

## The 16th Heinz Awards



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### **‘Godfather’ of Global Seed Vault Receives Prestigious Heinz Award Cary Fowler conserves genetic diversity of the world’s food plants.**

PITTSBURGH, September 21, 2010 – Teresa Heinz and the Heinz Family Foundation today announced Cary Fowler, Ph.D., a global leader in protecting the world’s plants from climate change and natural disaster, as a recipient of a Heinz Award. Profoundly distinguished for his leadership in the development of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, Dr. Fowler is being acknowledged for his vision and efforts in the preservation of the food supply for future generations. He currently lives in Rome, Italy and grew up in Memphis, Tennessee.

Dr. Fowler’s active pursuit to protect agricultural crop diversity serves as critical protection from negative impacts of global change and a tool for human survival. With current agriculture depending on relatively few crops and climate change pushing thousands of crop varieties into extinction, a method for preserving a wide variety of crop characteristics is invaluable. Dr. Fowler leads a global effort to ensure that agriculture and its crop varieties are ready and adapted to climate change and variability.

The Heinz Awards, in their 16th year, honor Dr. Fowler and nine other environmental innovators. Dr. Fowler’s role in the creation of the Global Seed Vault – which now holds one-third of the world’s seed varieties – is undoubtedly instrumental to protecting crops against potential challenges of the future.

“At a time of massive environmental change, it is an absolute necessity to preserve the world’s crop biodiversity. Lack of crop diversity threatens the world’s basic food security, and it is highly significant that we work to strengthen inventories of plant genetic resources,” said Dr. Fowler.

The Heinz Awards annually honor the late U.S. Senator John Heinz’s long-standing commitment to the environment. This year’s awards, totaling \$1 million, recognize individuals who are addressing global change caused by the impact of human activities and natural processes on the environment. Dr. Fowler’s acute awareness of the importance of crop diversity has played an invaluable role in the planning, building and operation of the seed bank.

“Dr. Fowler’s continued commitment to preserving our food sources is critical as we face increased threats from climate change,” Teresa Heinz, chairman of the Heinz Family Foundation, said today.

The enormity of Dr. Fowler’s work is illustrated not only by the crop insurance created by the vault, but by his genuine attention to the needs of humanity. During his career, he advocated for systems that would facilitate global sharing of crop diversity to strengthen food security. He also contributed to the first international assessments of the state of the world’s crop diversity and was a key figure in creating the legal groundwork for the global seed bank.

In addition to Dr. Fowler, the 16<sup>th</sup> Heinz Awards are honoring the following individuals:

- **James Balog**, Extreme Ice Survey (Boulder, Colo.) *For his dramatic use of photography to document the devastation of global warming*
- **Terrence Collins, Ph.D.**, Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh, Pa.) *For using “green chemistry” to detoxify hazardous chemicals and training the next generation of scientists*
- **Gretchen Daily, Ph.D.**, Stanford University and the Natural Capital Project (Stanford, Calif.) *For her achievements demonstrating the financial value of natural ecosystems*
- **Richard Feely, Ph.D.**, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (Seattle, Wash.) *For his extraordinary efforts to identify ocean acidity as global warming’s “evil twin”*
- **Lynn Goldman, M.D.**, George Washington University (Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, Md.) *For promoting regulation of dangerous chemicals and expanding citizens’ right to know about pollution in their communities*
- **Elizabeth Kolbert**, *The New Yorker*, (Williamstown, Mass.) *For her groundbreaking environmental journalism and devotion to informing readers*
- **Michael Oppenheimer, Ph.D.**, Princeton University (Princeton, N.J. and New York, N.Y.) *For assessing the impacts of global warming and air pollution, and working for policies to prevent future harm*
- **Daniel Sperling, Ph.D.**, University of California, Davis (Davis, Calif.) *For advancing sustainable transportation policies and accelerating the transition to low-carbon alternative fuels nationwide*
- **Frederick vom Saal, Ph.D.**, University of Missouri (Columbia, Mo.) *For uncovering health problems linked to the chemical BPA*

### **About the Heinz Awards**

The Heinz Family Foundation, one of the Heinz Family Philanthropies, began as a charitable trust established by the late U.S. Senator John Heinz. His widow, Teresa Heinz, established the Heinz Awards in 1993 to honor and sustain the legacy of her late husband.

Nominations for the Heinz Awards are submitted by invited experts, who serve anonymously. Award recipients are selected by the board of directors for the Heinz Awards upon recommendation by a blue-ribbon panel of jurors.

In addition to the \$100,000 award for their unrestricted use, recipients are presented with a medallion inscribed with the image of Senator Heinz on one side and a rendering of a globe passing between two hands on the other.

The Heinz Awards will be presented at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. on November 15.

For more information about the Heinz Awards, Heinz Family Foundation or the recipients, visit [www.heinzawards.net](http://www.heinzawards.net).