

COUNTDOWN TO BOSTON

47 DAYS



"D" is for Dodge, De Vivo...and Debts

I live about a mile east of the river and take sunset walks along its east bank two or three nights a week. When I say "the river" with my casual midwestern, provincial presumption, I mean THE River. Not the Charles, not the Hudson, certainly not the East River, but THE River: the Mississippi River. The Father of Waters, Mother of Metaphors and constant travel companion, north to south, of Dylan's Highway 61.



I have sometimes thought that an enterprising child neurologist could take a map of the United States, trace a finger or point a laser along the Mississippi, straight through the nation's middle, north to south, and offer up a pretty decent capsule history of child neurology in the United States. Starting out in Minnesota and drawing a circle that took in Lacrosse, Wisconsin 60 miles south on the east bank of the Mississippi, and Rochester, Minnesota 40 miles to its west (we'll get to them later in August), one could pontificate a bit about the AAN and ANA, both headquartered for decades in the Twin Cities (the AAN remains in Minneapolis), and the ABPN, HQ'd in Rochester when it issued the first certificates in child neurology in 1968. All the plotlines are there for a nifty little prologue to the founding narratives spun around Ken Swaiman and his midwestern cohort laying out plans on the back of a napkin to create a new Society.

Sliding down to Saint Louis, you could talk for 10 minutes – or 10 hours – about Phil Dodge and the gifted progeny he spawned at Wash U before dropping down to New Orleans to touch on Ann Tilton, who continues to nurture and inspire a new, emerging generation of women in child neurology, altering their sense, not so much of the science, but of the sociology or ecology of the field: how child neurologists relate to other physicians and physician organizations; to industry; to family research, advocacy and support groups; to patients and their families; to one's own family, even. And to oneself.

That will all come later. But, pause first in the middle of the map, in the middle of the timeline, in the middle of everything peds neuro, and there he stands: Phil Dodge. Born outside of Boston, educated in New Hampshire and New Haven, trained in medicine in Rochester, NY, he moved on quickly to create the pediatric neurology department at Mass General before going west as a

young man, from the banks of the Charles River to the banks of THE River, the Mississippi. It was there, in St. Louis, that his career, and the future of child neurology really took root and took off.



How and why that happened at Wash U all of you know far better than I. I could maybe tell you five good stories about Dr. Dodge. Most of you could tell me 50 better ones. So I'll leave it to you to fill in the blanks. I'm more interested today in his legacy, his progeny if you will.

It's tempting to say that if Phil Dodge is himself the Mississippi River of child neurology, much of the story of the past 40 years can be told by starting out in St. Louis and tracing one's finger along a few noteworthy tributaries. Three stand out: one at Baylor/Texas Children's Hospital near the banks of the San Jacinto River; another back East again, near the Charles River at Harvard/Boston Children's; and a third at Columbia nestled between the Hudson and East Rivers. That's bad geography, admittedly, and even worse physics. But, it's great genealogy, highlighting Dodge's seminal influence on three giants of the Child Neurology Society's middle years: Marvin Fishman, CNS President from 1987-89, Hower Awardee in 1999, and Gold Humanism Awardee in 2012; Joseph Volpe, President from 1993-95, Hower Awardee in 1990, and Sachs Awardee in 2000; and Darryl De Vivo, President from 1991-93, Hower Awardee in 1992, and Sachs Awardee in 2003. Dr. Fishman's and Dr. Volpe's time will come. Today, however, is "D" Day, so the rest of this ramble belongs to Darryl De Vivo and his role in raising awareness of, and money for ensuring his mentor's legacy.

As was true in the first three installments, and will be true for those to follow, I can't speak to Dr. De Vivo's accomplishments as a medical scientist, although I have a vague sense – it quite literally goes without saying – that they are considerable. Nor can I begin, as a layperson, to truly appreciate the nature and scope of the intellectual and professional debt he and his generation, and the generations to follow all owe Phil Dodge. What I can appreciate is the honest and earnest effort shown by his generation to recognize and repay the debt owed Dodge and his generation, and in so doing passing on a rich legacy to succeeding generations of child neurologists.

First established and presented in 1983 (to the late Michael Pranzatelli), the Young Investigator Award was funded for many years through Darryl's successful solicitation of grant support from Sigma Tau Pharmaceuticals. Thanks to Darryl and a host of others, the award was renamed in Phil Dodge's honor in 2004, with the first presentation of the newly renamed Phillip R. Dodge Young Investigator Award going to Terri Inder, in Ottawa. Phil was very much there at that meeting, in full "tennis-shoed" regalia.

An "Old School" realist, who knew that sustaining an award – and a legacy – cost money, Dr. De Vivo launched a campaign a few years later to establish a \$1 million permanent endowment built on the notion that the best way to "honor a founding giant in child neurology (was to) help find and fund new ones," Enlisting, and energetically



Philip R. Dodge, MD

Honor a founding giant in child neurology...

...help find and fund new ones.

driving, a small cohort of Dodge protégés and enthusiasts, the Darryl and the fundraising committee successfully reached and celebrated that milestone at the 2014 CNS Annual Meeting in Columbus. Phil Dodge's legacy lives on in large measure because of Darryl De Vivo's drive, discipline and devotion, and through the generous support of several CNS members and non-members, many of whom we will get to in this Countdown to Boston....all in good time.

PHILIP R. DODGE YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD

WE MADE IT!

Thanks to the following individuals and organizations, the CNS made history at the 43rd Annual CNS Meeting held in Columbus, OH in October 2014, fully ending at \$1 million the Philip R. Dodge Young Investigator Award.

Contributions Received (October 2009 – December 31, 2014)

\$300,000- Pediatric Epilepsy Research Foundation (PERF)	\$5,000- Roger Rumbaek, MD Child Neurology Foundation Marvin Fishman, MD Patricia Isallet, MD Robert Greenwood, MD James H. Johnson, Jr., MD Jeff Nair, MD, B.S. Terrie Inoue, MD Medical Neurogenetics Scott Pomeroy, MD, PhD Arthur Penrod, MD Isabelle Kapin, MD SAGE – Journal of Child Neurology Bradley Schlaggar, MD, PhD Steven Shapiro, MD & Children's Mercy Hospitals & Clinics Amy Tison, MD Huda Zoghbi, MD Joseph Voipe, MD
\$150,000- Questcor Pharmaceuticals Inc.	\$50,000- Children's Hospital Boston – Neurology Foundation William Danforth, MD Texas Children's Hospital
\$17,000- Nina Schor, MD, PhD	\$12,000- Darryl & Alicia De Vivo, MD Stanley Johnsen, MD
\$15,000- Darryl & Alicia De Vivo, MD	\$10,000- Peter Sertman, MD
\$7,000- Sidney Gospe, MD, PhD Mary Johnson, MD Vinodh Narayanan, MD Michael Nussba, MD Edward Kaye, MD	

Child Neurology Foundation Executive Director, Amy Beth Miller and Director of Operations, Susan Grace logged long hours at the CNS-CNF Dodge display collecting on-site contributions from CNS members rising to the challenge issued in early 2014: "We (CNS) want the members of the Child Neurology Society to show that this is important to them if they will do that – contributing \$100,000 by the end of the 2014 CNS Annual Meeting – then we will cap off the grant, and the goal will be met."

The Sons of Texas: Three key members of the Dodge Endowment Fund Steering Committee with close ties to Phil Dodge and Texas Children's Hospital: Drs. Sidney Gospe, Gary Clark, and Marvin Fishman.

PERF President, Dr. Roy Etkemman, makes it official by handing CNS President, Dr. Nina Schor a check in the amount of \$170,000.



Flanking Dodge Endowment Fundraising Chair, Dr. Darryl De Vivo, on stage at the Gala celebration were CNS President, Dr. Nina Schor, and Dodge Steering Committee members (l-r) Drs. Mary Johnson, Vinodh Narayanan, Scott Pomeroy, Bradley Schlaggar, Jonathan Mink, Stanley Johnsen, Gary Clark, and Sid Gospe. All Steering Committee members gathered on-stage personally contributed \$5,000 or more.

Although it did not count toward the PERF Challenge Grant, the \$50,000 solicited by Scott Pomeroy and Gary Clark from each of their institutions – Boston Children's Hospital Neurology Foundation, and Texas Children's Hospital – "set the stage" for the PERF grant by making the \$1 million goal seem plausible.

That the Dodge legacy lives on is not owing simply to money, however; we all wish the \$30,000 grant given as part of the award was larger and more commensurate with the honor, recognition and affirmation it bestows. It lives on as well through and because of the character and continuing willingness to repay a debt, "in kind" if not in currency, by its young (and, with time's passing, maybe not-so-young) recipients.

It is no small coincidence that five of the 38 recipients of the Dodge Young Investigator Award have gone on to serve on the CNS Executive Committee (four before it was renamed after Dodge): Faye Silverstein (1986 YIA), Vinodh Narayanan (1987 YIA), Ken Mack (1991 YIA), Nigel Bamford (2002 YIA), and Audrey Brumback (2017 Dodge YIA). More will surely follow that path and sense of purpose. Nor is it surprising that one of them, Ken Mack (1991), should become CNS President (2015-17) and receive the Hower Award (2020), or that another, Amy Brooks-Kayal (1999 YIA) would become President of the American Epilepsy Society a few years ago.

Three past Young Investigator Awardees have gone on to win Sachs Awards: Huda Zoghbi (1988 YIA, 2001 Sachs), Joe Gleeson (1998 YIA, 2020 Sachs), and Scott Pomeroy, (1989 YIA, 2019 Sachs); Scott is currently "giving back" as President of the Child Neurology Foundation. Others have selflessly contributed substantial time and energy to ensuring the present and future success of the Society through committee work and SIG leadership, including Nigel Bamford (2002 YIA) and Laura Jansen (2008 Dodge YIA; also now at Wash U); both have done superb work chairing the Awards Committee, infusing the review and selection process with real and meaningful mentorship. In addition to serving on the Awards Committee, Dan Bonthius (2001 YIA) is the longtime editor of *CNS Connections*, often highlighting the work of young researchers, and is co-creator, essentially, with CNS President Phillip Pearl, of the newly added clinical briefs section, *Child Neuro Synapses*.

In mentioning Phil, it is worth noting at this point, quoting from the Winter 2015 issue of *CNS Connections*, that as PCN President (at that time), "Phillip Pearl's stirring appeal for leadership by example issued to members of the Professors of Child Neurology in August 2014 was critically

important to closing the gap in the weeks before the Columbus meeting."

Repaying one's debts takes real effort and leadership by example, something we will get to with tomorrow's entry, as luck would have it.

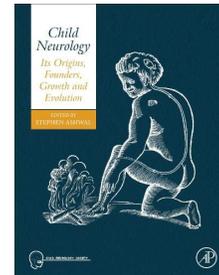
Until tomorrow (the letter "E"),
Roger

Roger Larson, CAE
Executive Director

— Quick Note —

"D" is for Don't Delay, Last Day!

Anyone wishing to pick up a copy in Boston of the 2nd edition "Founders" book, edited by Steve Ashwal, must register for the meeting and order the book by FRIDAY, AUGUST 13.



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.

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