

COUNTDOWN TO BOSTON

49 DAYS



"B" is for Boston

Oh, boy. Where to begin? Harder yet: where to end? We could spend the next 49 days sorting through photos reaching back more than five decades, limiting ourselves to just the true giants of neurology – not even the sub-luminaries who, though they were prominent in their time are no longer well-remembered outside of Boston. Even then, we would run out of space and readers would run out of time. But that is not the point of these daily musings. And we could, and probably should touch on the only other time the CNS met in Boston, in 1986, when the Red Sox were also in town that October playing in yet another cruelly doomed World Series (more "B's, as in "Bambino – Curse of" and "Bill Buckner").

So, yes, we could touch on Randolph Byers or Paul Yakovlev, both recipients of the Hower Award in the Society's first decade, or Charles Barlow, Hower Awardee in 2001 and holder of Certificate #1 issued by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) in 1968. If Phil Dodge wasn't scheduled for Friday, when "D" comes up the first time in the alphabetic rotation, we could easily talk briefly about him today. But, then, someone would surely ask, "Well, then, what about Raymond Adams? Why wasn't he mentioned yesterday? Will Cesare Lombroso come up tomorrow with 'C' or later on with 'L'?" To which, I would politely reply: "neither."



Which makes this an opportune moment, perhaps, to remind readers that this 50-Day Countdown/Journey to Boston is meant to be no more than my personal musings, based on my privileged perch on the sidelines going back to the early 80s. I have met and, in most cases, come to know and respect all but one of the 30 CNS Presidents, all of the Secretary-treasurers, and all but a handful of the 101 Councillors elected to serve on the Executive Committee. I could not tell you the first thing about their neurologic expertise, but I can speak to their significance to the Child Neurology Society over time. This 50 day journey, then, is about the Child Neurology Society, not "Child Neurology". Think of each day's entry as a capsule film review minus the thumbs up or thumbs down. The people, places and things presented briefly are meant to be emblematic, not encyclopedic, and the musings largely mine, reflecting my personal perspectives, not official CNS policy or positions. Now, let's get on with it, shall we?

"B" is also for Book

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.

Alumni get-togethers will be a big part of the 50th Anniversary Meeting in Boston and, true to form, Boston Children's Hospital has consistently shown how it's done (including great group photos taken every year by Suzanne Shaff; shown above is the BCH gathering at the last live CNS meeting, in Charlotte, back in 2019). A cynic might suggest those pictured here are just a bunch of Hollywood-handsome stand-ins. But, those willing to spend a weekend binge-watching the 40+ recordings featured in the CNS Conversations section of the CNS website ([Click here to view.](#)) will come across no less than a dozen of those pictured, and several who aren't, including David Coulter (Gold Humanism, 2017), Louis Kunkel (Sachs, 1992), David Urion (Training Program Director Award, 2016), and Joe Volpe (Hower, 1990; Sachs, 2000; CNS President, 1993-95).

I should also mention here that Boston Children's Hospital has provided a generous grant in support of the meeting, following a tradition of "Local Hosts" reaching back to 2013 when Steve Roach first broached the idea and Texas Children's Hospital took the lead, setting an example that all have followed since.

Boston is to the CNS what the USA is to the Olympics: no city has taken home more "Gold": Hower (6), Sachs (6) and Dodge Young Investigator Awards (8). This is a composite achievement, of course, with Massachusetts General Hospital and the Boston University and Tufts programs sharing in the spoils. Mention Mass General and one thinks immediately of Elizabeth Dooling, Verne Caviness (pictured at right accepting the 1996 Sachs Award from CNS President, Mike Cohen), Kalpathy Krishnamoorthy (2016 Lifetime Achievement Awardee pictured with one-time MGH colleague, Barry Kosofsky) and Kevin Staley (pictured here with his protégé from Colorado days, 2017 Dodge YIA, Audrey Brumback).

A quick aside: This might normally be a good place to pause and talk about Audrey's late father, the beloved Roger Brumback. Rest assured: he will come up later in the rotation, either in conjunction with "G-Generations"; "J- Journals"; "L-Legacy & Lifetime Achievement Awards" or, at the very least and latest, when "B" comes up a second time in the rotation, two days before the Boston meeting begins.



without prominent mention of Paul Rosman, the 7th President of the CNS (1978-79). Paul received the Hower Award in his native Montreal when the CNS met there in 1998 and could easily come up again in multiple future "Countdown" entries if space allowed (e.g., "C" for Canada, "F" for Founders, "H" for Hower, "P" for Presidents). If there was an entry for "MC" (Master of Ceremonies), Paul would get top billing. Pictured at right is Paul presenting a gift to his good friend, Ken Swaiman, following his wryly humorous, still-well-remembered introductory "roast" of Ken at the 25th CNS Annual Meeting in Minneapolis in 1996.



Following Dr. Rosman's retirement, the Tufts/BUMC program remained in highly capable hands. Pictured on the right are current co-chiefs, Karl Kuban and Laurie Douglass, attending the 2018 Professors of Child Neurology (PCN) meeting; Karl is currently Secretary-treasurer of the newly renamed Professors & Educators of Child Neurology (PECN).



"B" is also for Bowties...and Babies

If I had to choose one set of opposing images to suggest one of the more noteworthy demographic changes in CNS meetings since I attended my first in 1988, it would be the shift from bowties to babies. Of the 125 attendees at the first CNS Meeting in 1972, 19 were women (15%). The meetings in Chicago in 2018 and Charlotte in 2019 , each with 1400+ total attendees, marked the first time women reached and pushed past the 50% threshold. Not all (or many) brought their new offspring along for the ride – probably the same number proportionate to attendees overall as the number of men wearing bowties is to men, women or non-binary attendees overall – but enough of them did such that the parity between bowties and babies has been eclipsed and a new era has begun.

Until tomorrow (the letter "C"),
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.

[Click to Register](#)

2021 CNS 50th Annual Meeting

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