

COUNTDOWN TO BOSTON

21 DAYS



## "X, Y, Z" is for Youth, Zeller, Zupanc and Zoghbi

And so we begin the downward slide backward through the alphabet counting down the days to the CNS Meeting in Boston in three weeks. After taking a few days off, I will need to compact a few letters and skip a few others, perhaps, but I wouldn't be the first to do so. We have all grown up clumping "X, Y and Z" together, so why stop now? And people whose names begin with "Z" are accustomed, through years of schooling, to hearing their name called out last, a phenomenon that may have subtly contributed to the statistical improbability of 2 of the 11 recipients of the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism in Medicine Award having a name that starts with "Z": Robert Zeller (2015; shown below with Arnold Gold) and this year's awardee, Mary Zupanc. They are used to seeing or putting other people ahead of themselves.

A classic example of this, captured in the [2015 award profile posted on the CNS website](#): "Dr. Zeller's unceasing desire to provide for unrecognized needs is particularly exemplified by his reaction when he was told that one of his patients with epilepsy was not permitted to enroll in a summer camp. His reaction was to gather enough donors (not least himself), who together raised \$12,000,000 that enabled the building of "Camp For All" to serve the needs of children, adolescents, and adults with disabilities. Characteristically, Dr. Zeller not only raised the funds, but also played the critical role in selection of an architect and organization of the plans for the facilities that would best serve their needs. To date more than 100,000 individuals have benefited from this model facility."

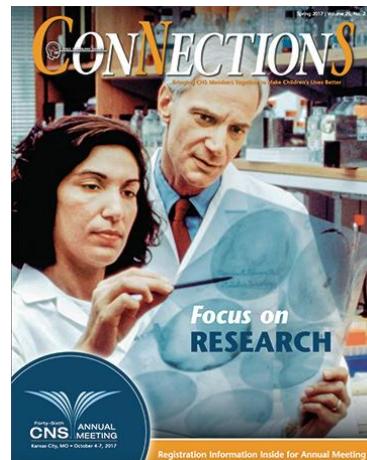


I will not steal any thunder from Bruce Cohen's profile of Mary for the upcoming *CNS Connections*, or Ann Tilton's introduction of Mary on September 29 when the Gold Award is presented to her at the Kenneth F. Swaiman Legacy Luncheon, but the choices and challenges involved in Mary putting others' needs and interests ahead of her own comes up often in her life and career. I have had the great pleasure of knowing Mary since she first sat down and started fiddling with the

keyboard of a grand piano in the atrium of the Hyatt Embarcadero in San Francisco at the Joint CNS-ICNA Meeting in 1994. She is my second favorite (Wisconsin) Badger, my daughter being #1 (neither confession comes easily for a lifelong Minnesotan). I wish I had a picture of the two of them in Vancouver in 2016, when Mary, a veteran marathon runner, spent ample time throughout the meeting advising Mekeea, who arrived stiff and sore 24 hours after completing her first marathon. My one regret about the timing of this year's CNS meeting in Boston is that it comes a week too soon for Mary to run yet another Boston Marathon (in yet another COVID-induced scheduling quirk, the Marathon has been displaced from its traditional April/Patriot's Day perch, to October). The same regret holds for another veteran runner honored this year, the 1st Martha Bridge Denckla Award Lecturer, Elizabeth Berry-Kravis.



I don't know if Huda Zoghbi is a runner. I can't imagine where she would find the time. There is neither time nor space sufficient to even begin summarizing her contributions to neurogenetics and the Child Neurology Society. I would encourage you to go back to brief shout-outs in "C' is for Canada" (what are the odds of her delivering both of her prestigious award lectures – the Young Investigator Award and the Bernard Sachs Award – in Canada?) and "F' is for Fishman," the latter including a link to a feature on her in the **Summer 2017 CNS Connections** posted on the CNS website.



What comes to mind with Huda now, as I transition to "Y' is for Youth" is her role as a mentor and generational progenitor. As she noted when introducing her protégé, Jimmy Holder, Jr in 2015, before he delivered the Dodge Young Investigator Award Lecture, she is the intellectual granddaughter of Phil Dodge, having been mentored at Baylor by Dr. Dodge's protégé at Washington University, Marvin Fishman. She noted the same 4th generation succession when introducing the 2020 Dodge YIA lecturer, Tuan-Hsiao Chao at last year's virtual CNS-ICNA joint meeting, and again in a live-streamed conversation with Drs. Fishman and Chao moderated by Phil Pearl as part of the AAN Virtual Annual Meeting last spring (the video will be available on the CNS website in October).



Tuan is part of remarkable cadre of “next gen neurologists” that are revitalizing and reimagining the field of child neurology and, indeed, the Child Neurology Society itself. I can’t think of many better ways to start out talking about this emerging cadre than with the photo above of Tuan with this year’s winner of the Dodge Young Investigator Award, Monica Lemmon, from Duke University (shown with Lisa Emrick, Tuan’s colleague at Baylor). Both have benefitted from their involvement in the Child Neurology Career Development Project (CNCDP), an NIH-funded program directed by Brad Schlaggar at Kennedy Krieger that holds its annual retreat on the front end of CNS Annual Meetings. This infusion of youthful talent and energy, coupled with the parallel programming just prior to CNS Annual Meetings of the Pellock Residents Seminar on Epilepsy, prompted me in 2018 to, perhaps unkindly, suggest to CNS Executive Committee members attending the CNS Annual Meeting in Chicago: “You may notice that 1-out-of-3 attendees this week walk faster than you do.”





I could go on for days writing about the many rising stars in the CNS who both amaze me by how much they have given back to the CNS already, and how much over the next 30, 40, even 50 years (it could happen), they may yet contribute, winning their share of Hower, Sachs and Denckla Awards along the way, serving on their share of Executive Committees as Councillors and Presidents alongside executive directors who will follow me. Those of you attending the September 30 Presidential Symposium Phil Pearl has organized, "The CNS at 50! Past, Present, and Future," will get a sampling of great things to come from presentations given by members of the Young Investigators Special Interest Group: Alexander Li Cohen (Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience), Darius Ebrahimi-Fahkari (Movement Disorders), Christopher Yuskaitis (Epilepsy Genetics), Verena Staedtke (Neuro-oncology), Giulia Benedetti (from Pellock Fellow to Faculty), and Bhooma Avaramuthan (Cerebral Palsy). You might also want to catch three conversations I videotaped with Alex, Darius and Chris in February 2020, and then email me or one of them if you are interested in joining the Young Investigators SIG.



[Creating the Early Investigators Special Interest Group \(Recorded at Boston Children's Hospital\)](#)

*Click to watch video.*

---



[Finding Mentors \(Recorded at Boston Children's Hospital\)](#)

*Click to watch video.*

---



[Major Reasons Why I went into Child Neurology \(Recorded at Boston Children's Hospital\)](#)

Until tomorrow ("U is for Uncertainty, V is for Vaccines")  
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**

For more information, click button below.

[Click for More Info](#)

---

