

COUNTDOWN TO BOSTON

30 DAYS



"S" is for Sachs Awards and Scientific Program Planning Chairs

Thirty-five years is, in theory and according to the Constitution of the United States, the length of time needed to travel from the womb to the White House. It is also roughly the length of time it took Joe Biden to make it from his first presidential campaign launch in 1987 to taking the oath of office in January 2021.

Thirty-five years is a long time to be in conversation with yourself and with others about your life, your life's work, your vision and values, and theirs. Which is essentially and ideally what, up until recently, politics and running for and being President was all about.

What interests me here is not presidential politics. It's the notion of conversation, of being connected to and in conversation with one's colleagues, one's career, one's calling, and one's community. Those of you have gone up to the new CNS website will recognize the latter four "C's" as the structural foundation, the organizing principles by which one can navigate the website and orient one's self in relation to – as being connected to and in conversation with – one's life as a child neurologist and member of the Child Neurology Society.

Thirty-five years ago, when the CNS convened in October 1986 for its 15th Annual Meeting; it was the first and only other time it met in Boston up until this year's 50th/Golden Anniversary Meeting. In looking over the program, I couldn't help but be struck by the line-up for the Specialty Symposia following the Bernard Sachs Award Lecture. The symposium featured three future Sachs Award Lecturers: O. Carter Snead, III (2005), Greg Holmes (2009) and Solomon "Nico" Moshe (2017). Attendees in Boston opting for Neuroimaging over Epilepsy could sit in on talks given by two future Sachs Awardees: Harry Chugani (2015) and Roger Packer (2012).



8:00 Welcome and Announcements
-8:15

8:15 Bernard Sachs Lecture
-9:15

Introduction
Darryl De Vivo, New York, NY

Postnatal Maturation Changes in Cerebral
Circulation: Energy, Metabolism, and Function
Louis Sokoloff, Bethesda, MD

9:15 SPECIALTY SYMPOSIA
-12:00

Epilepsy in the Developing Brain
Moderator: O. Carter Snead, III, Birmingham, AL

9:15 Seizures, EEG, and Brain Development
-9:45 *Greg Holmes, Newington, CT*

9:45 Neonatal Seizures
-10:15 *Cesare Lombroso, Boston, MA*

10:15 Break
-10:45

10:45 Experimental Epilepsy in Developing Animals
-11:15 *Solomon Moshe, New York, NY*

11:15 Neuropeptides and Epilepsy
-11:45 *O. Carter Snead, III, Birmingham, AL*

11:45 Discussion
-12:00
Neuroimaging in Child Neurology
Moderator: Harry T. Chugani, Los Angeles, CA

9:15 Cranial Ultrasonography in Neonates and Infants
-9:45 *L. Matthew Frank, Norfolk, VA*

9:45 MRI of Brain and Spinal Cord in Infants and
-10:15 Children
Roger Packer and Donald Younkin, Philadelphia, PA

10:15 Break
-10:45



What I find even more amazing, however, is that 35 years later three of those Sachs Award Lecturers are organizing sessions and giving talks at this year's meeting in Boston: Roger Packer (Seminar 6: "Meduloblastoma, New Clinical and Translational Insights: the path forward"); Greg Holmes (Seminar 8: "The Critical Period of Memory Development: Construction, Destruction and Reconstruction"); and Nico Moshe (Symposium V: "Developing Treatments for Pediatric Epilepsies: From Models to the Clinic"). Thirty-five years later they are still carrying on a conversation with their colleagues in child neurology. Remarkable!





It's that notion of carrying on conversations, important conversations connecting colleagues, career, calling and community within the CNS that strikes me most in thinking about all those years working closely with CNS Scientific Program Planning Committees and their Chairs. One of the most consistent and salient qualities all past and present Program Committee Chairs share in common is that tangible gift for sparking and sustaining meaningful conversations with and among their peers in the CNS. It should come as no surprise to anyone that many of them subsequently proved capable of "translational" conversations, shifting from within the rarified realm of pediatric and developmental neuroscience, to the more open but equally complex realm of politics in the classic sense of figuring out how we might best organize ourselves collectively for the common good. Along those lines, a dozen past Scientific Program Planning Committee Chairs have served on the CNS Executive Committee (Gerald Fenichel, Steve Ashwal, O. Carter Snead III, Alan Percy, Michael Johnston, Marc Patterson, Donna Ferriero, Leon Dure, Nina Schor, Jonathan Mink, Gary Clark, Barry Kosofsky, and Vinodh Narayanan. Half of them went on to serve as CNS President: Gerald Fenichel, Steve Ashwal, Alan Percy, Donna Ferriero, Nina Schor, and Jon Mink. Four have won Hower Awards, three have received the Sachs Award. Pictured below is a sampling of the those most gifted and giving past and present program chairs:



Mike Johnston (L) who organized the 1st Joint CNS-ICNA Meeting in 1994, working alongside CNS President, Joe Volpe; and Alan Percy (R), who planned the 1990 and 1991, working in partnership with CNS President, Darryl De Vivo. Alan subsequently worked closely as CNS President with his Scientific Program Chair, Leon Dure, planning the 1998 meeting in Montreal and the 1999 meeting in Nashville.



Erika Augustine (L) was the program chair charged with planning the highly successful 2018 and 2019 meetings in Chicago and Charlotte, working with CNS President, Jonathan Mink. She then stayed on the committee for a year, working with CNS Program Chair, Carl Stafstrom (R) in planning the 2nd Joint CNS-ICNA Meeting. Jon Mink came out of "program chair retirement" to serve as overall Joint CNS-ICNA committee chair. Carl is joined in the 2nd year of his term by co-chair, Yasmin Khakoo, the two of them overseeing planning for the once-in-a-lifetime 50th Anniversary Meeting in Boston.....and it's hybrid variant.



2021 CNS Program Planning Committee Co-Chair, Yasmin Khakoo (L), with her counterpart from nearly 20 years ago, Donna Ferriero (R). Donna planned the program for the 2002 meeting in Washington, DC and the 2003 meeting in Miami Beach, working alongside CNS President Steve Ashwal. She followed in the footsteps of Nina Schor, who chaired the committee in 2000 and 2001, working with Mike Painter, experience she drew on when, as President she worked with Jon Mink in staging the 2014 and 2015 meetings.

Until tomorrow (the letter "T")
Roger

Roger Larson, CAE
Executive Director

Registration is now open for the long awaited 50th Golden Anniversary Meeting of the Child Neurology Society in Boston. Registrants attending this milestone meeting live and in-person in Boston will want to register early (some sessions are limited and reservation-only). You will also want to book hotel rooms ASAP. A link and access code to the Sheraton Boston Hotel will be included in your registration confirmation email.

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