

2025 CACN – Henry Dunn Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Simon Levin, 2025 recipient

Dr. Levin has inspired many throughout his incredible career in paediatric neurology. He is a true ambassador in the field, and an outstanding educator, introducing neurology to countless medical students and paediatric residents. He demonstrates passion in his work and compassion towards his patients. Dr. Levin is a physician with incredible clinical acumen and even on a tough day, he maintains both his sense of humor and his professional composure.

Born and raised in Bulawayo, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), Dr. Levin did his undergraduate medical training at the Godfrey Huggins School of Medicine at the University of Rhodesia (Zimbabwe). His postgraduate training in Paediatrics and Paediatric Neurology was done at Birmingham Children's Hospital, the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh and Guy's Hospital, London. As a research fellow in Edinburgh, he examined the pathophysiology of hydrocephalus and during a research fellowship at Guy's Hospital demonstrated the usefulness of serial multimodal evoked potentials in children in coma.

Dr. Levin was always a clinician who enjoyed being at the bedside, interacting with children and their families. His special interest was in neonatal neurology, and he was lucky enough to have been training when neonatal ultrasound first became available in the United Kingdom,

and he was fortunate to have access to MRI for neonates when he came to London, Ontario. This was one of earliest centres in Canada to introduce this. His other interest was paediatric epilepsy, particularly quality of life for children with epilepsy and their families.

He came to McMaster University in Hamilton in 1986 and moved to the University of Western Ontario and the Children's Hospital of Western Ontario in 1990 where he was a Professor in Paediatrics and Clinical Neurological Sciences. An early objective was achieved with the development of outreach clinics in regional centres. With considerable help from his adult neurology and neurosurgical colleagues he started the paediatric epilepsy program and intrathecal baclofen pump program. He also served as Head of the Division of Paediatric Neurology at Western and LHSC Children's Hospital for 10 years. To this day, he remains an integral part of pediatric neurology education at Western, attending clinical rounds and sharing his clinical experience.

Having trained as a paediatrician, Dr. Levin was able to serve as an examiner in Paediatrics for the FRCPC, and he was Paediatric Program Director in the Department of Paediatrics at Western University. A believer in the Osler tradition of bedside teaching, he took great pleasure teaching both in paediatrics and neurology. Dr. Levin found that



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more than any other subspecialty, neurology provided the excitement of being a clinical detective, assembling the history, and physical examination to arrive at a diagnosis.

Dr. Levin has been a strong supporter of the Canadian Association of Child Neurology (CACN) joining the society in 1993. He served in various positions on the CACN board, including serving as the CACN President 2019 – 2021.

Dr. Levin has now transitioned to a busy community pediatric neurology practice and continues with tremendous compassionate care for some of the most complicated patients who often have no other physicians to care for them. He is an inspiration to his peers.

Always first and foremost for Dr. Levin, was the belief that being a physician, caring for children and their families, was meant to be fun!

**On behalf of your CACN colleagues,
and all your patients and families,
Thank you and Congratulations!**



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