

COUNTDOWN TO BOSTON

7 DAYS



"I" is for International Child Neurology

Big topic for a single Countdown entry, so I can't really afford to waste time and space in self-indulgent rereading. But how can I not, one more (last) time, take a backward glance at what might have been, as suggested by this picture of gloriously happy and expectant child neurologists caught on camera in front of the 2020 CNS-ICNA promo backdrop at the Charlotte meeting in 2019?



The Joint CNS-ICNA Meeting theme was “Sharing Knowledge, Sowing Friendships, Spreading Hope.” Not being able to realize that mission in-person in San Diego in 2020 was a blow, but not a fatal blow. True, no seeds were scattered and sown in the way that only person-to-person interaction allows, particularly among younger child neurologists experiencing their first international meeting. But knowledge was widely and effectively shared via the virtual platform and the ripple effect from that positive outcome continues to play out, as witness this year’s Humanism Breakfast focusing on Global Health that Nigel Bamford organized. The session includes several presenters who “lit up the screen” last fall with their virtual presentations: Archana Patel (Boston Children’s Hospital), Doug Postels (Children’s National Medical Center), Ed Trevathan (Vanderbilt), and Jorge Vidaurre (Nationwide Children’s Hospital, and Chair of the CNS International Affairs Committee). The breakfast is in-person only and sold-out, but it is being recorded and will be made available later this fall on the CNS website.

Shown below: Jorge Vidaurre, Dave Clark, and Sandy Waran.



And what of Hope? Hope springs eternal, not least through the eyes and efforts of the aforementioned Jorge Vidaurre. If, as some have suggested, Huda Zoghbi is a credible candidate for someday booking a flight to Stockholm to receive the Nobel Prize in Medicine, Jorge's indefatigable efforts worldwide, with the support of both ICNA and the CNS, put him on a trajectory that might someday have him boarding a plane to Oslo to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Seriously. Take a look below at a mere sampling of activities in 2019 and 2020 had a hand in launching before the pandemic foreclosed all direct, on-the-ground activities and forced them on-line.

2019 Educational activities				
2019 Feb 24-26	Ped/ Neurology Society El Salvador	San Miguel, El Salvador	Jorge Vidaurre, Roberto Caraballo	Jorge Vidaurre
2019 Feb 26-28	Ped Society of El Salvador	San Salvador, El Salvador	Jorge Vidaurre, Roberto caraballo	Jorge Vidaurre
2019. March 25-30	Workshop Caribbean	Antigua and Barbuda	Dave Clarke	Nurse nutritionists supported by CNS/ICNA
2019 April 28-30	ICNA Board meeting	Antalya, Turkey	all board members	Haluk Topaloglu, Hasan Tekgul
2019 May 1-3	ICNA educational meeting + Turkish Child neurology society	Dalaman, Turkey	Jo Wilmhurst, Ingrid Tein, Pratibha Singhi, Michael Johnston, Hans Hartman, Lakshmi Nagarajan, Anaita hegde	Haluk Topaloglu, Hasan Tekgul
2019 April 10-14	Neurophysiology symposium+ EEG training	Kumasi, Ghana	Sam. Dzodzomenyo, Jorge Vidaurre. Keith Morgan	Charles Hammond, Justice Sylverken
2019 -Sept	ICNA educational meeting + PET	Luanda, Angola	Marilissa Guerreiro	Leite,
2019 -	World Federation of Neurology	Dubai,	Jo Wilmhurst, Ingrid Tein,Pratibha Singhi	
2019 sept 19-21	National congress of Ped Neurology	Ecuador	Alcy Torres	Marcelo Roman, Alcy Torres, Jorge Vidaurre
2019 Nov	Workshop on Neuromuscular disorders	Dubai	Andre Urtebezi	

2020 approved and proposed educational activities			
2020 Feb 25- March 8	Pakistan Child Neurology Program	Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Pakistan	Mubeen Rafay
2020 - March 19-21	International Ped Neuroimmunology Meeting	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Silvia Tenenbaum, Jorge, Elaine,Lieven, Jo,Edward, Lakshmi, Alcy, Richard, Haluk, Vanessa
2020 - March 26-28	ICNA EB + Quito educational meeting	Quito, Equador	Ahmed Raouf, Biju Hamid, Anaita Hegde, Hans Hartmann, Chanez Triki
2020 - April 9-11	Pan Arab Child Neurology conference	Alexandria, Egypt	
2020- June 4-5	Baltic Congress of Ped Neurology	St Petersburg, Russia	Adam Kirton
2020 July 13-18	El Salvador, Epilepsy Surgery Program	San Salvador, San Miguel, El Salvador,	Jorge Vidaurre, David Donahue, Angel Hernandez
2020 August 12-13	Mexico, Epilepsy Surgery Symposium	Distrito Federal, Mexico	Jorge Vidaurre, Satya Gedela
2020- sept	ICNA educational meeting +PET	Maputo, Mozambique	Marilissa Guerreiro
2020 - Oct 19-23	ICNC + CNS	San Diego, USA	all board
2020 November?	Etiopia, Child Neurology Symposium	Ethiopia, Mekelle University	Dave Clarke

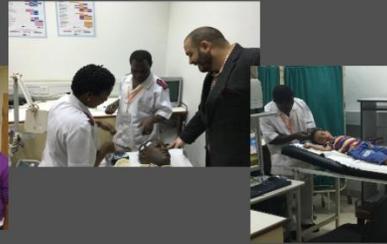
Exploring new programs CNS/ICNA

Building **infrastructure** in different countries

- ✓ Ghana
- ✓ Tanzania (Dar Es Salam)
- ✓ Caribbean

✓ **Type of infrastructure:**

- ✓ EEG laboratory
- ✓ Donation of EEG machines
- ✓ **13 machines** donated by Emory. Transferred to Africa mainly Tanzania



New initiatives

CNS/ICNA supported first program lead by **nurse educator** and **nutritionist**. No MDs were supported

Education to primary care providers and schools in Antigua and Barbuda

Nutritionist
with local
team



Training of teachers and students

The COVID-19 pandemic slowed, but did not stop the committee's collaborative commitment and activity. Take a look at the report Jorge filed for the upcoming CNS Board Meeting:

International Committee report 2021

The COVID 19 pandemic impacted significantly the activities planned by the international committee. As the pandemic evolved, travel restrictions were imposed in multiple countries and academic centers in the USA. Given these circumstances, the committee decided to use virtual platforms for all educational programs and outreach projects developed in 2021. Each country provided their own platform, and no budget was used.

Unexpectedly, the committee received an unexpected larger than usual number of requests to support national meetings and training modules. Most of these were important national meetings. Some activities were developed as part of collaborative efforts with ICNA

This is the list of activities supported by our society:

Argentina : Annual Argentinian league against epilepsy meeting (LACE)

Ecuador: National meeting

Colombia: National meeting

Peru: National pediatric society meeting (neurology section)

Chile: Latin America EEG course

El Salvador: International meeting

Mexico: Annual meeting of Mexican league against epilepsy

Pakistan: National meeting. This meeting evolved to include other countries in Asia

None of the aforementioned activities involve Jorge's work alone. Far from it. His gift, his genius if you will, is bringing together a vast network of people in the child neurology community to creatively plan and dynamically and cooperatively enact meaningful, sustainable programming that will have real short-term and long-term impact around the globe. Witness two recent CNS-ICNA initiatives Jorge helped launch, with others taking the lead to bring the project to fruition: an on-line Child Neurology Neuromuscular Workshop led by Drs. Shahzad Zafar and Sharoon Qaiser, and a 4-month course in Pakistan planned and led by Mubeen Rafay, a member of the CNS International Committee from Toronto.



Pediatric Neurology Teaching Sessions By International Faculty Supported by CNS/ICNA & CHICH Lahore

EMG, NCS, EP & Neuromuscular Sessions

September 11 & 25, 2021
Saturday, 5:00 – 8:00 pm PST

EEG, Epileptic Encephalopathies, DRE & Ketogenic Diet Sessions

Oct 16, 30 & Nov 6 & 20, 2021
Saturday, 5:00 – 8:00 pm PST

Neuroradiology Sessions

December 11 & 18, 2021
Saturday, 5:00 – 8:00 pm PST

- 4-month Pediatric neurology Course
- Topics: Neurophysiology & Neuroradiology Basics
- Format: Lectures, Workshops and Case Discussions
- Session Dates: September– December 2021
- Saturdays: 5:00– 8:00 pm Pakistan Standard Time
- Register at: <https://forms.gle/PPPr99eJSuQHsQJe8>
- Detail program with zoom link to follow. Please register ASAP

And then there is the Bernard D'Souza International Fellowship Award, something that was once the primary, or only, activity the International Committee was involved in, rather than one of many. Jorge has prevailed upon me over the years to double the number of Bernard D'Souza International Fellowship Awards. ("Prevailed" might be a stretch; it's never a matter of him pushing an agenda and the question is never "how can I say 'no'?", but, rather, caught up in his enthusiasm and unassailable record of past achievement, "how can I say anything but 'yes'?"). The D'Souza Fellowship Award was created in 1989 with the support of John Freeman and the Johns Hopkins program as a memorial to their esteemed former resident and colleague who subsequently became chair of the Duke University program before his untimely passing in 1988. The award has been presented to 34 early/mid-career child neurologists from 24 different countries. No awards were presented in 2020, but four outstanding applicants were selected this year: Drs. Chaw Su (Malaysia), Sebunya Kabuye (Uganda), Alireza Tavasoli (Iran), and Paulinea Tejada (Chile). Final selections came too late for proper recognition in any meeting programs or publications finalized in August, but all will participate in the meeting virtually and we hope to feature their work in a zoom webinar this winter, as well as profile them in the Winter 2021 *CNS Connections*. Hope being central to everything Jorge does as chair of the committee, he hopes we can resume "normal" programming of the D'Souza Fellowship in 2022, including live in-person participation in the CNS Annual Meeting followed by a stay of one or two weeks at a host institution with strong programming in the Fellows' area(s) of interest.

Shown below are 2013 D'Souza Fellow, Sam Gwer, from Kenya, with International Committee member, Doug Postels; 2019 Fellow, Jitendra Kumar Sahu from India, with Ram Kairam; 2017 Fellow, Charles Hammond, from Ghana, with 2015 Fellow, Edward Kija, from Tanzania; and 2016 Fellow, Arushi Gahlot Saini, from India.





"I" is also for Indian Pediatric Neurology Group

Competition between training programs is always stiff, if politely unspoken, over who has the most fun, the best spread of food or the finest music at their alumni reception. When it comes to food and fun, none, however, hold a candle to the group of Indian pediatric neurologists who gather each year at the CNS meeting. It is a star-studded group, featuring multiple Hower, Lifetime Achievement, Outstanding Junior Member and, in recent years, D'Souza Fellowship awardees, as well as numerous committee chairs and past, present or future CNS board members. Rank means nothing, cheerful camaraderie means everything. It would amount to nothing short of crude and pathetic pandering were I to churlishly suggest in closing, that while I have always hoped to

be invited to one of their festive gatherings (who hasn't?), I never have been. I'm getting too old and too near the end of my tenure to worry about pride and propriety.....my email, if anyone is interested, is rblarson@childneurologysociety.org.



Until tomorrow (the letter "G")
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.

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