

MONSANTO



Franz Innovation Award Scholarship Quote Sheet

John Franz, Ph.D., inventor of glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup brand herbicides:

“I’m very honored and excited that this scholarship will help students and future scientists with their education at my Alma Matter, and that it will help the University of Minnesota continue to recruit quality students,” said Franz. “I’m also pleased that this endowment will go on in perpetuity, providing an opportunity to grow in value and continue to provide assistance for students in the future.”

“I’m very honored to be recognized by the Hall of Fame, mostly because it’s a recognition of the entire team of scientists who worked on and supported the development of Roundup herbicides,” said Dr. Franz. “Thinking back on it, we never imagined glyphosate would become part of a product that is now a household name.”

“I was fascinated by the complexity of organic chemistry and the greater challenges that it offered - so I pretty much got hooked on organic chemistry. This was all on my own - they didn’t have courses in organic chemistry.”

“Since glyphosate inhibits a single enzyme, it made it much easier to produce by genetic engineering, crop plants which are resistant to glyphosate: the ‘Roundup Ready’ plants.”

“I think the thing that’s driven me from the beginning is this idea of thrill of discovery. The greatest potential is if your discovery can be of something useful to mankind - I think that’s the greatest reward that you could get.”

[About a farmer’s wife whose weed-choked land was liberated by Roundup]

“She said, ‘this invention was more important than the astronauts landing on the moon!’ She was so happy, I could feel her heartfelt thanks that this invention had been made. That made me feel like it was the first small step to helping someone eventually with my invention. And I think to a scientist, that’s the most valuable thing to be rewarded with: to hear it personally from an individual that this has really helped solve a major problem on the farm. That really inspired me quite a bit.”

Robert T. Fraley, Ph.D., Chief Technology Officer and Executive Vice President for Monsanto:

“We at Monsanto thank Dr. Franz for his discovery, and congratulate him on this historic occasion. Dr. Franz started Monsanto down a path that led us to be the agricultural company we are today. His discovery of glyphosate was pivotal in the history of agriculture, enabling the development of conservation tillage systems which lower grower production costs and reduce soil erosion. Subsequent advances in biotechnology and development of Roundup Ready® crops have extended glyphosate’s use for controlling weeds in crops across the globe. Dr. Franz helped create a product with tremendous staying power in the market – millions of farmers have been relying on this product for more than 30 years.”

Sherri Brown, Ph.D., Monsanto Vice President, Technology:

“Dr. Franz’s discovery helped build a product that served as the backbone for Monsanto’s development into an agricultural company, and we’re honored to celebrate that discovery more than 30 years later with this scholarship and endowment. His discovery was pivotal in the history of agriculture, and we hope this scholarship will provide future scientists similar opportunities for innovation and advancement in agriculture and chemistry.”

Elena Sizova, first recipient of the Monsanto Franz Innovation Award, fourth year graduate student at the University of Minnesota:

“I feel very privileged to be a recipient of the Franz Innovation Award Scholarship. The award strengthens my interests to do research in organic chemistry, which I believe is one of the most important sciences. I would like to thank Monsanto Company for this unique opportunity and making my experience as a graduate student even more exciting and motivating.”