08 December 2018

SITS EAST NEWSLETTER

Dear all SITS EAST Users,

It’s been one year since our very successful and informative meeting in Stockholm, and it’s about time we provide you with an update on what we have accomplished and what we have been working on for the last year.

Below we are addressing some of the issues raised during the meeting:

Increased visibility is important to us and for our users. We are continuously working on improving our visibility. For 2018 we have started sending out SITS newsletters more frequently, although these targets all SITS Users and not just SITS EAST Users.

Attending conferences and meetings: in 2018, SITS attended a national stroke conference in Varna, Bulgaria. In addition, SITS was present at ESOC in Gothenburg, ESMINT in Nice and at the ESO-KSU meeting in Stockholm. We continue to encourage our National Coordinators (NC) to inform SITS about national meetings and discuss with us how the SITS International Coordination Office (ICO) can act as support.

Video presentations are not ready but we have prepared presentations for an introduction to SITS (SITS presentation) as well as a “How to Join” presentation. You can access these presentations through the link below. You can download the presentations to your computer and use to inform at local and national meetings.

SITS EAST publications: Three new publications within SITS EAST based on SITS data were published in 2018, listed as SITS publication 64, 66 and 67 on our homepage. An overview over all SITS publications can be found here: http://www.sitsinternational.org/research/publications/

Regarding future SITS EAST publications and authors lists: we will make sure all contributing Local Coordinators are listed in an appendix. As previously mentioned: Regarding authorship, there are rules for lead and senior authorship roles, which are dependent on who initiated, drafted the manuscript, performed the statistics, etc. For other contributors, authors are listed in accordance with their contributing number of patients; if these are equal, alphabetical order should be a rule for authors invited because of high recruitment, or contributing in other ways.

The yearly SITS EAST Report: SITS will devote more information to SITS EAST in the SITS yearly report published in relation to ESOC 2019. We will send out the SITS EAST section as a part of a newsletter to all SITS EAST users.

Monitoring of results: Each SITS User can log in to the SITS database to use the dashboard for an overview of the centres data including data completeness. SITS also presented the SITS Award for the first time at this year’s ESO-KSU meeting as an incentive.
to our users to enter high quality data for patients in our different protocols. The SITS Award will be presented bi-annually, next time at the KSU meeting in 2020. To read more about the award criteria for this year’s SITS Award: http://www.sitsinternational.org/news/2018-sits-award-an-update/

Compare results across countries: While this is not possible at the moment we are working on a solution to provide this option to our users. We will inform you once we have tested our solution thoroughly.

Too many data points in the registry: This project has already started and will continue in 2019. We will inform our users when protocols with fewer variables are available. We have started with the IVT protocol and will continue with the TBY protocol.

Policy on how to invite authors to publications on SITS data: As an active member of SITS, you can always submit project proposals to the SITS Scientific Committee (SC). To submit a project proposal, log in to the SITS registry, click ‘Submit a Project Proposal’ and follow the steps. If your proposal is accepted you can invite your colleagues/other authors to join your project (by emailing them for example). If a project aims to only use SITS EAST data, the SITS EAST Executive Committee (EC) may decide that all SITS EAST NC:s are listed as co-authors.

SITS presence and distribution of results – a SITS League: SITS presented the SITS Award for the first time at this year’s ESO-KSU meeting and will continue with this award bi-annually in relation to the meeting. In addition, we will publish top 50 centres quarterly on our webpage, with regards to top recruitment and high rate of data quality. We hope this will motivate centres to continue to use and add data into the SITS Registry.

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### Downloading data for quality and research

Last year’s meeting discussed how to download reports and data for quality and research. Local coordinators can download data from their own centre and national coordinators from their own country for quality and research purposes. The SITS report can be used for presentations and for planning. Scientific publications should always be based on data downloads and after cleaning the downloaded data for erroneous entry.

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### How to facilitate the best research and what are the rules?

All active participants in SITS has the right to suggest scientific projects based on regional (e.g. SITS-EAST) or international data. A local centre and a nation can assemble and publish a scientific project based on their SITS data without approval from SITS Scientific Committee. A national publication should invite local investigators as co-authors in relation to their recruitment. Scientific projects which aim to include data from several countries
(e.g., a region or all SITS countries), must be submitted to SITS Scientific Committee for review and approval. SITS ICO will suggest invitation of co-authors based on recruitment by Local Coordinators from international centres, National Coordinators and members of the Scientific Committee according to standard rules. If the project requires participation from members of SITS ICO, this may qualify for co-authorship.

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**How to proceed – a regional executive committee for stimulation of scientific projects and high quality data**

SITS aims to hold meetings like last year’s meeting, with National Coordinators and some high recruiting Local Coordinators from all SITS EAST countries every second year. There was agreement during the discussion that an executive committee of 5-6 persons should be feasible to encourage participation in SITS in the different member countries, and to stimulate high quality data and scientific projects within the region. Discussions on the formation of an executive committee will be initiated soon.

**Two new members of the SITS Scientific Committee from SITS EAST**

Georgios Tsivgoulis, Athens, and Adam Kobayashi, Warsaw, have accepted their nominations as members of the SITS Scientific Committee.