



IN THIS ISSUE:

- A Scientist's Scientist
- Meet Parker
- Celebrating Legacy Luncheon

NEWSLETTER OF THE DANFORTH CENTER

WHD Legacy Society

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1: SPRING 2024

A SCIENTIST'S SCIENTIST

*Honoring the Legacy of
Dr. Phil Needleman*

You would never confuse Phil Needleman for a card-carrying plant scientist. Rather, Phil was a rigorous biochemist and pharmacologist who made life-changing discoveries that impacted millions of people. Phil discovered key parts of biochemical pathways that influence blood pressure, blood clotting and inflammation. He led teams that studied the enzyme COX-2 and COX-2 inhibitors, leading directly to the anti-inflammatory drug, Celebrex, for the treatment of chronic pain associated with arthritis and other conditions. He was highly recognized, awarded, and admired for his vast contributions to science and medicine.

[...] Phil made tremendous contributions to the Danforth Center. In 2005, he was cajoled

by his friend Bill Danforth to join our board of directors, where he remained for nearly 19 years. He was the Center's interim president for over a year, providing both leadership and stability prior to [my] hiring [...]. From my perspective, Phil made his most important contributions in three ways:

1. He was a scientist's scientist. He cared deeply about the importance of a scientific question, the quality of an experiment, and the clarity of results. [...]
2. Phil constantly encouraged, demanded really, that we apply what we learn to solve big problems in the world, and he supported us in doing so.... This was how the Subterranean Influences on Nitrogen and Carbon (SINC) center was conceptualized, and then launched

▲ Long-time board member, supporter, and WHD Legacy Society member Dr. Phil Needleman, who passed away in March at the age of 85.

A SCIENTIST'S SCIENTIST cont.

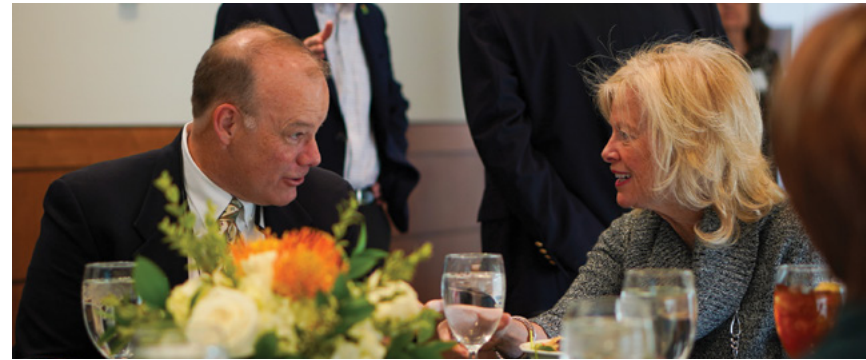
through generous donations from Phil and his wife, Sima.

- 3. Phil provided wisdom, mentoring, and personal support to so many of us at the Center and on the board. [...]

Phil Needleman's life ended abruptly this week. But his legacy, example, and will to make the world better through science lives on.

Excerpt from Danforth Center President and CEO Jim Carrington's letter, March 29, 2024

When you support the Danforth Center, you are helping find sustainable solutions to feed the world and preserve the planet. Planned gifts can create a legacy of support for projects with real-world impact. Call 314.587.1071 for more information



FROM EAST PRAIRIE TO PHILANTHROPY

Parker Butler's Journey to the Danforth Center

Growing up in the small agricultural town of East Prairie in southeast Missouri, Parker Butler was a proud member of Future Farmers of America. But his plans changed when he went away to college. He was the first in his family to pursue higher education, and it helped him find his calling.

"College introduced me to different cultures, different religions. It ignited my curiosity about people," said Parker. "It was preparing me for a career in fundraising, though I didn't know it yet."



Eager to give back, Parker dedicated his early career to university advancement, most recently at Washington University in St. Louis. He is excited to join the Danforth Center as a development officer.

"Danforth Center donors are people who want to make a difference in the world, and I look forward to working together to do just that."

Parker invites you to reach out to him directly at 314.587.1071 or via email at pbutler@danforthcenter.org.



"Fungi are a huge problem because they destroy more than 20% of crops every year—that's billions of dollars' worth of food... At Peptyde Bio, we are using molecules derived from plants to attack fungi naturally."

Kirk Czymmek, PhD
Co-founder, Peptyde Bio



▲ SOCIETY LUNCHEON

On November 11, 2023, President and CEO Jim Carrington, PhD, welcomed members of the WHD Legacy Society to the Board Room for our annual appreciation luncheon. Principal Investigator Kirk Czymmek, PhD, director of the Advanced Bioimaging Laboratory and co-founder of startup Peptyde Bio, presented on the exciting work of the company, which is creating natural fungicides based on plants' own defenses.

If you are thinking about updating your will and considering a gift to the Danforth Center, call Parker Butler at 314.587.1071.



DONALD DANFORTH PLANT SCIENCE CENTER

975 North Warson Road
Saint Louis, MO 63132

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

ST. LOUIS, MO
PERMIT NO. 5385

Address Service Requested

LEGACY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ken Bower, *Clayton Financial*
Steve Daiker, *Harrison & Held*
Matt Perlow, *Husch Blackwell*
Bud Strong, *Husch Blackwell*



@danforthcenter

danforthcenter.org

LIVE YOUR BEST LIFE

Higher Rates Could Mean More Income for You

The American Council on Gift Annuities just increased its suggested maximum annuity rate, making this year a great time to make a gift and receive higher fixed payments for life.

Why Consider a Charitable Gift Annuity in 2024?

- You will lock in payments for life, at a new rate about 0.4% higher, without concerns about market fluctuations.
- While the income tax charitable deduction is lower in 2024, the potential tax-free portion of your annuity increases.
- Deferring your annuity payment will increase these rates significantly.

Call 314.587.1071 for more information.

