

Special Issue

Spinal Cord Injury and Transcutaneous Spinal Cord Stimulation

Message from the Guest Editors

Recent research of epidural and transcutaneous electrical spinal cord stimulation has demonstrated unprecedented improvements in motor function thought to be irreversibly lost due to spinal cord injury. Studies in parallel assess these methods for spasticity management as an alternative to medications that are often accompanied by deleterious side effects. As a noninvasive intervention, transcutaneous spinal cord stimulation holds the great potential to find its way into wide clinical application. Its lasting acceptance as clinical practice in spinal cord injury will not only hinge on the demonstration of safety and efficacy, but also on a conceptual framework of the underlying physiological mechanisms. This will also require advancing our understanding of immediate and temporary effects of transcutaneous spinal cord stimulation on neuronal circuits in the intact and injured spinal cord. The purpose of this SI is to bring together peers in the field to share—and eventually fuse—their pertinent research into current neurorehabilitation practice by providing a clinical perspective and insights into underlying mechanisms.

Guest Editors

Dr. Ursula S. Hofstötter

Center for Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering, Medical University of Vienna, 1090 Vienna, Austria

Dr. Karen Minassian

Center for Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria



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Journal of Clinical Medicine
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
jcm@mdpi.com

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