In 1869, Dr Francis Henry Brown, a Harvard Medical School graduate and Civil War surgeon, organized a small group of his fellow graduates, along with several prominent civic leaders in Boston, to found Boston Children’s Hospital. The original Boston Children’s building was a 5-story brick townhouse on Washington and Rutland streets in the South End of Boston (top left). By 1882, a larger, more pediatric-focused 60-bed hospital opened on Huntington Avenue. As the hospital recognized the importance of collaboration with Harvard Medical School to foster major scientific advances, it relocated to Longwood Avenue in 1914, on a 3-acre site (top right). The cows provided tuberculosis-free milk to the infants.

The Sharon Cardiovascular Unit, housed within the Farley Building (bottom left), opened in the 1950s as the first pediatric cardiovascular unit at Boston Children’s Hospital. Dr Charles Janeway (white coat), Physician-in-Chief at the time, pictured in the bottom right with (L-R) Dr Robert Gross, Mr Lewis (President of Sharon Sanitorium at the time) and Mr Farley (President of Boston Children’s at the time), appointed Dr Alexander Nadas (not shown) to launch a program of pediatric cardiology at Children’s Hospital. The creation of this unit paved the way for a top-ranked, integrated medical and surgical cardiology unit in the present day.

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