



**THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS
FOUNDATION
SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN FOUNDATION HISTORY
1958-2020**

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 are filed in the State of Missouri for the American Academy of General Practice (AAGP) Foundation.
November 18, 1958	Charter is issued to AAGP Foundation. Mac Cahal is 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 <i>GP</i> , the “Prime source of funds for the new foundation will be from dividends received from the New York Life Insurance Company in connection with the new group life plan...” There were no plans to undertake a drive for funds, but two 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 AAFFP Insurance Service, 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 Education.
April 1963	A.W. Breckenkamp bequests his estate to the 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 <i>The Role of the Family Physician in America's Developing Medical Care Program</i> .
February 8, 1969	Family Practice is 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 targeting individuals).
July 1975	W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant (\$172,623) made to FHFA for development of Residency Assistance Program (RAP) [now known as Residency Program Solutions or RPS] Funds flow through FHFA for implementation of program, which was sponsored originally 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 (later Martin) becomes Secretary of FHFA. She fills that post until the 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. The title is later changed to Executive Vice President.
1981	FHFA establishes Corporate Supporter Program, designed to solicit contributions from and build relationships with 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, MD, Memorial Library dedicated. It was operated by the Foundation from 1982-1995.
1985	FHFA Foundation Network established with nine AAFP chapter foundations.
1986	First Foundation <i>Bulletin</i> published.
July 18, 1987	First formal mission statement adopted by FHFA Board of Trustees.
August 1988	Robert Graham, MD, becomes Executive Vice President of FHFA; Gary McMahan named FHFA Executive Director.
April 1989	Corporate name changed to American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation (AAFP/F). Later that year, the Health Promotion Project started the Health Education Clearinghouse to include peer reviewed patient education pieces. This program eventually became known as Health Education Program (HEP).
1990	First review cycle of AAFP/F-AAFP Joint Grant Awards Program (JGAP). Also, the AAFP/F provides a grant of \$15,000 to the newly-established Association of Family Practice Residency Directors (AFPRD, now 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 (NAC) 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 travels to St. Petersburg, Russia.
1995	Circle of Aesculapius established as a fundraising tool for the Archives for Family Practice. AAFP/F assumes administration of Parke-Davis Teacher Development Awards, and over 330 residents apply for the first-ever cycle of the Resident Repayment Program (RRP). 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, MD and Jane Lane of Florida. That same year, the first Chapter Foundation Recognition Award is given to the Illinois AFP Foundation.
January 1997	Sandra L. Panther, CFRE, named Executive Vice President of

	AAFP/F. That same year, the first Golf Tournament, cosponsored by the AAFP/F and the Illinois AFP Foundation, is held in San Francisco.
1998	Groundbreaking of new AAFP headquarters building located at 11400 Tomahawk Creek Parkway in Leawood, Kansas. Brick Campaign is initiated. The first AAFP/F Pooled Income gift is received from Dr. Bruce Steffens.
2000	First Annual Foundation Auction is held during the Scientific Assembly in Dallas.
2002	The 10 th Anniversary Physicians with Heart airlift goes to Uzbekistan.
2003	The Foundation celebrates its 45 th Anniversary.
2004	The Health Literacy Program is initiated and RRP and HEP programs sunset.
2005	Two new Foundation initiatives, the Rocking Chair Project and the Wyeth Immunization Awards Program, 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 staff became employees of the Academy.
	The first health literacy project, “Play It Safe . . . With Medicine!” is completed.
2007	Foundation received \$15.3 million grant, the largest ever received in the history of the organization, from Eli Lilly Foundation to develop a mentoring program for diabetics. [This program would become Peers for Progress.]
March 2007	Executive Director Sandra Panther retired after serving ten years with the Foundation. Craig Doane named new Executive Director and AAFP Vice President for Corporate Development.
November 18, 2008	The Foundation celebrates its 50 th Anniversary.
July 19, 2018	Heather Ford is named new AAFP Foundation Director and AAFP Vice President, Development.
2020	The AAFP Foundation with AAFP National Research Network announced the creation of its newest program, Family Medicine Discovers Rapid Cycle Scientific Discovery and Innovation (FMD RapSDI). FMD RapSDI seeks to build research capacity for family medicine scientific discovery and innovation by funding practicing family physicians to generate new evidence and innovative models for “what works” in real-world primary care settings.
May, 2020	Foundation received \$1 million grant from The Humana Foundation to provide emergency and general assistance for free clinics supported by the AAFP Foundation’s signature humanitarian program, Family Medicine Cares USA.