

The 16th Heinz Awards



**EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 21, 2010**

**Contacts: Jeff Krakoff
(412) 394-6653
Kim O'Dell
(412) 497-5775**

Carnegie Mellon Professor Receives Prestigious Heinz Award Terrence Collins uses “green chemistry” to detoxify hazardous chemicals.

PITTSBURGH, September 21, 2010 – Teresa Heinz and the Heinz Family Foundation today announced Terrence Collins, Ph.D., a scientist and university professor, as a recipient of a Heinz Award. A globally distinguished professor at Carnegie Mellon University’s (CMU) Institute for Green Science, Dr. Collins is being acknowledged for his pioneering “green chemistry” and for training future generations of scientists to combine the tools of chemistry with the knowledge of environmental health science to reduce the use and creation of hazardous substances.

The Heinz Awards, in their 16th year, honor Dr. Collins and nine other winners for their outstanding response to global environmental challenges. Dr. Collins developed TAML activators, catalysts that activate hydrogen peroxide to oxidize molecular pollutants and hardy pathogens in water to non-toxic compounds. Tailoring his invention to target a wide variety of pollutants and for disinfection, Dr. Collins is continuing his research while working with partners at the CMU startup company, GreenOx Catalysts, Inc., to commercialize the catalysts for widespread industrial use.

“Chemistry is central to all aspects of our lives. It is critical that today’s students – tomorrow’s leaders – receive an education that enables them to develop a more sustainable world. It is important that chemistry students bring their unique perspectives to designing safer chemicals, advancing solar energy and developing chemicals from renewable resources,” said Dr. Collins.

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.

Throughout his scientific career, Dr. Collins has demonstrated an informed willingness to challenge entrenched ideas and misguided conventional wisdom, guided by a sharp and intellectually rigorous focus on what is necessary to move chemistry toward a truly sustainable path.

“Dr. Collins has pioneered efforts to detoxify extremely hazardous substances, like anthrax and widely used pesticides,” said Teresa Heinz, chairman of the Heinz Family Foundation. “His efforts to eliminate pollution and to train the next generation of scientists will leave a lasting impact on the planet for years to come.”

Dr. Collins was the first educator in the United States to teach “green chemistry” classes starting in the early 1990s. Today, he continues to promote green solutions through safe, healthy and sustainable chemistry studies, not only in Pittsburgh, but worldwide. At the Institute for Green Science, Dr. Collins and his staff are creating a first-of-its-kind web site designed to accelerate the training of new scientists by making college and graduate-level green science courses available to students internationally.

In addition to Dr. Collins, the 16th 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*
- **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"*
- **Cary Fowler, Ph.D.**, Global Crop Diversity Trust (Rome, Italy) *For establishing the Global Seed Vault to conserve genetic diversity of the world's food plants despite climate change*
- **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.