

With offices in London & Lausanne, EDAB has an ever-increasing network of partners with a universal interest in brain research.

To find out more about us, see: www.dana.org/edab

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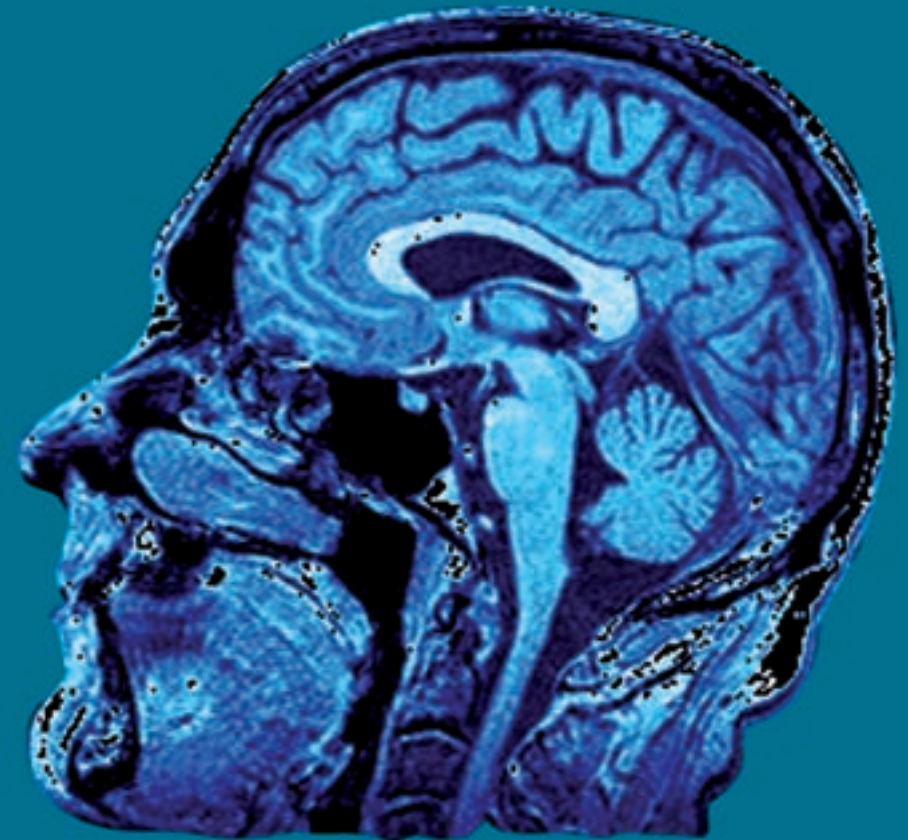
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A Dana Alliance for the Brain Inc Publication prepared by EDAB, the European subsidiary of DABI Dana Alliance Ltd, Registered office: 165 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4DD Registered in England: 3532108



Front cover and background images: Mark Lythgoe. dsprint and redesign w. dsprintandredesign.com

THE EUROPEAN
DANA ALLIANCE
FOR THE BRAIN



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Your brain is amazing!

The brain is the most complex structure in the human body, responsible for all our thoughts and actions. It makes us who we are. More powerful than any computer, it is made up of billions of cells, each with thousands of connections. The brain enables us to live our lives, to perceive, to think, to remember and to act. Researchers around the globe are striving to discover the mysteries of brain and mind, from consciousness to memory, from development during childhood to the consequences of ageing.

Who are we?

The European Dana Alliance for the Brain (EDAB) is an organisation of more than 170 eminent brain scientists, including five Nobel Laureates, from 27 countries. Launched in 1997 and born out of a similar organisation in the US, EDAB is committed to enhancing the public's understanding of why brain research is so important.

What does EDAB do?

EDAB brings the excitement of scientific progress to the public by working in partnership with charities, universities, schools, hospitals, the arts, the media and professional organisations. EDAB also fosters close connections between our members, who help and inspire each other with their research and public activities.

With offices in Switzerland and London, EDAB is well placed to bring brain science to the public in Europe. Our London offices are housed in the Science Museum's Dana Centre (www.danacentre.org.uk), a purpose-built venue for science events. We hold regular events at the Dana Centre on the theme of brain science, as well as co-ordinating events all over Europe.



Dr Fabio Carniello, Immaginario Scientifico Science Center, Trieste, Italy

The big plastic brain, which is on display at Immaginario Scientifico Science Center, Trieste during BAW

Every March EDAB co-ordinates Brain Awareness Week, a major collaboration celebrating the wonders of the brain and brain research through hundreds of public events worldwide. Every year thousands of children and adults are fascinated and inspired by how the brain works.

Why is brain research important?

Progress in brain research has a direct influence on our daily lives. Stem cells could offer revolutionary treatments for brain disease, but research is hampered by controversy. Brain imaging could one day make it possible to read someone's mind, but should we use this technology in a courtroom? If you could design your baby to prevent it from becoming mentally ill later in life, would you? We need to make important choices about our lives, our health and our ethics. Now it is more vital than ever that scientists and the public have the chance to discuss the issues.

But brain research is not just about understanding the healthy brain. Diseases and disorders of the brain are some of neuroscience's biggest challenges. Across Europe, 127 million people (over a quarter of the population) are affected by at least one brain disease. These diseases include Alzheimer's disease, head injury, motor neurone disease, pain, drug and alcohol addiction, dyslexia, and many others. For these people brain research may represent the best hope for the discovery of treatments and cures.

The Future

Now is an exciting time for neuroscience. Groundbreaking advances made in the last decade are crucial for the public to know about. As we expand our understanding of how the brain works, we need to harness the healing potential of our knowledge. EDAB wants to bring this information out of the lab and into the public arena. Dialogue between researchers and the public is essential in shaping the future of brain research.



Seeing is believing: highlights show an active visual cortex in this brain image created using functional magnetic resonance imaging.

Image: Mark Lythgoe and Chloe Hutton