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Administered by the  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
Foundation

## **THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS FOUNDATION SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN FOUNDATION HISTORY 1958-2008**

- March 1958:** The AAGP Congress of Delegates endorses a proposal for establishing “an educational and research foundation for the support of research on medical and economic aspects of general practice.”
- August 15, 1958:** Articles of Incorporation filed in the State of Missouri for the American Academy of General Practice (or AAGP, for short) Foundation.
- November 18, 1958:** Charter issued to AAGP Foundation. Mac Cahal named Secretary-Treasurer - he and Helen Cobb acted as the only staff for the Foundation, both on a part-time basis. According to the March 1959 issue of *GP*, the "Prime source of funds for the new foundation will be from dividends received from New York Life Insurance Company in connection with the new group life plan..." There were no plans to undertake a drive for funds, but 2 voluntary contributions preceded the Foundation's establishment. The first contribution of \$1,000 was from Marion Laboratories of Kansas City, Missouri (now part of Sanofi-Aventis); the second contribution was \$2,000 from A.W. Breckenkamp, administrator of the AAGP Group Disability Insurance Plans (now AAFP Insurance Services, Inc.).
- December 1, 1958:** First meeting of the Foundation's Board of Trustees. Bylaws of the AAGP Foundation were adopted.
- April 1961:** Board of Trustees commits \$10,000 a year to hospitals that will set up family practice training programs that meet the

standard established by the AAGP Commission on Education.

- April 1963:** Mr. A.W. Breckenkamp bequests estate to AAGP Foundation.
- April 9, 1965:** AAGP Foundation sponsors National Conference on Comprehensive Medical Care for the American Family. Three more regional conferences were held in the next year.
- June 16, 1966:** Corporate name changed to Family Health Foundation of America (FHFA).
- February 14, 1967:** FHFA sponsors conference, "Training Family Physicians to Render Comprehensive Care."
- December 19, 1967:** Death of A.W. Breckenkamp. Foundation shares in profits through a beneficial interest in the estate with Mrs. Breckenkamp.
- 1969:** FHFA publishes *The Role of the Family Physician in America's Developing Medical Care Program*.
- February 8, 1969:** Family Practice approved as medicine's twentieth specialty. (FHFA granted \$50,000 to American Board of Family Practice to implement the newly approved program of certification.)
- 1970:** Reported that the FHFA was currently furnishing \$242,150 to family practice education programs throughout the country. Total funds granted to family practice training programs amounted to \$494,900.
- September 1970:** Reported that about 95% of Foundation income came from dividends from the AAGP Group Life Insurance program and from the Breckenkamp bequest.
- October 1971:** Retirement of Mac Cahal as AAFP Executive Director. He continued as FHFA Secretary-Treasurer until 1972, when Helen Cobb took over as Secretary of FHFA.
- September 1972:** Launch of HELP fund-raising campaign by FHFA (first fund-raising campaign targeted toward individuals).
- July 1975:** W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant (\$172,623) made to FHFA for development of Residency Assistance Program (RAP). Funds flow through FHFA for implementation of program,

which was sponsored by the AAFP, ABFP, STFM, and FHFA.

- May 14-16, 1976:** FHFA sponsors Primary Health Care Conference in Washington, D.C. Leaders of medicine's 22 major disciplines were asked to present their ideas of how their specialty impacts on primary health care delivery.
- June 1, 1978:** Death of Helen Cobb. Char Neilan (now Martin) becomes Secretary of FHFA. Fills that post until hiring of Gary McMahan in 1980.
- March 24-25, 1979:** FHFA convenes and coordinates the first meeting of the Family Practice Working Party in Kansas City. The Working Party is known as "the family of family practice."
- July 1, 1980:** First full-time employee for the Foundation: Gary L. McMahan named Executive Administrator (later renamed Executive Vice President, or EVP).
- 1981:** FHFA establishes Corporate Supporter Program, designed to solicit contributions from major corporations in the pharmaceutical industry.
- Also this same year, FHFA cosponsors with the AAFP and ABFP the Medical Education Requirements in Training (MERIT) project, to establish a model curriculum for family practice.
- 1981-1982:** W.K. Kellogg Foundation awards FHFA a two-year, \$404,000 grant to implement a pilot computerized office record review system. The ABFP completes the project under contract with the FHFA.
- August 14, 1982:** Herb L. Huffington, M.D., Memorial Library dedicated (operated by the Foundation from 1982-1995).
- 1985:** FHFA Foundation Network established with 9 AAFP chapter foundations.
- 1986:** First *Foundation Bulletin* published.
- July 18, 1987:** First formal mission statement adopted by FHFA Board of Trustees.

- August 1988:** Robert Graham, M.D. becomes EVP of FHFA; Gary McMahan named FHFA Executive Director.
- April 1989:** Corporate name changed to American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation (AAFP/F, for short).
- Later that year, the Health Promotion Program started the Health Education Clearinghouse to include peer reviewed patient education pieces known as HEP.
- 1990:** First review cycle of AAFP/F-AAFP Joint Grant Awards Program (JGAP). Also, this year, the AAFP/F provides a grant of \$15,000 to the newly-established Association of Family Practice Residency Directors (AFPRD, now the AFMRD).
- 1991:** Planned Giving Program/Legacy League launched.
- January 1, 1992:** The Archives for Family Practice (later renamed the Center for the History of Family Medicine) joins the AAFP/F, becoming the principal resource center for the history of family medicine in the United States.
- July 1992:** The Network Advisory Council is formed to serve as an advisor to the AAFP/F Board of Trustees.
- October 1993:** The first Physicians with Heart airlift- carrying \$5 million in medical supplies, equipment and medicine- is airlifted to St. Petersburg, Russia.
- 1995:** Circle of Aesculapius established; AAFP/F also assumes administration of Parke-Davis Teacher Development Awards, and over 330 Residents apply for the first-ever cycle of the AAFP/F's Resident Repayment Program (RRP). Also during this year, the position of Executive Director was eliminated and the AAFP/F's two Vice Presidents served as Acting Executive Directors running the day-to-day activities of the Foundation.
- 1996:** First Philanthropist of the Year Award is given to Walter Lane, M.D. and Jane Lane of Florida. Also that same year, the 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter Foundation Recognition Award is awarded to the Illinois AAFP/F.

- January 1997:** Sandra L. Panther, CFRE, named EVP of AAFP/F. Also this year, the first Golf Tournament with IL Foundation and AAFP/F is held in San Francisco.
- 1998:** Groundbreaking of new AAFP headquarters located at 11400 Tomahawk Creek Parkway in Leawood, Kansas; Brick Campaign initiated. Also that same year, the first AAFP/F Pooled Income gift is received from Dr. Bruce Steffens.
- 2000:** First Annual Foundation Auction is held during Scientific Assembly in Dallas.
- 2002:** The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Physicians with Heart airlift goes to Uzbekistan.
- 2003:** The 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Foundation was celebrated.
- 2004:** The initiation of the Health Literacy Program and the sunsetting of the RRP and HEP occurred.
- 2005:** Two new Foundation initiatives, the Rocking Chair Project and the Wyeth Immunization Project, were begun.
- January 1, 2006:** As a result of a reorganization agreement reached with the AAFP, the Foundation EVP became Executive Director of the Foundation and Vice President for Corporate Development for the Academy, while all Foundation employees became employees of the Academy.
- Programs Division completed first health literacy project, entitled “Play It Safe . . . With Medicine!”
- 2007:** Foundation received \$15.3 million grant—the largest ever received in the history of the organization- from Eli Lilly Foundation to develop mentoring program for diabetics.
- March 2007:** Foundation Executive Director Sandra L. Panther retired after serving 10 years as head of the Foundation; Craig Doane named new AAFP/F Executive Director and AAFP Vice President for Corporate Development.
- November 18, 2008:** Foundation celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.