



Our August guest speaker was Quin Momsma from Medtronic Medical Device Company. Their headquarters are in Dublin, Ireland. They are the world's largest standalone medical technology development company. Medtronic manufactures the device used in Deep Brain Stimulation, a surgical procedure that treats PD. After a patient has had Parkinson's Disease for some time their medications may start to lose their efficacy. DBS can provide another option. DBS is the implantation of a medical device called a neurostimulator (brain pacemaker) which sends electrical impulses through implanted electrodes to specific targets in the brain to regulate abnormal impulses. The amount of stimulation is controlled by a pacemaker-like device placed under the skin in your upper chest. A wire that travels under your skin connects to the electrodes in your brain. It will not control all symptoms of PD so that is a determining factor for who has the procedure. A tremor, some freezing and dyskinesia may lessen after DBS. Also cutting down on meds as well. It is not unusual for a patient to wait months to fully benefit from the surgery as a great number of adjustments need to be made.

Quin Momsma wanted the members to be aware Medtronic has a Support Link on their website. You can talk to a nurse or DBS patient and find specialists in your area. Contact Patient Services at 800-510-6735.

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Secretary RPSG