



**20th Heinz Award Honors Geoscientist Aaron Wolf,
Who Pioneered Water Diplomacy to Resolve Global Resource Disputes**
*Bringing Science, Problem-Solving and Cultural Sensitivity to Bear, Dr. Wolf Has Helped
Change the Course of Water Conflict to Water Cooperation*

PITTSBURGH, April 23, 2015—Amid heightened awareness of the world’s limited fresh water supply, Aaron Wolf, Ph.D., is applying 21st century insights and ingenuity, as well as ancient wisdoms, to problems that few are paying attention to for the security of the planet. He is the rare academic who has opened new paths in global policy through his unique approach to negotiating disputes over bodies of water—usually rivers—shared by two or more regions.

Today, the Heinz Family Foundation named Dr. Wolf, a global authority on water conflict resolution, the recipient of the prestigious 20th Heinz Award in the Public Policy category. As part of the accolade, Dr. Wolf will receive an unrestricted cash award of \$250,000.

From international water talks in Southeast Asia and Africa to domestic dialog on the U.S.-Canada Columbia River Treaty and elsewhere in the Western United States, Dr. Wolf has played a leading role in brokering critical agreements around what is arguably the planet’s most precious resource. His success in blending scientific rigor with humanism to create water cooperation is a case study in how to promote global sustainability and resource security.

“In a world where water is rapidly becoming the most precious of resources and most geopolitical of issues, Aaron Wolf has found practical solutions to protect our water resources and find common ground on water-centered conflicts,” said Teresa Heinz, chairman of the Heinz Family Foundation. “Water issues cross state and national boundaries, and his advocacy has driven treaties and agreements that recognize our competing demands on water resources and the vital importance of protecting those resources from a modern-day ‘tragedy of the commons.’ Brave, innovative and diplomatically adept, he has tackled what may very well become the defining issue of this century and given us a roadmap for how to navigate it.”

A professor of geography at Oregon State University (OSU), Dr. Wolf decided early in his career to find a way to break the gridlock that dominated tensions over water rights. He developed a negotiation approach that emphasizes deep listening, with the goal of meeting the shared values of competing users.

Dr. Wolf is also working to prepare future generations of scholars and leaders in this field. He joined other leading academics to found a consortium of 10 universities on five continents that seeks to build a global water governance culture focused on peace, sustainability and human security. In March 2015, he announced a partnership among OSU, the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education in the Netherlands and the University for Peace in Costa Rica for a joint Master’s degree program on water cooperation and peace.

“One thing I’m struck by over and over is what people of goodwill and creativity can accomplish, even in situations where everybody feels like they’re going to lose something,” said Dr. Wolf. “As I’ve watched the discourse change from water wars to water cooperation and peace, I’ve learned firsthand that people will resolve seemingly intractable problems when they’re given the space and the opportunity.”

Established to honor the memory of U.S. Senator John Heinz, the 20th Heinz Awards this year recognize those who have made significant contributions in five distinct areas of great importance to Senator Heinz: Arts and Humanities; Environment; Human Condition; Public Policy; and Technology, the Economy and Employment.

In addition to Dr. Wolf, the 20th Heinz Awards honored the following individuals:

- **Arts and Humanities: Roz Chast, Ridgefield, Conn.**
Roz Chast, best-selling illustrator and cartoonist, is being recognized for her body of work using humor to soften the anxieties, insecurities and neurosis of modern-day living.
- **Environment: Frederica Perera, DrPH, Ph.D., New York, N.Y.**
Dr. Perera, environmental health researcher at Columbia University, is being recognized for her pioneering research and advocacy efforts on the effects of air pollutants on the health of children in the pre- and postnatal periods.
- **Human Condition: (co-recipients) William McNulty and Jacob Wood, Team Rubicon, Los Angeles, Calif.**
Messrs. McNulty and Wood, founders of Team Rubicon, are being recognized for their leadership in creating a purposeful way for returning veterans to continue their service by engaging them in lifesaving global disaster relief efforts.
- **Technology, the Economy and Employment: Sangeeta Bhatia, M.D., Ph.D., Cambridge, Mass.**
Dr. Bhatia, bioengineer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), is being recognized for her seminal work in tissue engineering, including the first cultivation of liver cells outside the human body.

Winners will receive their awards at a ceremony in Pittsburgh on May 13th, 2015.

Now in its 20th year, the Heinz Awards has recognized 123 individuals and awarded more than \$21 million to the honorees. For more information about awardees past and present visit <http://heinzawards.net/2015>.

EDITORS/REPORTERS: To obtain photos of Dr. Bhatia or any of the other recipients, please contact Abby Manishor at amanishor@burness.com or 917-539-3308.

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About the Heinz Awards

Established by Teresa Heinz in 1993 to honor the memory of her late husband, U.S. Senator John Heinz, the Heinz Awards celebrates the accomplishments and spirit of the Senator by recognizing the extraordinary achievements of individuals in the areas of greatest importance to him. The awards, administered by the Heinz Family Foundation, recognize individuals for their contributions in the areas of Arts and Humanities; Environment; Human Condition; Public Policy; and Technology, the Economy and Employment. Nominations are submitted by invited experts, who serve anonymously, and are reviewed by an independent panel of jurors appointed by the Heinz Family Foundation. The jury makes recommendations to the Board of Directors, which subsequently selects the Award recipients. For more information on the Heinz Awards, visit heinzawards.net.

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