

COUNTDOWN TO BOSTON

43 DAYS



## "H" is for Hower

If there is such a thing as sacred space within the CNS, it may, perhaps, be found in that one hour occupied on the final morning of each increasingly busy, over-scheduled annual meeting by the Hower Award Lecture.

Having said that, I will do something I almost always end up doing these days by walking it back, looking it over, seeing (with a little help from my friends) where I got it wrong, then trying a second, third, or tenth time to get it right. Which, in this case, means appreciating how many directions, most of them ill-founded, some of them insane, my opening reference to "sacred space" might be taken. "Sacred space" suggests a religious or theological orientation foreign to, if not incompatible with medical science. It makes priests, in this case, of past recipients of the Hower Award. Which they are not. Nor are they prophets, at least not in a conventional sense, although this comes closer to the mark. The conventional notion of prophets as lone voices speaking truth to power, punctuated perhaps by dire predictions of fast-approaching cataclysm and doom doesn't work so well when one considers that of the 48 Hower Award Lecturers (including this year's awardee, Jon Mink), 20 have been CNS Presidents, including 7 of the last 10. Not exactly outside agitators.

But, if we take a broader and deeper view of prophets as being poets or poetic souls reclaiming, reinterpreting, and re-energizing the original essence and animating impulses informing a given community's defining traditions, then we might be able to make the metaphorical leap required to think about the Hower Award in the context of what, within the world of pediatric neurology, might pass for "sacred."

Any history of the Hower Award must begin with "The Dean": G. Dean Timmons, MD, the second child neurologist to set up shop in Ohio (Past CNS President Bob Eiben being the first), and the first to do so in Akron. I encourage everyone to find the time between now and the 50th Annual Meeting to tune into the videotaped conversation between Dean Timmons, Ken Swaiman and Paul Rosman. Dean enters the frame a few minutes in, recounting at the 15-minute mark the means and motivation behind his successful solicitation of support for an award lecture from one of Akron Children's Hospital's leading philanthropists, the Hower Foundation ([click here to view video](#)). Those still inclined to access information by reading may enjoy Rob Rust's profile of Dean from 2009, when he was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award (alongside Mary Ann Guggenheim) at the CNS Meeting in Louisville ([click to read](#)).

## HISTORY, THE SOCIETY

Home / Videos / CNS History: Drs. Kenneth Swaiman, N. Paul Rosman, and Dean Timmons



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The first Hower Award Lecture was presented by Douglas Buchanan at the 3rd CNS Annual Meeting held in Madison, Wisconsin in 1974. In the early years, the Hower Award Lecture was given as part of the closing, Friday evening formal dinner. Legend has it this practice was abandoned after the 9th Hower Lecture, delivered by Patrick Bray at the CNS Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, the notion being that a quiet cup of coffee on Saturday morning might be more conducive to appreciative listening than the heady mix of wine, chatty child neurologists and clanging plates and silverware served up on Friday nights.

Those accoutrements all were and are still are available, however, at the Hower Award Dinner hosted in Akron each spring following the CNS meeting. Each Hower Awardee's Ohio pilgrimage includes presentation of a lecture in the evening followed by Grand Rounds the next morning at Akron Children's Hospital. Bruce Cohen graciously provided the photo below from the 2012 Hower Award Dinner in Akron, featuring 2011 Hower Award Lecturer, Dr. Deborah Hirtz, well-known to all for her longtime leadership at the NINDS.



(L-R) Drs. Dean Timmons, Roger Hudgins (a neurosurgeon and Director of the NeuroDevelopmental Science Center at Akron Children's at the time), Deborah Hirtz, and incoming CNS President, Bruce Cohen.

It is worth noting that Deborah Hirtz was only the 4th of 7 women chosen to receive the Hower Award; her predecessors include Betty Banker (1983), Isabelle Rapin (1987), Karin Nelson (1991), and Sakkubai

Naidu (2010), while those who followed include Ann Tilton (2012) and Nina Schor (2017).



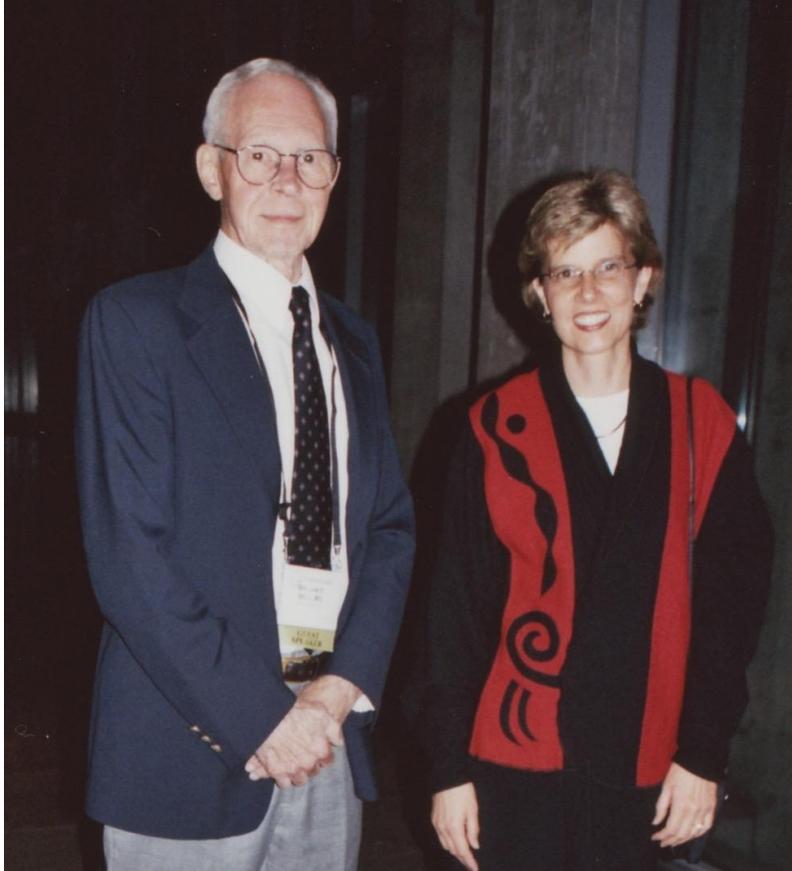
Dr. Naidu's Hower Award Lecture in 2010 in Providence calls to mind one aspect of the prophetic nature of the award that is integral to its significance to the Child Neurology Society. Again, discarding the old, conventional notions of prophets as lone voices crying out in the wilderness, and trading up to a more modern understanding of them as representative poets speaking for and from within a community and a tradition, one could not help but be struck in listening to Sakku's lecture of the close working relationship she had and enjoyed with colleagues at Kennedy Krieger, most especially with 1994 Hower Awardee, Hugo Moser, and his wife and co-researcher, Ann. I met, but did not know Dr. Moser. Sakku, on the other hand, has been dear to me going back many, many

years, perhaps never more so than in Belgium in 2018 when, at a meeting of the International Child Neurology Association BOD, I had the good fortune to spend hours talking to her over lunch, dinner, a long walk around Liege, and an even longer, colder wait for a cab willing to come to our rescue. **(Click to read Rob Rust's 2010 Profile of Dr. Naidu).**

Multiple other "Hower Genealogies" can be traced by looking over the roster below, including but not limited to Ken Swaiman & Steve Ashwal, Phil Dodge/Joseph Volpe/Darryl De Vivo/Marvin Fishman, and Mike Painter/Nina Schor/Jonathan Mink. Jon might just as easily be linked genealogically to Wash U or to fellow "Master of Movement Disorders," Harvey Singer, just as Darryl De Vivo could be linked to Sidney Carter and Salvatore DiMauro, or....you get the picture.

Similar genealogical links are evidenced in pictures below showing Jim Bale (with CNS President Phillip Pearl, and his introducer for the lecture, longtime Utah colleague, Fran Filloux) and William Bell (shown here with Kathy Mathews). Jim delivered the last live presentation of the Hower Award at the CNS Meeting in Charlotte in 2019. Dr. Bell, one of the midwestern cohort who founded the CNS, received the Hower Award at the 25th/Silver Anniversary Meeting of the CNS in Minneapolis in 1996. Another Iowan in the Hower Award lineage, not pictured, would be 2013 Awardee, John Bodensteiner (John will come up in future Countown entries).





## HOWER AWARD

1974	Douglas Buchanan Chicago	1990	Joseph J. Volpe Boston	2006	Michael Painter Pittsburgh
1975	Randolph K. Byers Boston	1991	Karin B. Nelson Bethesda	2007	Robert S. Rust Charlottesville
1976	Sidney Carter New York	1992	Darryl C. De Vivo New York	2008	Stephen <u>Ashwal</u> Loma Linda
1977	David B. Clark Lexington	1993	Bengt D. Hagberg Goteborg	2009	Peter Camfield Halifax
1978	Philip R. Dodge St. Louis	1994	Hugo Moser Baltimore	2010	<u>Sakkubai Naidu</u> Baltimore
1979	Paul I. Yakovlev Boston	1995	Salvatore DiMauro New York	2011	Deborah <u>Hirtz</u> Bethesda
1980	John H. Menkes Beverly Hills	1996	William Bell Iowa City	2012	Ann Tilton New Orleans
1981	Kenneth F. <u>Swaiman</u> Minneapolis	1997	Gerald <u>Fenichel</u> Nashville	2013	John <u>Bodensteiner</u> Rochester, MN
1982	Patrick F. Bray Salt Lake City	1998	N. Paul Rosman Boston	2014	Michael <u>Shevell</u> Montreal
1983	Betty Q. Banker Cleveland	1999	Marvin Fishman Houston	2015	E. Steve Roach Columbus
1984	Peter <u>Huttenlocher</u> Chicago	2000	Arthur Prensky St. Louis	2016	Harvey Singer Baltimore
1985	Raymond Adams Boston	2001	Charles Barlow Boston	2017	Nina F. Schor Rochester, NY
1986	Jean Aicardi Paris	2002	Peter H. Berman Philadelphia	2018	Bernard L. Maria Morristown, NJ
1987	Isabelle <u>Rapin</u> Bronx	2003	Michael E. Cohen Buffalo	2019	James F. Bale, Jr. Salt Lake City, UT
1988	Bruce Berg San Francisco	2004	John Freeman Baltimore	2020	Kenneth J. Mack Rochester, MN
1989	Manuel Gomez Rochester	2005	Alan Percy Birmingham	2021	Jonathan Mink Rochester, NY

Until tomorrow (the letter "I")

Roger

Roger Larson, CAE  
Executive Director

### 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.

### 2021 CNS 50th Annual Meeting

For more information, click button below.

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**CNS ANNUAL MEETING**  
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