

Dana Foundation Timeline

[1950s](#) [1960s](#) [1970s](#) [1980s](#) [1990s](#) [2000s](#)

1950s

1950

The Charles A. Dana Foundation is established by Charles A. Dana, its first Chairman. With the help of his wife, Eleanor Naylor Dana, the Foundation develops interests in health and higher education.

On October 26, 1950, the first grant in the history of the Foundation is awarded to Memorial Hospital for Cancer Treatment for \$25,000. The action sets a course for a steadfast commitment to the field of cancer care, therapy, and research.

1960s

The Foundation devotes millions of dollars to building education facilities—from laboratories to dormitories to wings—at colleges and universities and at major libraries and cultural institutions.

The Charles A. Dana Scholarships (Dana Scholars) are established at selected colleges to identify and recognize students of strong academic capabilities who have demonstrated desired qualities of character and leadership.

1962

The Charles A. Dana Foundation makes the first of several major grants to the Children's Cancer Research Foundation.

1966

Charles A. Dana retires as Chairman and is named Honorary Chairman. MacLean Gander is elected President.

The Charles A. Dana Supported Professorship Program is established to develop a faculty of notable quality at selected colleges nationwide.

1970s

1971

Eleanor Naylor Dana is elected Chairman.

1974-1976

Grants are awarded toward the reconstruction of the plaza and lobby of The New York Philharmonic at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall.

1975

The Foundation awards a second grant of \$250,000 to the United Negro College Fund to increase the Charles A. Dana Faculty Development Program. The fund seeks to improve faculty competence through graduate work toward advanced degrees.

Charles A. Dana dies. Dr. James I. Armstrong is elected President.

The American Health Foundation is awarded \$2 million toward the cost and construction of a new cancer research center, The Eleanor Naylor Dana Research Institute in Valhalla, NY, with primary emphasis on epidemiology and preventive medicine.

1976

Construction of the Charles A. Dana Building at the Sidney Farber Cancer Institute is completed.

1977

Eleanor Naylor Dana retires as Chairman. David Mahoney is elected Chairman.

A \$2.5 million grant is established to create the Charles A. Dana Distinguished Conductors Endowment fund at the New York Philharmonic.

1978

The Charles A. Dana Cancer Center opens in Boston.

1980s

1982

The Charles A. Dana Education Wing is completed at The [American Museum of Natural History](#) in New York City.

The Sidney Farber Cancer Institute is awarded a \$10 million grant.

Eleanor Naylor Dana dies. Robert N. Kreidler is elected President.

1983

The Sidney Farber Cancer Institute is renamed the [Dana-Farber Cancer Institute](#).

1985

The Foundation makes neuroscience one of its funding priorities. From 1985-1990, the Foundation awards \$6 million to five major medical centers to train clinical-investigators in neurology and neurosurgery.

The Dana Awards for Pioneering Achievements in Health and Education are presented for the first time. The awards are given to honor science and scholarship innovations that will make a difference in brain research and education.

1988

The Dana Foundation awards a grant to establish the International Task Force for Disease Eradication. The task force will devise strategies to surmount scientific, political, and financial obstacles for eradication of diseases such as measles, yaws, rabies, guinea worm, and polio.

The Dana Foundation awards \$737,000 to establish the Dana Center for Innovation in Mathematics and Science Education at the University of California at Berkeley. The program assists colleges and secondary schools nationwide in preparing minority students for careers in mathematics, science, and science-based professions.

1989

The Foundation becomes a major funder of the PBS special series, "Hard Drugs: Hard Choices."

1990s

1992

Leading neuroscientists and brain research advocates meet at Cold Spring Harbor, NY. Nobel laureate James. D. Watson, Ph.D., and David Mahoney urge the scientists to develop and sign a declaration of "10 Achievable Goals In Brain Research" that might reasonably be reached by the end of the decade. Out of this meeting, the [Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives](#) (DABI) is formed.

Robert Kreidler dies.

The Dana Consortium on Memory Loss and the Dana Consortium on Neuroimaging Leadership Training are formed.

1993

The [Charles A. Dana Discovery Center](#) opens in Central Park and is the Park's only environmental education center.

Formal announcement of the creation of the Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives is made in Washington, DC.

A four-year, \$1.2 million grant is awarded to The [University of Texas at Austin](#) to create programs that support Texas students, especially minority and rural students, to achieve at the highest academic levels and to pursue advanced degrees in mathematics-based fields.

The Dana Foundation makes one of the largest single grants in its history by awarding \$7.5 million to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. At this point, the Foundation has given almost \$25 million to Dana-Farber. To date, The Foundation has committed \$32 million dollars to [Dana Farber](#).

1994

[Staying Sharp](#) holds its first forum in Miami Beach, Florida.

The first [Gray Matters](#) public radio program is produced. "Aging and the Brain" is hosted by actress Patricia Neal.

Brain Work, *The Brain in the News* and *The Brain Book* (now called *Brain Connections*) are published for the first time.

The Dana Consortium on Therapy for HIV Dementia is formed.

1995

The Dana Foundation Web site is launched.

Stephen Foster is elected President of the Foundation.

DABI presents the "Progress Report on the Brain" on Capitol Hill.

Two DABI programs, “Successful Aging and the Brain” and “A Lifetime of Brain Fitness,” are made into a public television series.

The 10th anniversary of the Dana Awards is celebrated.

1996

[Brain Awareness Week](#) is launched as a campaign dedicated to advancing public awareness about the progress and benefits of brain research.

1997

The [European Dana Alliance for the Brain](#) (EDAB) is established.

Two Gray Matters programs, “Depression and the Brain” and “Alcohol, Drugs, and the Brain,” receive major awards from media and mental health organizations.

[Dana Press](#) is established as the publishing arm for the Foundation.

1998

The Dana Foundation founds The Brain-Body Institute to probe the critical interactions between the brain and the onset and progression of heart disease, cancer, and stroke.

BAW is introduced internationally with participation spanning six continents.

The Dana Press and John Wiley & Sons, Inc. publish their first book, *The Longevity Strategy: How to Live to 100 Using the Brain-Body Connection*, by David Mahoney and Richard Restak, M.D.

The journal [Cerebrum: The Dana Forum on Brain Science](#) is launched.

The [Dana News Office](#) is established.

1999

The Dana Foundation launches its 50th anniversary year with a tribute to America’s Former First Ladies who changed health and education in America. Barbara Bush, Nancy Reagan, Rosalynn Carter, Betty Ford, and Lady Bird Johnson all receive the Dana Distinguished Achievement Award.

2000s

2000

David Mahoney dies. William Safire is elected Chairman. Edward Rover is elected President.

2001

The Foundation establishes an [arts-education](#) grant program to fund the development of professional artists and in-service specialists teaching in public schools.

2002

The Dana Foundation opens The Dana Center in Washington, DC.

[Human Immunology](#) and [Neuroimmunology](#) grant programs are established.

2003

[DABI](#) and AARP announce their partnership for Staying Sharp.

Dana reaffirms its support of the [Dana-Farber Cancer Institute](#) with a multi-year, \$10 million research grant. The new funding will help support clinical and translational research aimed at developing new disease therapies as well as methods of prevention.

The [Dana Arts and Cognition Consortium](#) forms to study the effects of arts education on other learning domains. Dana grants more than \$2 million to this Consortium, which includes neuroscientists from seven major research institutions.

Dana awards the AAAS a grant to develop Neuroscience & the Law seminars for state and federal judges, forums that explore advances in neuroscience affecting the legal system.

2007

[Learning, Arts, & the Brain](#), results of the 2003 consortium, is published.

2009

The Foundation expands its interest in the field of neuroeducation. Dana supports The Johns Hopkins Neuroeducation Initiative and publishes [Neuroeducation: Learning, Arts and the Brain](#).

William Safire dies. Edward Rover is named Chairman.

2010

The DC Office closes. The Foundation ceases production of trade publications. Free online and print publications continue production from the New York office.

The Foundation re-emphasizes its primary funding mission in support of brain research.

2011

The Foundation moves its offices to 505 Fifth Avenue

Capitol Hill Briefing, a series of ongoing briefings for members of Congress and their staff on issues related to advances in brain research.

2013

Dana Press is reinstated with the publishing of the Cerebrum anthologies.

Neuroscience and Society, a partnership between the Dana Foundation and the American Association for the Advancement of Science launches a public series focusing on current topics in brain research.

2014

DABI celebrates their 20th.

2015

Brain Awareness Week (BAW) celebrates their 20th anniversary.

Redesign of Dana Foundation website is launched.