



NEWSLETTER OF THE DANFORTH CENTER

# Legacy Society

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## MAKING HEALTHY EATING SAFER AND MORE AFFORDABLE

Do you enjoy healthy eating with plentiful salads, vegetables, and fruit? These fresh foods are a luxury for some. People who live in urban “food deserts” do not have regular access to fresh and healthful produce, largely because of these items’ perishability and expense. But now researchers at the Danforth Center have discovered a means of fighting a common agricultural problem that may improve both quality and price.

Fungal diseases cause substantial losses of agricultural harvests each year. The fungus causing gray mold disease is a major problem for farmers growing fresh produce, such as strawberries, grapes, raspberries, tomatoes, and lettuce.

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To combat the problem, farmers must resort to dangerous and expensive chemical fungicides. Danforth Center Principal Investigators Dilip Shah, PhD, and Kirk Czymmek, PhD, with Postdoctoral Associate Siva Velivelli, PhD, and collaborators at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, have discovered a natural and potentially less expensive alternative.

They have identified a natural substance occurring in a legume (the bean family) that proved effective in inhibiting growth of the fungus causing gray mold when sprayed on tomato plants. The results of their research were recently published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*.







In Memoriam  
William H. Danforth, MD  
April 10, 1926 – September 16, 2020

## REMEMBERING WILLIAM H. DANFORTH

William Henry Danforth, MD, Founding Chairman of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center and Chancellor Emeritus of Washington University in St. Louis, passed away on September 16, 2020 at the age of 94.

Bill — as he always asked others to call him — was a shining example of selflessness, humility, and dedication to the greater good. He brought a passion for excellence and an unwavering commitment to serving others.

After a career as one of the nation's top university administrators, Bill "retired." It was his vision to build a "Silicon Valley for plant science" that would unite and uplift his beloved hometown, St. Louis, and improve agriculture for a healthy planet "for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren." He founded the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center in 1998, served as chairman through 2013, and remained active until most recently.

Even as we remember Bill for his remarkable public achievements, we recall with great admiration his exceptional personal character, his passion for knowledge, his courtesy and humor. **He truly believed that all of us have a common purpose in life: to help others and improve the world.**

This is the spirit in which Bill founded the Danforth Center, and we believe that we best honor his memory by continuing the vital work that he envisioned and so generously supported. **Let us all go forward with profound gratitude for the privilege of knowing this great man and with determination to preserve and build on his legacy.**





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