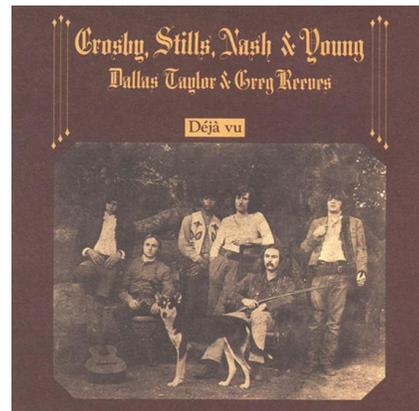


32 DAYS



## "Q" is for Questions

I wrote a few days ago about how closely my life's path ran alongside the founding of the Child Neurology Society in 1971-72 without anyone on either path having the slightest clue about the others' existence, much less their future fate. If there was a soundtrack for that period of my life, both at the time and as I remember it years later, it would be Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young's *Déjà Vu*. A 50th Anniversary pressing of that iconic album has just been released. The timing, as it relates both to me and the CNS, our paths now fully converged, couldn't be better.



Or, should I say "worse"? The doleful refrain from the album's title track – "We have all been here before" – is eerily and depressingly resonant with the position we all find ourselves in as another Summer turns toward Fall. Last year's once-in-a-generation joint meeting with ICNA in San Diego was certain to be the best CNS meeting ever, until COVID shut it down and forced us to go virtual. This year's once-in-a-lifetime 50th/Golden Anniversary Meeting in Boston was a lock to be even better yet, topping whatever wild and wonderful pre-COVID hopes I originally had for the joint 2020 meeting. It still might, but the forward path toward finding out will be clouded with uncertainty and anxiety unlike any we have walked through together since Ann Arbor in 1972. Other than last year, that is. "We have all been here before."

Having been here before, having wearily and warily answered "yes" to Jimmy Hendrix's question, "Are you experienced?", we press on, taking care of business, making plans and coming up with answers to key questions. The opening cut of *Déjà Vu* plaintively references all those "questions of a thousand dreams" that mark our path through life; the song's title vows and invites us to "Carry On." So we do. And so we will.

So, let me put three questions to you, then give you a turn to put three questions to me:

In registering for the meeting you were asked to answer two questions:

- "What was the first CNS Meeting you attended?" and
- "What was your favorite CNS Meeting?"

I'll put a third question (or a series of related questions) to you now:

- In what ways did your career and life change *in between* the two meetings you cited?
- In what ways did your career and life change *because of* one or both of those two meetings, directly or indirectly?
- Was it a CME session or SIG meeting you attended?
- Was it, perhaps, an award lecture that particularly inspired you?
- What friends or mentors did you first encounter at those or other CNS meetings that have made a key difference in your career and life? What crossroads did you come to, what connections were made that sent you in one direction rather than another, defining or redefining your career, and along with it, perhaps, your life?

I remember Donna Ferriero talking about a chance meeting following a symposium at a CNS meeting years ago that led to a career-changing, life-enhancing collaboration with Laura Ment... or was it Gabrielle deVeber? I can't remember anymore, and jogging my memory with "the one who later won a Sachs Award" doesn't help; both did, Laura in 2011 and Gabrielle in 2014.

Bruce Cohen recalls poking his head into the door of a CNS Practice Committee meeting early in his career and innocently asking if he could sit in. Out of that came a decades-long investment of Bruce's time, talent and energy on practice-related issues that have benefited both the CNS and AAN immensely.

Then there is Tobias Loddenkemper, relating in a videotaped conversation I had with him in Boston back in early 2020 how formative and affirming CNS meetings were for him: "I found the Child Neurology Society meeting for myself really launched my career. What we built around this concept of treating seizures and acute seizures is ultimately a national research effort that is looking into acute seizures and status epilepticus. That was actually founded at a CNS meeting. I basically reached out to many people by email that I knew were interested in the same field, actually extremely senior people as compared to myself. But they were remarkably approachable. When I emailed them they said 'Yes.' We exchanged emails: 'Are you at the CNS meeting?' (Yes). 'Do you have time to meet us in the room?' (Yes)."



[Click here to view video.](#)

There are dozens, hundreds more stories like this, all of which when stitched together offer a compelling narrative history of the CNS. I would love to hear and share your stories, your answers to the questions raised above, or others in a similar vein that might occur to you. Please feel free to email me with them anytime. But, patience, please: as we approach the Boston meeting I somehow find myself "otherwise occupied" and unable to reply as quickly, eagerly and expansively as I might otherwise.

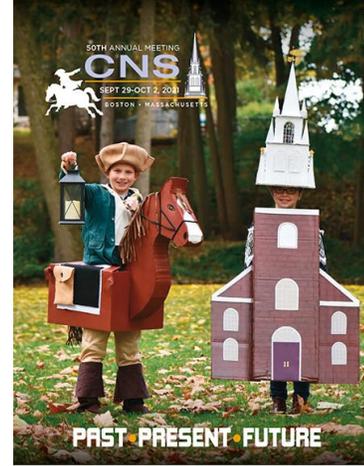
And now, your questions, the top three, anyway, that seem to be put to me most often these days:

1. **Are we still meeting live in Boston?** Yes, as long as the city of Boston or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts says we can. The question is not so much "are we meeting in Boston?" as it is "how many of us will be meeting in Boston?" That, I can't answer; only you can. As members make individual risk assessments or their institutions makes those assessments for them, the number will change in the coming week, then change again, if we're lucky and the current rising curves go down just prior to the meeting, following a pattern seen in the UK (which may or may not make for an apt comparison, variables and variants being what they are). I don't see Boston shutting down a second time, what with the prospect of a Red Sox wild card playoff game

three days after our meeting and the Boston Marathon nine days after. (The Marathon, as many of CNS runners know first-hand, finishes up on Boylston Street, just past and beneath the Hynes Convention Center and Sheraton Boston windows.) We may end up with mostly New Englanders and people driving up from NYC, Philadelphia and DC, and our numbers may only be 2x, 3x or maybe 4x the number attending the first meeting in Ann Arbor. But to the extent we can control our fate, we will have a live, in-person 50th/Golden Anniversary Meeting this Fall.

Registration numbers today stand at 650 live in Boston, 150 attending virtually; still ahead of all previous meetings at this point, 4 weeks out.

- 2. What happens if I can't come to Boston?** There's the beauty (and challenge) of this year's hybrid meeting. Rather than cancel your original registration for the live meeting in Boston and resign ourselves to muttering a now all-but-forgotten Boston Red Sox/Brooklyn Dodgers mantra – "wait 'til next year" – we will transfer your registration to the Virtual Meeting offered on-line. A great CME program crafted by Carl Stafstrom and Yasmin Khakoo featuring seven symposia, nine seminars, 200+ posters, breakfasts, workshops and luncheons will still be available the week of the regularly scheduled meeting and On-Demand thru October 29. Hugs, laughter, and life-changing chance encounters may not be.
- 3. What is the next big date I need to keep in mind?** September 8. That's when ALL speaker presentations and all posters need to be uploaded to the virtual platform, whether the presenter plans on presenting live in Boston from a podium or alongside a poster, or is forced to stare into their laptop screen at an imagined audience while they deliver a live-streamed lecture from their office or kitchen table. Check your emails from Emily McConnell for updated guidelines sent on August 26 and 27.



Above all: "Carry On."

Until tomorrow (the letter "R")  
Roger

Roger Larson, CAE  
Executive Director

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### On-line Registration is Open!

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.

[Click to Register](#)

### 2021 CNS 50th Annual Meeting

For more information, click button below.

[Click for More Info](#)

