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**Renowned Environmental Scientist Receives Prestigious Heinz Award
Professor Louis Guillette's Pioneering Research Offers Insight into
Toxic Chemicals' Impact on Wildlife and Human Health**

PITTSBURGH, September 13, 2011 – Teresa Heinz and the Heinz Family Foundation today announced Louis J. Guillette, Jr., Ph.D., reproductive biologist, endocrinologist and professor, as a recipient of a \$100,000 Heinz Award. Dr. Guillette is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and holds an endowed chair in Marine Genomics at South Carolina's Centers for Economic Excellence, at the Medical University of South Carolina.

“Dr. Guillette's work has focused on the important field of endocrine disruption,” Teresa Heinz, chairman of the Heinz Family Foundation, said today. “His research on alligators and other marine life created an in-depth model for understanding the effects of toxins in the wild and provides information we need to safeguard people and wildlife.”

Internationally recognized for his groundbreaking research on the impact of toxic chemicals on the reproductive systems of alligators and other wildlife, Dr. Guillette is a pioneer in exhibiting how wildlife can function as sentinels for adverse environmental contaminant exposure.

Dr. Guillette is a leader in the field of hormone disruption, which has emerged as a major public health threat over the past two decades. He has researched environmental estrogens for years, believing they could be responsible for dropping population levels and reproductive abnormalities in wildlife living in the waters of Florida. In the late 1980s, he and his team discovered that DDT and other chemicals in Lake Apopka in Florida were creating ovarian and genital abnormalities by manipulating their hormones. Later, he demonstrated that even low-level exposures to one or multiple environmental contaminants during critical periods of fetal development can have long-lasting health implications.

His research raised red flags about what potential impacts chemicals may also have on human reproductive health, especially as other researchers have shown that sperm counts have dropped and testicular cancer is on the rise. Dr. Guillette's studies demonstrate that there is a direct link between environmental chemicals and male and female reproductive health.

“I have little doubt that environmental contaminants are a significant part of the reason we are today seeing an increase in many diseases of the reproductive system in wildlife and humans,” said Dr. Guillette. “The only question is, ‘What are we going to do about it?’ ”

Now in their 17th year, the Heinz Awards honor visionaries who have made extraordinary contributions to the environment, a life-long area of commitment for the late U.S. Senator John Heinz. Dr. Guillette and nine others are recognized for their significant efforts benefitting the environment. This year's awards total \$900,000.

Often saying that he owes his success to his past teachers, Dr. Guillette routinely engages students in his own research; he's been known to ask them to help capture alligators, turtles, frogs and fish. More than 125 undergraduate students have participated in hands-on research in his laboratory during the past decade.

As part of a prestigious Howard Hughes Medical Institute professorship from 2006 to 2010, Dr. Guillette started the G.A.T.O.R. (Group Advantaged Training Research) program, which brings together graduate and undergraduate students to work together in research teams under the guidance of faculty advisors. Dr. Guillette is a Fellow of the AAAS and has received honorary professorships from institutions in Japan, the Philippines, South Africa and South America. Prior to his role at Medical University of South Carolina, Dr. Guillette was the Distinguished Professor of Biology at the University of Florida.

In addition to Dr. Guillette, the 17th Heinz Awards are honoring the following individuals:

- **John Luther Adams**, Independent Composer (Fairbanks, Alaska) *For his musical compositions that invite us to hear the whole world as music*
- **Richard Alley, Ph.D.**, The Pennsylvania State University (University Park, Pa.) *For his polar ice discoveries that showed abrupt climate change is possible and for engaging his students, policymakers and the public*
- **Janine Benyus**, Biomimicry Institute (Missoula, Mont.) *For inspiring us to look to nature's engineering for solutions to our biggest challenges*
- **Ian Cheney and Curt Ellis**, Wicked Delicate Films, Truck Farm and FoodCorps (Brooklyn, N.Y.) *For using humor and innovative programming to engage people about sustainable food*
- **Joan Kleypas, Ph.D.**, National Center for Atmospheric Research, Institute for the Study of Society and Environment (Boulder, Colo.) *For conducting breakthrough research on the impacts of environmental change on coral reefs and engaging both scientists and policymakers*
- **Nancy Knowlton, Ph.D.**, National Museum of Natural History (Washington, D.C.) *For broadening the understanding of ocean biodiversity and the impacts of humans on marine life*
- **Nancy Rabalais, Ph.D.**, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (Chauvin, La.) *For her pioneering research of severe oxygen depletion in the Gulf of Mexico and commitment to reduce water pollution through education and public policy*
- **Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D.**, Ithaca College, (Ithaca, N.Y.) *For highlighting the link between toxic chemicals and diseases through her written work, as well engaging the public as a cancer survivor*

About the Heinz Awards

The Heinz Awards annually recognize individuals creating and implementing workable solutions to the problems the world faces through invention, research and education while inspiring the next generation of modern thinkers. While this year the awards focus singularly on the environment, winners were chosen who address the intersection of the environment with one of the other award categories recognized in many previous years, including arts and humanities, human condition, public policy, technology and the economy.

The Heinz Family Foundation 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 or the recipients, including photographs, visit www.heinzawards.net.

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