FOUNDATION FOR ANESTHESIA EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

FAER PAIN RESEARCH COUNCIL

Request for Proposals: Spinal Cord Stimulation and Chronic Pain

Spinal cord stimulation has evolved as an effective treatment for failed back surgery syndrome with persistent radiculopathy[1] and refractory angina.[2] Despite the apparent clinical utility of this treatment, the underlying mechanisms leading to analgesia are poorly understood and its comparative effectiveness versus alternative treatments is largely unknown.

FAER is requesting proposals for projects that will improve our understanding of spinal cord stimulation. Projects may relate to any aspect of this technology related to pain, ranging from basic neural mechanisms of analgesia to better defining the clinical utility of this modality. Clinical proposals should adopt a randomized controlled design that incorporates meaningful outcome measures beyond assessment of pain, however, alternative study designs will be considered. The outcomes of interest should be specified and relevancy of these outcomes to the patient should be considered. Power calculations for either a feasibility or outcome study should be reported.

Proposals will be judged on their potential to impact our understanding of spinal cord stimulation, the mechanisms leading to analgesia and/or the clinical safety and comparative effectiveness of this technology. Proposals will be evaluated and scored through the same process as other FAER grant applications. Both feasibility and costs of the trial will be critical to the funding decision. In the case of a proposed feasibility study, a rough estimate of the cost of the ultimate outcome study should be included.

Proposals must be submitted to FAER by February 15, 2011. For more information on FAER grants, including applications and deadlines, visit www.faer.org/programs/grants or contact Carol Demulling, Grants Coordinator, at demulling.carol@mayo.edu.

1. Chou R, Atlas SJ, Stanos SP, Rosenquist RW. Nonsurgical Interventional Therapies for Low Back Pain: A Review of the Evidence for an American Pain Society Clinical Practice Guideline. Spine 2009; 34:1078-93.

2. Taylor RS, De Vries J, Buchser E, Dejongste MJ. Spinal Cord Stimulation in the Treatment of Refractory Angina: Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Randomised Controlled Trials. BMC Cardiovasc Disord 2009; 9:13.

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