarget as a means for regional and professional communication and also for the publication of our scientific, academic and society activity.

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4) SANE is going to be represented at an international hands-on training course on pain techniques in April 2016, to be held at Maimónides University in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

5) Joining our Brazilian colleagues, we are organizing the 5th bi-national joint meeting, RECOBRAN V, which will be held next May 2016; this time our Brazilian neighbors, led by their chapter President Dr Tiago Freitas, will be the hosts.

6) This year, in February, we have published a new paper in Neuromodulation and we are preparing other ongoing works; some are related to the subjects already presented on posters, and other ones about new topics. ([Piedimonte, F., Andreani, J. C., Piedimonte, L., Micheli, F., Graff, P. and Bacaro, V. \(2015\), Remarkable Clinical Improvement with Bilateral Globus Pallidus Internus Deep Brain Stimulation in a Case of Lesch–Nyhan Disease: Five-Year Follow-Up. Neuromodulation: Technology at the Neural Interface, 18: 118–122. doi: 10.1111/ner.12261](#))

7) Since we have been recognized as a nonprofit scientific society by the government, through the IGJ (Inspección General de Justicia, Argentina) last year, we are now completing our inscription in the government tax agency, DGI (Dirección General Impositiva).

8) We are following the procedure to sign an agreement for mutual cooperation with an important private university, the Universidad de Morón, in order to broaden academic and scientific possibilities for our members.

9) Our number of members remains steady, currently at 23; we are trying to get the interest of young physicians and non-physicians as new associates. Although we have sought help underwriting initial membership fees for these potential associates, we have not received financial assistance.

10) We continue to grow the PPNM ([Programa Provincial de Neuromodulación](#)) which is directed by some of our senior members and has the support of the government of the Province of Buenos Aires. The region is populated by more than 15 million inhabitants and represents about 40% of our country's total population. This program is intended to increase access to the technology and to help provide rational assistance to residents there, in order to serve as the basis for a provincial law for implants and develop experience for the establishment of international guidelines for neuromodulation procedures. We have already evaluated about 600 patients, and treated more than 100. We also have treated patients living in other regions and also from neighboring countries, too.

11) We held chapter leadership elections last September, and Dr Juan Carlos Andreani, Dr Miguel Zangone and Dr Noemí Rosenfeld were re-elected as President, Vice President and Secretary.

With best regards and best wishes for 2016 for all worldwide colleagues,

Juan Carlos Andreani
President SANE

Miguel Zangone
Vice - President SANE

Noemí Rosenfeld
Secretary

Fabián Piedimonte
Past - President

Juan Pablo Puente
Executive Secretary

Australia

Neuromodulation Society of Australia and New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting, 12 – 13 March 2016

The [11th Annual Scientific Meeting](#) of the Australia and New Zealand Neuromodulation Society (NSANZ) takes place 12 – 13 March 2016 at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, Western Australia.

The theme for this meeting is Neuromodulation: Mainstream Medicine, with a program featuring presentations, panels, posters, case studies and masterclasses which will explore the diversifying science and therapeutic applications of neuromodulation in pain and other applications.

Among the many offerings, we will hear from esteemed international and domestic invited guest speakers about landmark research including pivotal studies from the US that are evolving the quality of evidence in this space. International keynote speakers include:

- Dr Adnan Al-Kaisy
- Dr Sam Eldabe
- Dr Lawrence Poree
- Dr Michael Stanton Hicks
- Dr Simon Thomson

In addition to the usual high quality plenary lectures and concurrent scientific sessions, the meeting will also feature special interest sessions for pain trainees and novice implanters, a nursing and allied health breakout session and a focus on sacral stimulation.

For more details or to register, please visit: <http://www.dccconferences.com.au/nsanz2016>

Brazil

Briefly, here are some updates for 2016 from the Sociedade Brasileira Neuromodulação (SBNM):

1. The Brazilian neuromodulation annual scientific meeting will be held May 12-14, 2016 in Natal, a beautiful city in northwestern Brazil. Our meeting, the Reunión Conjunta Brasileño-Argentina de Neuromodulación (RECOBRAN IV), will be held jointly with the Argentinean neuromodulation society, and we already have confirmed more than 13 international speakers. We invite everyone interested to come to Brazil for the meeting.

2. Our chapter will release our new website in January. In this new website we will have some interesting changes. We will keep in touch more frequently with social media (Twitter, Facebook) and also we will add a new section of information for patients, very useful to spread neuromodulation to patients in our country.

Tiago Freitas, MD, PhD
President, SBNM

Canada

The Canadian Neuromodulation Society was honored to assist the 12th World Congress in Montreal, and to organize, with the INS, an inaugural cadaver course and educational event for the public.

We are just organizing our next meeting that will be held from Sept. 30 to Oct. 2, 2016 in Regina, Saskatchewan at the Radisson Plaza Hotel. This meeting will be organized jointly with the Saskatchewan Neurosurgery Society.

Michel Prudhomme, MD, PhD
President of the Canadian Neuromodulation Society

Sylvine Cottin, PhD
Administrative Coordinator of the Canadian Neuromodulation Society

Donna Gramigna, RN, BSN, CPN(C)
Administrative Coordinator of the Canadian Neuromodulation Society

China

The Chinese Neuromodulation Society (CNMS) enjoyed another year of successes in 2015.

It was an eventful year for Chinese Neuromodulation Society (CNMS), since the year 2015 was the 6th anniversary of CNMS, which was highlighted at our annual scientific meeting in Hangzhou, China, in September 18-20. The year's conference had a attendance almost 400 attendees.

The scientific sessions included a range of therapies, such as brain and cranial nerve electrical stimulation, spinal cord stimulation and pain, gastrointestinal electrical stimulation, peripheral nerve stimulation, and also an expanded session on sacral neuromodulation.

We were very grateful for the support and contributions from industry, including Medtronic China, PINS, HKHS, ELEKTA China, Cyberonic Company China Service Center, and other companies which provided help and support.

We are already planning a larger joint meeting for next year. It is our great pleasure to hold the 2016 Interim Meeting of International Neuromodulation Society (INS) & Cadaver Workshop Program & 2016 Annual Meeting of Chinese Neuromodulation Society (CNMS, 7th Congress), scheduled from August 25th to 28th, 2016, in Chengdu, China. The assembly will have the theme of the application of neuromodulation technology to build an academic platform for in-depth study and international exchange, closely linked to trends in development of the field, translation of academic research to clinical application, and basic research at the frontiers of disciplines involved in neuromodulation technology, perhaps attracting up to 500 delegates or more. We look forward to seeing you in Chengdu in August!

With best regards for all the worldwide colleagues for 2016!

Guoming Luan, MD
President, CNMS

Italy

The activity of the Italian Chapter has been always intense. The national annual scientific meeting held in Venice from 16-18 April 2015 had great participation. In our national meeting we had the pleasure of hosting a session with colleagues from different European chapters, and the presence of INS Past President Dr. Simon Thomson. For the very first time during the national meeting, we organized a nurses' session on pain, and that had a considerable success. The next annual scientific meeting will probably be held in Naples in September 2016. During this meeting the new Italian Chapter Board will be elected. The Italian Chapter has performed numerous multicenter studies on new technologies and has been consulted by institutions for technical opinions, and broadened participation and membership of other professionals.

Gianni Colini Baldeschi, MD
President, Capitolo Italiano INS

North America

Dear colleagues,

The North American Neuromodulation Society (NANS), experienced and eventful and successful 2015. NANS entered 2015 on a high note after celebrating our 20th anniversary year and completion of our 2014 Annual Meeting, which was our most successful to-date. As such, NANS entered 2015 with a very ambitious agenda and a goal of building on the successes of 2014.

One of the primary goals that was established at the start of 2015 was to expand NANS's involvement with our industry partners in several different areas where we recognized a need for greater collaboration. As such, the NANS Board elected to develop an Industry Relations Council as a forum to explore issues beyond advocacy, such as device registry, physician training, and credentialing. The council has also focused on how industry and NANS can work together to face reimbursement challenges. In total, the group met in person three times over the course of the year and met regularly via teleconference. Currently, the council is comprised of six industry partners that have FDA-approved medical devices currently available in the field and we are hoping to invite others to join during 2016.

Another goal that was instituted for 2015 was the further expansion and activities of the NANS Advocacy and Policy Committee. Several activities were completed by the committee this past year including a leadership development course where 14 NANS members volunteered to attend a weekend seminar to learn more about neuromodulation advocacy and how they could become more involved in NANS. The committee also executed the first-ever NANS Legislative Fellowship which provided support for one individual, Michael Leong, MD, to spend 6 weeks in Washington, D.C. meeting with legislators and other individuals working on items directly related to neuromodulation and healthcare. Overall, the experience was successful and NANS hopes to continue the fellowship in 2016 with an expanded agenda. Lastly, the committee was successful in helping NANS attain membership in the American Medical Association's Specialty and Service Society Committee. This is exciting news for NANS as it now opens the door for our involvement in many AMA activities and allows us to have a voice on any projects that may affect neuromodulation in general. We look forward to expanding our role in the committee.

Among other developments throughout the course of 2015, the NANS board held a two-day summer meeting in New York to review and discuss our strategic initiatives for the coming year.

This past year, the NANS Education Committee was tasked with two distinct projects. One is to begin work on developing a core curriculum of knowledge concerning neuromodulation procedures, specifically focusing on spinal cord stimulation at first. The goal is to then build on this and expand the focus to other areas of neuromodulation as well. The second goal is to use the core curriculum to then construct a certification exam for practitioners. We are hoping to have a foundation for this established during the first part of 2016 and more details will be made available as this project progresses.

NANS is also pleased to announce that in August, the society's redesigned website was launched. After working several months and testing different designs and functionality, the new site was taken live. NANS hopes to continue to build on this new site and add many more features to provide content to members and the public.

The year 2015 also ended on a high note for NANS. We are pleased to announce that the 2015 Annual Meeting was a huge success. Building on that from 2014, the 2015 Annual Meeting saw an increase in attendance to over 2,200, 1,600 of whom were medical attendees.

The meeting was highlighted by a lecture on big data and its implications for healthcare in the future by keynote speaker Viktor Mayer-Schönberger PhD. We were also honored to acknowledge our Lifetime Achievement Award winner, Tony Yaksh, PhD.

The scientific sessions included a range of indications as well as sessions focused on emerging therapies in the field.

Pre-meeting workshops included:

- An intrathecal drug delivery (ITTD) management workshop
- A workshop for allied health workers that related to the ITTD workshop and presented neuromodulation therapies in clinical practice settings
- An expanded residents and fellows workshop on spinal cord stimulation, including neuromodulation therapies for neurology residents, which had over 130 participants
- We also continued with an expanded afternoon concurrent session for residents and fellows covering various topics including getting started in a new practice and negotiating contracts as well as a job fair and networking event

In addition, the Fourth Annual NANS I3: Investment, Invention, and Invigoration Summit was also held during the annual meeting and focused on new and future developments in the field for an audience of researchers, industry partners, and emerging companies.

During the meeting it was also announced that NANS will be moving our meeting to a new venue as well as a new date. We will not have an annual meeting in 2016. Rather, it will be held January 19-22, 2017. The meeting will take place at Caesar's Palace Convention Center, Las Vegas, NV.

Lastly, another exciting development we are pleased to share is the first-ever NANS-Neural Interfaces Conference Steering Committee (NIC) Meeting scheduled for June 26-29, 2016 in Baltimore, MD. The conference will bring together a diverse group of scientists, engineers, and clinicians, representing the basic and applied-science aspects of neural interfaces and neuromodulation. The goal of the conference is to foster collaboration between these groups and provide an in-depth overview on the research and development of implantable medical devices and techniques. The meeting will also include a clinical workshop bringing together all stakeholders to demonstrate the process of designing clinical trials and testing. Please visit the NANS website to learn more about this event.

The NANS Board hopes to harness this momentum in 2016 in order to help further our goals and the greater advancement of this therapy.

Thank you for your attention.

Turkey

Please see the following summary of 2015 INS Turkish Chapter activities:

Turkish Chapter President: Prof. Gul Koknel Talu, MD, FIPP

Neuromodulation Cadaver Workshop, March 21-22, Antalya, Turkey
Hand on cadaver workshop on spinal cord stimulation, sacral nerve stimulation
Attendees: 30
Trainers: 7

2nd.Neuromodulation Meeting and workshop: Dystonias and Failed Back Surgery Syndrome (FBSS),
Nov. 13-14, Istanbul, Turkey
Attendees: 102
Invited speakers: 31
Main topics:
Etiology in FBSS
Radio-diagnostic evaluation in FBSS
psychiatric evaluation in FBSS
Neurophysiological evaluation in FBSS
Medical treatment in FBSS
Surgical interventions in FBSS
Minimally invasive treatment in FBSS
Patient selection criteria in FBSS
Clinical classification of dystonia
Medical treatment of dystonia
Botulinum toxin in dystonia
Surgical interventions in dystonia

Workshop: Technical parameters in spinal cord stimulation
Programming in spinal cord stimulation
Minimally invasive treatment modalities in FBSS
Application of botulinum toxin

For 2016, similar activities are planned – at least one cadaver workshop and one meeting is planned. At

the same time, as the INS Turkish Chapter, we want to progress on to be the candidate for the next available INS congress.

United Kingdom and Ireland

The Neuromodulation Society of the United Kingdom and Ireland (NSUKI) recently arrange its annual scientific meeting (ASM) in London from the 6th to 8th November, 2015. This was a joint meeting with the German Neuromodulation Society (DGNM), the Swiss Neuromodulation Society, the Interventional Pain Medicine Special Interest Group (IPMSIG) and SPIN (Specialist Practitioners in Neuromodulation). This attracted 238 delegates and 9 Industry sponsors. It has returned a healthy profit which will help NSUKI meet its future objectives.

Plans are underway to arrange our ASM for November 2016, which will probably be in Manchester. In conjunction with the Faculty of Pain Medicine, a Neuropathic Pain and Neuromodulation Study day has been arranged for 9th February 2016 to be held at the Royal College of Anaesthetists in London. This is directed at giving Trainees enough knowledge to assist them in their specialist examinations. Details are yet to be confirmed, but the NSUKI Executive is involved in delivering a workshop in Neuromodulatory Surgical Techniques at Bradford General Hospital on the 25th January 2016.

This summer, NHS England recognised ONS for chronic migraine and cluster headache and has agreed to fund this technique. Unfortunately, they turned down funding for Intrathecal Drug Delivery to treat chronic non-malignant pain, but this decision is currently being contested. NSUKI remains a major stakeholder for any techniques being reviewed by NICE, and hopes to have some influence in future decisions. We have agreed to support SPG stimulation for the treatment of cluster migraine, and it is hoped the CRG (Clinical Reference Group) for Specialised Pain Services will lobby NHS England in 2016 to gain support for its eventual introduction as a funded treatment.

The Neuromodulation Registry unfortunately is making slow progress. The Pilot rolled out to about five contributing units has largely been successful throughout 2015 and it is hoped more units can be encouraged to contribute. Nevertheless, how the registry will be funded in perpetuity remains a difficult issue. Our partners in the enterprise (NICOR) are asking for levels of funding that Industry are unwilling to support at this time, and NICOR themselves are undergoing a period of transition and re-organisation with their Databases likely to be taken over by a new organisation working within the UCLH (University College London Hospitals) umbrella. These issues were discussed at a meeting with NICOR and Industry at the ABHI offices in London on the 16th October 2015 but are yet to be resolved. Hopefully by next summer, the news will be more favourable.

Following our ASM, it was NSUKI's task to appoint a new President to follow me from November 2016, and I am very pleased to announce that Stana Bojanic, the current Neurosurgical Representative on the Board, has been appointed as President elect. The membership was given the opportunity to consider other nominations, but Stana's nomination was uncontested. She works as a Neurosurgeon in Oxford and has frequently presented at National and International meetings. We wish her well in her future leadership of the Society.

NSUKI will continue to work with the INS Board in providing whatever assistance it can for the next INS World Congress in Edinburgh (May 2017).

Roger Strachan, MBChB, MD, FRCSE, FRCS(SN)
President NSUKI

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