

COUNTDOWN TO BOSTON

19 DAYS



## "T" is for Training Directors

When I was seven years old, I didn't just dream about growing up to be a major league baseball player, I knew in my heart, I could feel in my bones that I was bound to become one. My older brother had his doubts. And while I don't think he dreamed, even at age 11, about becoming a lawyer, I can see now, looking back, that his destiny seemed clearer and more certain than mine on that summer day in 1961 when he had me sign a piece of paper swearing I would someday play center field for the Minnesota Twins.

I'll save you the time and effort googling "Roger Larson + Hall of Fame" and tell you straight up it never happened. And never will, I ruefully decided a few years ago in my mid-50s. Ruefully, and yet, without deep regret. That I save for other and later dreams, those that at least stood a chance of coming true, but somehow didn't. Like becoming a high school history teacher, or maybe a professor at some small liberal arts college. That too, I decided in my mid-50s, was never going to happen.

Which may be why – envy being the easiest of the seven deadly sins to practice and perfect – the Training Director Award is the one I prize the most among those presented by the PECN and CNS at the annual meeting. I can and do sit through all the award lectures every year, listening to them the way I listen to French being spoken in Paris bistros, loving the sound of the words flowing fluidly, but without understanding more than the merest fragment of their meaning. Part of me wishes that the Training Director Awardees could give a lecture instead of a brief 3-5 minute acceptance speech, while another part of me is glad they don't. Because what these celebrated teachers and mentors do, daily and over a long period of time, is nothing short of magic and mystery, an intimate transfer of knowledge and wisdom that can no more be crystalized and conveyed on-stage from a podium in a darkened ballroom filled with 500 people than reading Willie Mays' stats on the back of a baseball card can capture the wonder of that moment on September 29, 1954 when he made the greatest catch in baseball history. You had to be there.







Which is another reason why I so deeply prize the Training Director Award and those who receive it. It is presented on the basis of letters from those residents and colleagues who literally have “been there.” And, having “been there,” in the presence of pedagogical genius and generosity early in their career and life, when it really mattered, many of them are “here,” as child neurologists gathered tribally at the CNS Annual Meeting to honor that year’s recipient.

I can’t do justice to any of the eight recipients. I envy those who can, and have. So without further ado, I will offer you a link to the full line-up of Training Director Award profiles posted on the CNS website (<https://www.childneurologysociety.org/calling/cns-awards/training-director/>), many written by colleagues, some by the 2015 awardee, Rob Rust. And I will encourage you to attend, or if you can’t, watch live or by recorded playback on the virtual meeting platform, the Kenneth F. Swaiman Legacy Luncheon on September 29; the program will include presentation of the award to the 2021 recipient, Miya Asato, along with recognition of all past awardees: Harvey Singer (2013), Steve Leber (2014), Rob Rust (2015), David Urion (2016), Sid Gospe (2017), Bruce Shapiro (2018), and Karen Ballaban-Gil (2019). (Note: no award was given in 2020, there being no equivalent award presented by our joint-meeting partner, the International Child Neurology Association).

But first, a final shout out and word of thanks, to Gary Clark who first proposed establishing this award and found funding for it, through its first seven years, from the Blue Bird Circle Clinic at Texas Children’s Hospital.

Until tomorrow (the letter “S”)  
Roger

Roger Larson, CAE

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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.

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