



2022 NATIONAL INVENTORS
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Born: Nov. 30, 1956, Providence, R.I.

Primary Connections:

- Corning: 1991-2018; Corporate Fellow, 2007-18
- GE Plastics: Research and Development Scientist, 1982-91

Education:

- University of Chicago: Dreyfus Summer Scholar in Chemistry, 1977
- Northern Illinois University: B.S., Organic Chemistry, 1978
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology: Ph.D., Inorganic Chemistry, 1982

Key Memberships/Awards:

- National Academy of Engineering: Member, 2018
- American Chemical Society: Heroes of Chemistry Award (also presented to Ming-Jun Li and Pushkar Tandon), 2017
- Time magazine: ClearCurve® optical fiber was cited as one of the Best Inventions of 2007

10 Things You Need to Know About

Dana Bookbinder

Inventor of Bend-Insensitive Optical Fiber

U.S. PATENT NOS. 7,450,806; 7,903,917; 8,385,701

1. Early in life, Bookbinder had an insatiable curiosity about how things worked. As a child, he would go to local junkyards to take apart old TVs, radios, cars, etc., bring them home and reassemble them, sometimes into something new.
2. Also as a child, he used to watch water boil and wonder how the bubbles formed and disappeared.
3. Due to moving for his father's jobs, he attended 12 different schools in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Illinois, where he met many new people with innovative and different ideas.
4. Bookbinder notes the importance of mentors in his life who taught him the fun of discovery and creativity, and the positive impact of science. He has been a mentor to many others throughout his career.
5. Starting at the age of 17, he has donated more than 25 gallons of blood (lifetime) to the American Red Cross. He says that it's a simple and very satisfying way to help others.
6. At GE Plastics, he developed modifications of Lexan® polycarbonate, which is used worldwide in the production of compact discs (CDs).
7. He created and produced a chemistry magic show for more than 30 years, inspiring children and their parents through the wonders of science.
8. He says, "Making connections to people and other ideas is fundamental to making new inventions."
9. He loves to read biographies, learning how notable people approached and solved problems in many different ways.
10. Bookbinder holds more than 300 U.S. patents.