

COUNTDOWN TO BOSTON

2 DAYS



## "C" is for CNS: Past, Present and Future

Seasoned jazz musician that he is, Phil Pearl seized upon the dominant theme of "CNS: Past, Present and Future" and riffed on it in the past year in such a way that all will be pleased and few should be surprised when he swings back to it in grand fashion on Thursday morning with the Presidential Symposium. More on that in a moment, but first, as prelude, let me share this photo taken at the meeting in Phoenix in 1997.



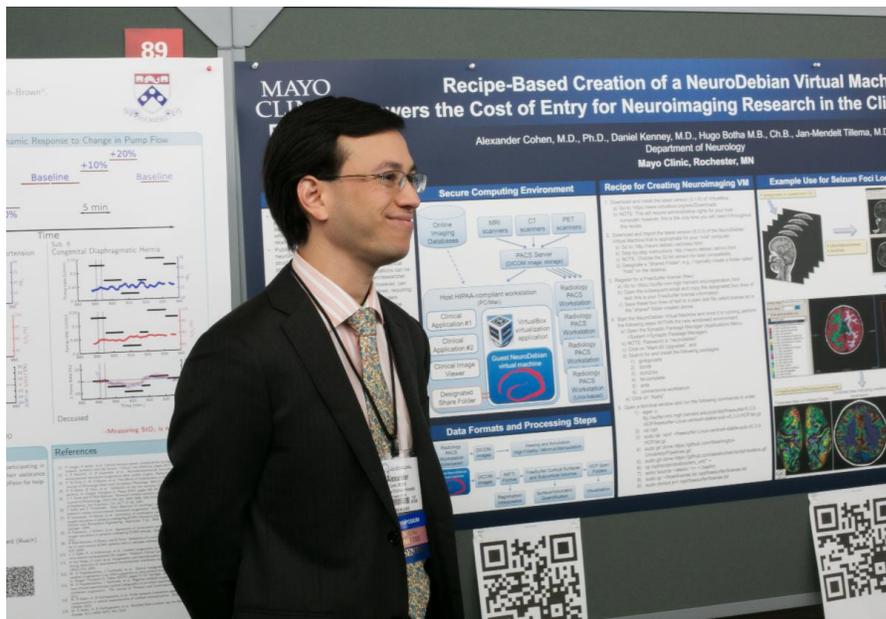
Many of you will recognize on the left, Darryl De Vivo, CNS President from 1989-91. Others may recognize in the middle, Michael Cohen, CNS President from 1995-97. Some of the older, more astute, and/or Texas-trained child neurologists may even recognize the back of Marvin Fishman's head, having tried so often and for so long to catch up with him; Marvin was CNS President from 1987-89. All of you should recognize now, or will soon recognize the youngest member of that trio (or quartet), standing on on the right: Bruce Cohen. Bruce's two-year term as CNS President begins this coming Friday, when he becomes the first CNS President to share the same last name as a previous President.

The image caught on film was taken in 1997 at a strategic retreat Mike Cohen organized on the front end of the 26th CNS Annual Meeting in Phoenix. The retreat's purpose was to plot a path forward for the CNS as it moved into its 2nd quarter-century as the primary association of child neurologists in the US and Canada. I can't help but be struck now by Bruce's presence at that meeting, standing alongside the then-CNS President, Mike Cohen, knowing as I do that he was elected by his peers to be the President charged with moving the Society into its 2nd half-century. Nor can I think of a person better matched to that moment. He is not, as he related to me in recent conversation, an academic-researcher of the same mold or stature of many past-CNS presidents. Although fully conversant with the needs and interests of academic researchers, he is one of the very few CNS thought leaders I have known who is deeply immersed in and sympathetic to the differing needs and interests of non-academic researchers in and outside of the CNS. As we enter a new era in healthcare economics that will impact child neurologists directly, maybe even direly in some ways, we are fortunate to have Bruce at the helm. Drawing on his

long immersion in the micro and macroeconomic child neurologists operate within, and leveraging his active and highly valued and influential participation in the AAN, Bruce is the right person in the right place at the right time to move the Child Neurology Society into its next 50 years, making it a more broadly and effectively inclusive and representative organization.

In an earlier entry I compared Phil Pearl's response to the crises and challenges confronting him in his two years as CNS President to FDR's innovative New Deal response to the Great Depression in the United States. Bruce's temperament and tool kit make him ideally suited to oversee an ensuing period of both consolidation and innovation. I am both confident and hopeful. And I am keenly aware, taking a second glance at that photo taken in Phoenix, that what I am seeing is the Past, Present and Future of Child Neurology.

One final note in this vein: I don't want to doom Alexander Li Cohen with what some might misperceive as an early endorsement—and an unsolicited and probably unwanted one, at that—but after taping a conversation with Alex in early 2020 at Boston Children's Hospital, and in anticipation of his talk on Cognitive Neuroscience as part of "The Future" segment of Phil's Presidential Symposium, I can't help thinking there may someday be a 3rd Cohen elected CNS President.



## "C" is also for CNCDP-K12

Having mentioned Alex Cohen, who has participated in and benefitted from CNCDP programming, and being mindful that the 2nd day of the CNCDP retreat is now in full swing, how can I not give them a quick shout-out when talking about the future of child neurology and the CNS? Rather than steal any thunder from Brad Schlaggar's Friday morning symposium, "Progress in Child Neurology Through the Lens of an NINDS Career Development Program: CNCDP, Past, Present and Future," I will both offer you quick pics of some of the CNCDP Executive Committee ("the old guard") and the younger, free-spirited scholars they mentor, and urge you attend on Friday morning.





Until tomorrow (the letter B),  
Roger

---

### **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 may also use this link to modify your registration as needed, including switching from live in-person to Virtual, or vice versa.

[Click to Register](#)

### **2021 CNS 50th Annual Meeting**

For more information, click button below.

[Click for More Info](#)

