

28 DAYS



## "U" is for Updates

### Are we still meeting in Boston?

Yes, we are still planning on meeting in Boston. At this point, four weeks out, only the city of Boston and/or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts can shut down the 50th/Golden Anniversary Meeting at the Hynes Convention Center. Cases are rising in many parts of the country, and beginning to plateau in others. There is no knowing what the situation will look like and what level of risk attendees will need to calibrate in four weeks. With 40-50% of our members within a day's drive of Boston, and this being the 50th/Golden Anniversary Meeting, I feel we need to hold on to the prospect of meeting in person as long as possible, hoping for movement in a positive direction a week or two before the meeting, prepared for the possibility there may not be. The virtual meeting platform will be fully ready for prime time the last week of September. Déjà vu all over again....

### How many are registered as of September 1?

735 for Boston (785, including guests); 270 for Virtual.

### What are the contingency plans?

Live in-Boston registrations can transfer to virtual registration any time (or vice versa) by contacting [registration@childneurologysociety.org](mailto:registration@childneurologysociety.org) and referencing your confirmation #. If Boston/Hynes cancels, registration will automatically be assigned to the Virtual Meeting.

### What basic protocols are in place for the meeting?

1. Masks will be mandatory in the convention center (speakers may remove their mask during presentation).
2. Vaccination is requested and, frankly, expected among our attendees, but there will be no active, across-the-board monitoring or enforcement related to proof of vaccination.
3. Social distancing will prevail almost by default, with # of attendees being 50 per cent or more below the originally anticipated 1800 attendee figure used to plan for the overall meeting and individual sessions.
4. We are cancelling the previously planned history-based scavenger hunt in the exhibit hall and the Friday reception will no longer be a 70s-themed gala; just "come as you are" and have a good time with great company, great food, and great music.

### What deadlines apply to presenters?

1. **Posters.** PDF must be uploaded by **September 8**. See guidelines on CNS Website Annual Meeting page.  
<https://www.childneurologysociety.org/colleagues/network/cns-annual-meeting/>
2. **Speakers** (symposia, seminars, platforms):
  - Presenting in Boston? Must upload and check in to Speaker Ready Room 24 hours before session begins.
  - Presenting virtually from home/office? Zoom link will be provided to present live, in real-time from your computer.

### What about alumni receptions?

Program chairs and coordinators: [click here to go to application portal](#)(SurveyMonkey).

Limited rooms available Wednesday, Thursday, Friday nights at the Hynes. Will refer to Boston CVB to help find and book offsite venues.

#### Further Updates:

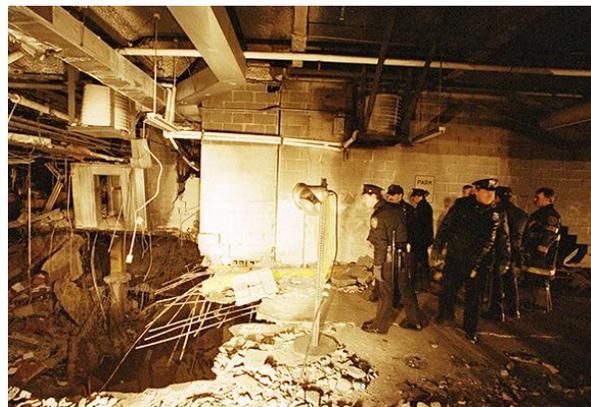
Check CNS Website. Updates will also be included in daily Countdown to BostonConnections.

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## "U" is also for Uh-oh...

The real struggle in writing today's entry is resisting the temptation to "drop the needle" on CSNY's Déjà vu all over again. As dicey, even dark, as the prospects of actually celebrating the 50th Annual CNS Meeting live in Boston might seem to some – even to me, sometimes – we have been here before. Maybe not under as deep and dark a cloud of uncertainty four weeks out from the meeting, but we've had a few "uh-oh moments" and come out on the other end alright.

I remember coming back from the site visit to New York on Valentine's Day in 1993, excited about the prospect of having the scientific posters circling the mezzanine of World Trade Center 1 when the full CNS met at the adjoining Vista Hotel in the fall, and despondent about the certainty of losing money hands-over-fist on the meeting. Holding an event in New York was not going to be cheap. Nor was it in the cards. On February 26, ten days after I related my woes to a friend, he called and breathlessly asked, "Did you see they just blew up your hotel?" I hadn't, and not yet being hooked up to the internet (yes, dear residents, there was a time when we didn't all hold the world in our palm or see history unfold on our desktop), I had to turn the radio on to verify he was sane and sober. He was. And while it's not quite true that they blew up "my hotel," the bomb did go off in the parking garage right below the Vista Hotel ballroom in which all our general sessions and receptions were to be staged; the ballroom was gone and the prospect of meeting in New York City with it. Mary Currey and I had less than seven months to come up with a Plan B, without the benefit of having Sue Hussman work her magic (Sue wouldn't enter our world until a year later). Finding enough meeting space and sleeping rooms on such short notice seemed all but impossible. But wait: couldn't Mickey and Uncle Walt somehow make our dreams come true? They could, and did, and the 22nd Annual CNS Meeting in Orlando worked out splendidly.



After that, anything and everything that came our way seemed inconsequential....until 2020, anyway. But, there were moments. The first joint CNS-ICNA meeting had its share of logistical, diplomatic and budgetary challenges. And there was a perilous hour spent pitching wildly from stern to bow on a boat full of child neurologists passing under the Golden Gate Bridge in the middle of a violent thunderstorm. In the end, 1/4 of world's child neurologists did not sink to the bottom of San Francisco Bay as I feared they might, and wait lists for initial appointments across the US did not jump from six months to a full year in the face of an even greater, unforeseen and tragic workforce shortage.

Things remained relatively quiet for the next few years, other than a food fight in Phoenix in 1997 and a series of small misadventures at Nashville's Opryland in 1999. There are better ways to start out a meeting than the way we did in 2000 in St. Louis when the Adams Mark Hotel Convention Service Manager we had worked with for months and spent 8 hours the day before going over everything in detail left a note

on her emptied-out desk the next morning: "I quit." (I swear it had nothing to do with me.)



In 2001 we had another World Trade Center bombing to deal with: 9/11. Our 30th Annual Meeting was scheduled to be held at the Empress Hotel in Victoria, British Columbia. Suddenly, the prospect of flying anywhere and crossing the Canadian-US border seemed, for many, too risky and overwhelming to even think about. Calls flooded in asking if they could cancel their registration and asking us why we hadn't cancelled the meeting entirely. In the end, nearly 600 people came for what proved to be a terrific meeting, with a higher number of attendees, even, than the two previous meetings in Nashville and Montreal.

**UPDATE**

**2001 Bernard Sachs Award Lecturer**



In one of his final acts in office, outgoing CNS President Michael Painter introduces Huda Zoghbi as the 2001 Bernard Sachs Award Lecturer.

**2001 Hower Award Lecturer**



Charles Barlow acknowledges the audience's appreciative recognition of his lifetime achievement in neurology following an introduction by CNS President Stephen Ashwal.

**2001 Young Investigator Award Recipient**



Daniel Bonthuis, recipient of the 2001 Young Investigator Award, sponsored by Sigma-Tau Pharmaceuticals, Inc., is greeted following an outstanding lecture, by his mentor and colleague at the University of Iowa, Katherine Mathews.

**2001 Scientific Award**



CNS Scientific Awards Committee Co-Chairs Donna Ferrero and Michael Johnston flank recipients of the first two \$50,000 research grants, Amy Brooks-Kayal (L) and Janet Brunstrom, (R).

In 2002, the CNS meet at the Sheraton Wardman Park in NW Washington, DC in the middle of the three-week shooting spree involving the DC/Beltway Sniper, including four fatal shootings days before we arrived in DC. Going outside of the hotel was anxiety-inducing to put it mildly. When a fire alarm went off during the afternoon symposia and a voice on the overhead intercom instructed everyone to evacuate the hotel, few did. Doing so seemed insane.

Quebec City (2007) was, perhaps, my favorite annual meeting destination, as it was for many others. It's a pity many attendees' luggage never made it across the border to join in the fun. I flashed a slide onscreen in between sessions showing luggage piled up at the Newark Airport, adding the lyrics "We'll meet again, don't know how, don't know when...."; as my daughter often says when I try to make light of her woes: "Too soon?"

In August, 2009, two months before meeting in Louisville, the Churchill Downs Museum at the Kentucky Derby racetrack was flooded following an epic storm, forcing us to relocate that year's President's Appreciation Reception for past officers, committee chairs, and award recipients.



The 40th Anniversary Meeting in Savannah in 2011 went smoothly, despite Steve Roach's legitimate concerns about storms shutting down ferry service between the two hotels. The next year's meeting in Huntington Beach, overlooking a placid, picture-perfect Pacific Ocean, promised to be a crisis-free winner. What could possibly go wrong?



NOAA GOES-13 image of Sandy at 19:02 on 10/27 (morning) (in: 10) (image credit: NOAA/NASA/GOES Project)



Plenty, as it turns out. Across the continent, on the eastern seaboard, Hurricane Sandy was wreaking havoc as it worked its way north from the Carolinas to New England, flooding hospitals and shutting down airports at all points in between. For a day or two, it looked like over 300 potential attendees would not be able make it to the meeting. In the end, less than 150 had to cancel, while the other 150 sipped drinks with little umbrellas in them as they sat watching the waves come in and regaled their colleagues with adventure tales recounting their cross-country trek overcoming hell and high water to join them. I remember talking to Nigel Bamford in the hotel foyer well past midnight, and exchanging knowing glances as a familiar figure strode through the door beaming triumphantly: Of course, we both said! Why would anyone think a mere hurricane could keep Darryl (De Vivo) from coming?

Hurricane Sandy in 2012 overshadowed and deflected attention from what could not be hidden in Austin in 2013: for the second year in a row, the CNS Annual Meeting was scheduled on Halloween. I hated Halloween as a kid. My mom kept six kids well fed, well read and well bred on my dad's modest income; coming up with a less-than-lame Halloween costume was not a high priority for her, much to my annual chagrin and embarrassment. I hated the holiday even more after suffering through the 28-inch Halloween blizzard of 1991 walking the neighborhoods of St. Paul with my 3-year-old son and his best friend, Peter, the greediest, most insatiable sugar/candy junkie I've ever known. So, I was taken aback when a flash mob of angry young parents and/or party-hearty twenty-, thirty- and forty-somethings assaulted me with non-stop emails introducing me to the new reality that Halloween was now a major holiday right up there with Christmas and New Year's Day. Clearly, I messed with the wrong holiday and the wrong generation. I have careful ever since not to encroach on the high holy day of masked reverie, and it is the very first piece of important information I will pass on to my successor.

There's no need, really, to recount anything related to last year's meeting and COVID-19. Frankly, it's all too painful. True, the Virtual Joint CNS-ICNA meeting ended up being great – our best virtual meeting ever. But the “might-have-beens” still haunt me and always will. The Marriott San Diego looked to be the best meeting venue the CNS has ever had or might ever have. So, patience, my friends: we will get there yet, in November 2024 (some of us, anyway). In the

meantime, stay safe, centered, sane....and hopeful.

Until tomorrow (The letter "V")  
Roger

Roger Larson, CAE  
Executive Director

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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.

[Click for More Info](#)

