

2023 CNSS Lifetime Achievement Award – Charles Drake Medal recipient

Dr. Paul Steinbok



The CNSS is very pleased to present the 2023 CNSS Lifetime Achievement Award – Charles Drake Medal to Paul Steinbok.

This award honors senior Canadian Neurosurgical Society (CNSS) members for exceptional Lifetime Achievements. This year's recipient joins a stellar group of prior awardees including Renn Holness, Chris Wallace, Falah Maroun, Andre Olivier, and Betty MacRae.

Dr. Paul Steinbok did his medical training at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, followed by residency in Neurosurgery at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver, Canada. Dr. Steinbok is a Professor Emeritus at the University of British Columbia, in the Department of Surgery.

Dr. Steinbok was Head of Pediatric Neurosurgery at British Columbia Children's Hospital (BCCH) from June 1984 to December 2012 and in that role, he built one of the most respected and recognized Pediatric Neurosurgical Clinical and Academic programs in the world. He has been on the executive of the Section of Pediatric Neurosurgery of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgery (AANS/CNS), the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons (ASPN) and the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery (ISPN), of which he was the President from 2011-2012. He is on the Editorial Board of the journal, *Child's Nervous System*.

Dr. Steinbok has published over 200 original articles in peer reviewed journals on many topics in pediatric neurosurgery. An area of particular research interest was the outcomes after selective dorsal rhizotomy for the treatment of spasticity in cerebral palsy, a procedure that he was the first to do in Canada. In addition, he facilitated many research endeavours locally, nationally and internationally. He created and supported the environment that led to the first completed randomized clinical trial in pediatric neurosurgery, the Shunt Design Trial, led by Jim Drake in Toronto and John Kestle in Vancouver. He led Canadian multicenter studies on epilepsy surgery and thalamic tumors in Canada through the Canadian Pediatric Neurosurgery Study Group, of which he was an inaugural member. He has led many international multicenter surveys and clinical studies. He brought together his past fellows to create the Vancouver Pediatric Neurosurgery Group, which successfully completed and published its first research study, a multicenter international study on cerebellar mutism. In 2012, he received the UBC Dept. of Surgery Richard J. Finley Senior Investigator Award in recognition of his research activities.

Dr Steinbok has been a highly rated teacher in the UBC Division of Neurosurgery and has received a number of awards for teaching excellence, including the A.D. Forward Postgraduate Faculty Teaching Award from the department of Surgery, UBC, in recognition of outstanding teaching acclaimed by surgical residents. He established a Pediatric Neurosurgery Fellowship training program, which was the 1st Fellowship training program in Neurosurgery at UBC in Vancouver. He has trained 30 fellows from all over the world, some of whom he continues to mentor, and through his fellows and other trainees, he has improved the care of children with pediatric neurosurgical disorders not only in Canada and the United States, but in every

continent.

Dr. Steinbok has been invited nationally and internationally as a visiting professor and as a guest lecturer. He has taken a major interest in education of neurosurgeons in the field of pediatric neurosurgery. He was the 1st Chair of the Education Committee of the Section of Pediatric Neurosurgery of the AANS/CNS, Chair of the Education Committee of the ASPN and Chair of the Education Committee of the ISPN. As part of these roles, he organized and participated in many international pediatric neurosurgery courses around the world with over 200 presentations at such courses.

In summary, Dr. Paul Steinbok has spent his entire career devoted to Pediatric Neurosurgery, and has been a leader nationally and internationally in Neurosurgical education and research. His career is a model for the true clinician scientist, an expert clinician, academic and educator. A career that fostered the development of his peers, colleagues and fellows, truly impacted the care of children worldwide.

Dr. Steinbok exemplifies the best qualities of an academic neurosurgeon, and is a very worthy recipient of the 2023 CNSS Lifetime Achievement Award - Charles Drake Medal.