



Last week, Child Neurology Foundation's Board President, Stephen Peters, announced I was stepping down from my role as Executive Director/CEO after 10 years.

Since the announcement was released, I have been moved and overwhelmed by the outpouring of calls, emails, and texts from our community. Your sentiments carried some similar tones – shock, support, gratitude, love, and best wishes. Your tremendous outreach has reconfirmed to me that the true strength of the child neurology community is in our deep and rich relationships. While I have enjoyed the recent chance to interact on a one-on-one basis with so many of you, I thought it would be best to broadly communicate my sentiments around my decision to step down, express my gratitude to you and how I'll help ensure a smooth transition for CNF.

I arrived in the child neurology community after 10 years in clinical practice, policy work and physician-education efforts. I arrived wildly optimistic, unabashedly daring, and deeply committed to driving the change we knew was desperately needed for our children and their families. I leave with my eyes wide open to the world, my spirit tired and my heart still knowing there is so much more that can - and needs - to be done.

Despite my enduring passion for our community, I need to take some time for myself, to gain clarity, and soak up the most important relationship in my life – the one I share with my sons. This was a deeply personal decision, and while I know it was difficult for the CNF Board to accept it – I thank them for supporting me in it.

I do not know if I will return to the child neurology community or if life will lead me to serve in another way. I know I will always be interested in creating solutions for complex problems, in bringing people together versus apart, and in leading with my values intact. If our paths cross again, please know I will be so pumped to reconnect and run together at the next problem. If our paths diverge, know I will be cheering for you always. To keep pursuing that brighter tomorrow for our children. To know you are valued and appreciated. And to know how we treat each other is important – as it lays the groundwork for what we do or don't accomplish tomorrow.

While transitions are never easy, I am assured that Brea McCormley will successfully serve as interim ED. Since Brea's arrival at CNF, she has demonstrated tremendous insights, astuteness, and values congruent with CNF's mission. I have enjoyed working with Brea and know that her deep passion and commitment for CNF will enable her to continue CNF's path to serve as a collaborative center of education, support, and care advancement. I am committed to supporting Brea in her transition to Interim ED so that it's as seamless as possible. Please join me in supporting Brea as she assumes this new leadership role in March.

It has been a privilege to serve the child neurology community, and advocate on behalf of you. Thank you for always being willing to share your experiences and insights with me; for allowing me to stand with you and create for you. You have shown me that bravery and fear can co-exist, that certainty and doubt are comrades, and that hope and love never die. You are seen, and you are heard by CNF. You are at the core of everything CNF does.

Always remember, be a rising tide –