



DANA ALLIANCE *News in Brief*

2018 HIGHLIGHTS AND BEYOND

Q&A with Barbara E. Gill

Executive Vice President, The Dana Foundation



2018 was a productive year for the Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives (DABI) and the European Dana Alliance for the Brain (EDAB). What were some of the highlights?

One major highlight was the 20th anniversary of the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS). EDAB was at FENS'

beginning in Berlin, and over the years, the Dana Foundation has not only supported the press office, we also sponsored two important lectures, the EDAB/Max Cowman Special Lecture and the EDAB Special Lecture on Neuroethics. So, our partnership is something we're proud and pleased to be part of for the past 20 years.

Another highlight was the Brain Awareness Week (BAW) event at the Society for Neuroscience (SfN) meeting in San Diego. SfN has been a vital BAW partner since the campaign began 23 years ago. The ongoing enthusiasm and commitment of BAW partners worldwide, continues to make the campaign thrive.

This year DABI broadened its status as a global organization. We now have members in 38 countries and, in 2018, new members were elected in previously unrepresented countries. Because we are more global, our ongoing partnership with the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO), is important, and we have been working with IBRO, as well as FENS, to provide translated materials that they can use around the world.

How does the Foundation help DABI and EDAB members carry out its outreach mission?

We help each other. Members help us by serving as scientific advisors to our *Cerebrum* and *Brain in the News* publications, BAW events, Successful Aging & Your Brain forums, as well as through grants initiatives and as media experts. We help members by providing tools and resources, such as information on our website on how to organize and stage BAW events or best ways to promote their scientific and outreach efforts using social media. We

have also published *You've Got a Lot of Explaining to Do*, a primer that provides advice for neuroscientists writing for lay readers. And we recently launched "Community Neuroscience" a series of five videos running a week apart leading up to BAW. These videos provide advice on launching and building successful outreach activities.

Looking to the future, what can we expect?

The Foundation has embarked on a five-year strategic plan. We're currently rebranding and creating a new and improved website which hopefully will come online this summer. We have also interviewed members on what they think are the important topics and issues in neuroscience today, and their thoughts on where Dana can best direct its efforts. One thing we heard was that new avenues are needed to help train and mentor the next generation of neuroscientists. So, we are in the process of exploring ways to hone their skills and become leaders.

The Alliance has passed the torch to Barbara Best as its new executive director. Will you still be involved?

I'm very pleased to pass the torch. Barbara has already been the membership point person for many years and she will, I think, be a wonderful executive director. My plan is to work closely with Barbara in maintaining and introducing programs, to attend meetings, and to still be involved as a sounding board and adviser in my role as the Foundation's executive vice president.

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New DABI Members

The Dana Alliance (DABI) elected 24 new members in 2018, increasing total membership to over 600 people in 38 countries. With this new group of members, DABI now has representation in Korea, Colombia, Uruguay, Peru, and Australia.

SfN Science Educator Award

The SfN Science Educator Award, supported by the Dana Foundation, honors neuroscientists who have made significant contributions to educating the public about neuroscience. Read the interview with this year's recipient, Fumiko Hoeft, professor of psychology and director of the Brain Imaging Research Center at the University of Connecticut.



DABI Reception at SfN 2018

DABI hosted its 24th reception for Alliance members and special guests during the Society for Neuroscience (SfN) annual meeting in San Diego. See photos, enter password "dabi"

FENS Neuroscience Outreach Awards

To raise visibility of the Brain Awareness Week Campaign and the importance of scientists reaching out to the public, EDAB with FENS created two prestigious awards for neuroscience outreach and a Lifetime Achievement Award that may be bestowed on a person who the Awards Committee feels is deserving of this honor.



2018 Award recipients: **The Dana/EDAB Neuroscience Outreach Champion: The David and Hillie Mahoney Award for an Individual's Contribution to Outreach** was given to EDAB member **Laura López-Mascaraque**, Cajal Institute, Spain; **The EDAB-FENS Brain Awareness Week (BAW) Excellence Award** was received by the Université Côte d'Azur-CNRS, and **The Dana/EDAB Lifetime Achievement Award for Outreach on Behalf of Brain Research** was bestowed upon Alliance member **Roland Pochet**, Faculty of Medicine of Université Libre de Bruxelles.





EDAB Adds New Term Members

EDAB elected 17 **term members** in 2018. Members are elected for four-year, renewable terms and are recognized for their outstanding record of public education and outreach in Europe. EDAB now has over **290 full and term members** in 33 countries.



'Neuroscience and the Law' at the Royal Society

Supported by a grant from the Dana Foundation, the Royal Society organizes a series of **Neuroscience and the Law** seminars in association with the Judicial College of the UK with the aim of bringing together scientists and members of the judiciary to discuss and debate key areas of common interest. Three seminars were held in 2018:

- Genome Editing in Humans
- Concepts of Causation and Causality: Has Science Left Law Behind?
- Considering Shared Autonomy in Robotics



EDAB Reception at FENS

The EDAB reception was held at the Sarah Wiener Hamburger Bahnhof Restaurant in Berlin during the biennial FENS Forum in July 2018. See [photos](#), enter password "dabi"

EDAB Special Lectures

EDAB Special Lecture on Neuroethics was given by DABI member **Helen Mayberg** on **"What is well? Reconciling First- and Third-Person Perspectives on Depression Recovery with DBS."** Alliance member and FENS past president **Barry Everitt** gave the introduction.

Karel Svoboda, HHMI/Janelia Research Campus, Virginia, presented the **EDAB/Max Cowan Special Lecture** on **"Computation in Cortical Circuits."** He was introduced by EDAB Vice Chairman **Colin Blakemore**.



BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK

The 24th annual celebration of [BAW](#) will take place on March 11-17, 2019. Alliance members are encouraged to take the lead in this global campaign by initiating or participating in educational outreach activities celebrating BAW. Visit the [BAW Web site](#) for suggestions on how to get involved, and keep us informed about your plans by [registering as a partner](#) and posting your event information on our [BAW Calendar](#). Alliance member involvement during BAW places brain research in the public spotlight and actively supports the Dana Alliance mission.

2018 BAW Partner Spotlight

BAW partners share their experiences and tips for planning successful events in our yearly [BAW Partner Spotlights](#). Featured this year is EDAB member **Piero Paolo Battaglini** at the University of Trieste in Italy.



International Brain Bee Organization

The Dana Foundation, along with the [Society for Neuroscience](#), the [Federation of European Neuroscience Societies](#), the [International Brain Research Organization](#), and the [American Psychological Association](#), are the founding and governing partners of a new [International Brain Bee](#) (IBB) organization. Its primary goal is to motivate students to learn about the brain and inspire careers in neuroscience through a three-tiered competition comprising a local Brain Bee, each country's regional Brain Bee, and finally, the IBB World Championship. DABI coordinates the local New York City Regional Brain Bee Competition every February. Visit the [IBB website](#) to learn more.

Dana Exhibits at Educational Conferences

The Dana Foundation has broadened its outreach to K-12 teachers by exhibiting at several educator conferences throughout the year. In 2018, DABI participated in three [Learning & the Brain Conferences](#) in San Francisco, New York City, and Boston; a regional [National Science Teachers Association](#) conference in Reno; and the [National Association of Biology Teachers](#) annual meeting in San Diego. Teachers are a main target audience for our programs, publications, and other resources. Dana's presence at these conferences has helped us achieve our goal of bringing neuroscience into more K-12 classrooms.

Multi-Language Resource Materials

Dana's downloadable resource materials were recently reorganized on our website with separate pages housing our printable [fact sheets](#), [lesson plans](#), and [puzzles](#). In 2018, five new [lesson plans](#) were added for middle school students (grades 6-8) on comparative neuroanatomy (two lessons), neurotransmission, memory, and optical illusions. The lessons include a PowerPoint for students and a fun activity or experiment. In addition, four fact sheets for high school students (grades 9-12) on [how the brain works](#), [cells of the brain](#), [the developing brain](#), and [addiction](#) were translated into Spanish, Portuguese, French, Italian, and German. Also new were five new [Brain Briefs](#) fact sheets for adult readers on the [synapse](#), [brain receptors](#), [neurotransmitters](#), [connectivity](#), and [stroke](#).



European Parliament BAW Event

The third [BAW at the European Parliament event](#), organized by the European Brain Council in partnership with EDAB and FENS, gave policymakers an insight into the world of neuroscience. Participating Alliance members included: **Albert Gjedde**, **Steven Laureys**, **Roland Pochet**, and **Monica Di Luca** who co-moderated the program.



SUCCESSFUL AGING AND YOUR BRAIN ON DEMAND VIDEO

The [Successful Aging & Your Brain On Demand](#) (SA&YB) video was released in 2018. The one-hour video is based on the live SA&YB programs and features **Matthew Fink** and **Wendy Suzuki**, both DABI members, and Scott Small who discuss the four simple steps proven to help keep your brain sharp as you age. The video is a resource for individuals and organizations interested in hearing the program but who are unable to attend or host a live event. [Live events](#) in 2018 featured Alliance members **Matthew Fink** and **Bernice Grafstein**.

SCOUTS HEALTHY BRAIN INITIATIVE

The Scouts' Healthy Brain Initiative received close to 750 requests and distributed more than 12,500 [fun patches](#) in 2018. This three-year old program saw an increase of over 1,000 percent, a result of Dana's Instagram, Facebook and Pinterest posts that were "shared" by scout leaders.



AAAS "Neuroscience and Society"

The Dana Foundation and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) have been presenting a series of public events on Neuroscience and Society for the past seven years. Two programs were held this year at AAAS in Washington, DC:

[Autism](#) on October 4 with speakers Geraldine Dawson, Daniel Geschwind, Janine LaSalle; moderator and DABI member **Barry Gordon**.

[Buildings and the Brain](#) on March 15 with speakers Justin Hollander, Eve Edelstein, Margaret Calkins and Frederick Marks.



Neuroscience Outreach in Your Community

Five new short [community outreach videos](#) were produced by Dana to provide guidance for those interested in promoting a clearer understanding of neuroscience to the public. The guests, including Alliance member **Michael Burman**, were all videotaped during the 2018 SfN conference and the weekly videos began posting January 15 on the Foundation's [YouTube channel](#), leading up to BAW in March.

New Podcast Series

A new Foundation podcast series is hosted by Dana Foundation Editor Bill Glovin. The first two "[Communicating Brain Science](#)" podcast guests were jazz guitarist Pat Metheny, a speaker at the Dialogues lecture at the SfN conference in San Diego, and Philip M. Boffey, former deputy editorial page editor at the *New York Times* and a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner. Boffey is the new neuroethics columnist for *Brain in the News*, his column is also posted on [our website](#).



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Among the weekly new content posted on dana.org, [Cerebrum](#) continues to feature timely articles and [podcasts](#) with the authors of those articles. Topics in recent months included [digital phenotyping](#), coauthored by Alliance member **Tom Insel**. Also, DABI members **Helen Mayberg** and **John Morrison** joined *Cerebrum's* advisory board in addition to Harald Sontheimer.