

The Hormel Institute

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

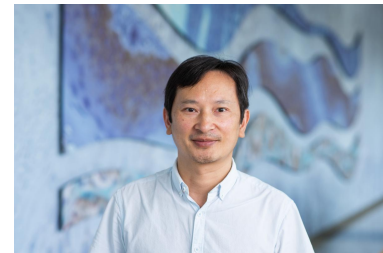


RESEARCH

***Nature* Study Co-Led by The Hormel Institute Scientist Sheds New Light on VMAT Proteins Pivotal to Treating Neurodegenerative Diseases and Substance Addiction**

Dr. Bin Liu, Associate Professor at The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota, has co-authored a recently published paper in *Nature*. The paper, entitled “Structural insights into vesicular monoamine storage and drug interactions,” presents the first series of cryoEM structures of proteins known as vesicular monoamine transporters (VMATs) and sheds new light on their mechanisms, laying a crucial foundation for the development of more effective treatment options for neurodegenerative diseases (such as Parkinson’s disease and Alzheimer’s disease) and substance addiction.

“VMATs are targeted by an arsenal of therapeutic drugs and imaging agents to treat and monitor neurodegenerative disorders, hypertension, and drug addiction,” said Dr. Liu. “In vivo imaging of VMATs enables early detection and progression of Parkinson’s disease, Alzheimer’s disease, schizophrenia, and drug addiction.” - Bin Liu, PhD



[Read more](#)

Shouldn’t Everyone be Able to Use Data? \$19K Grant Will Help The Hormel Institute Lab Build Web-Based Data Analysis Platform

David Guinovart, PhD, Assistant Professor at The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota, is the recipient of a two-year, \$19,000 grant from the Venn Foundation. The grant will support a project to develop a user-friendly, web-based platform for data analysis and simulation using SIR models that can benefit researchers, policymakers, business managers, educators, and students alike to support learning and decision-making.

“Upon completion, our project will not just be a research tool, but also a comprehensive decision-support system for business managers, educators, and policymakers. It will offer insights into complex dynamics, such as market trends, educational outreach, and public health strategies. This wide-ranging applicability and the potential for educational involvement make our project a tool for today’s challenges and a platform for nurturing the next generation of scientists and decision-makers.” - David Guinovart, PhD



[Read more](#)

A Discovery That Could Lead to a New Class of Antimicrobial Treatments: The Hormel Institute Researchers Publish Findings, Receive \$19K Grant to Investigate

Jarrold French, PhD, Associate Professor at The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota, is the recipient of a two-year, \$19,000 grant from the Venn Foundation that will support a project aimed at developing a new class of broadly applicable, immune-enhancing antimicrobial treatments. In progressing with this project, Dr. French and lab researcher Dr. Faisal Aziz have also recently published a paper in the *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*, which identifies and characterizes a set of compounds that block the function of a protein that suppresses the immune system — a discovery that could improve treatments for infectious diseases and save countless lives.

“Infectious disease kills millions each year, and resistance to current antimicrobial treatments is increasing. New methods to treat infectious disease are desperately needed. Successful completion of this project could lead to new antimicrobial therapies that save millions of lives.” - Jarrold French, PhD



[Read more](#)



SUPPORT

Forward Industries Visits The Hormel Institute



A group from Forward Industries toured The Hormel Institute and met with the Institute's Dr. George Aslanidi, Gail Dennison, and Brenna Gerhart. The group learned about The Hormel Institute's research and talked about potential collaborative opportunities. John Garry and Aaron Keenan from the Developers Corporation of Austin (DCA) were also there.

Bowling for the Battle Supports Prostate Cancer Research at The Hormel Institute



Thank you to everyone who participated in Bowling for the Battle! **Now in its 10th year, this event has raised more than \$400,000 for prostate cancer research at The Hormel Institute!** We're excited to share the dollars raised from this year's event in a future newsletter - stay tuned!

Thank You Donors



Representatives from AppleLane Community Child Care met with The Hormel Institute's Brenna Gerhart to drop off a donation. The kids at AppleLane worked so hard to raise funds for cancer research at The Hormel Institute. Thank you, AppleLane!



The Hormel Institute's Gail Dennison and Dr. George Aslanidi met with Mower County representatives Amanda Kiefer, Sandra Daily, and Alyssa Tabor, who presented The Hormel Institute with a \$2,500 donation for Paint the Town Pink (PTTP). Thank you, Mower County!



The Austin Bruins Black & Gold Gala and Paint the Rink Pink events raised more than \$25,000 for cancer research! Representatives from the Bruins presented a check to The Hormel Institute's Dr. Ted Hinchcliffe and Daneka Wiechmann. Thank you, Austin Bruins!

[DONATE NOW](#)



COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION

In the Community



Scientists and staff members from The Hormel Institute served as judges at the



Students from IJ Holton Intermediate School's Medical Detectives class



The Hormel Institute's Director of Information Technology, Jeff McDonald,

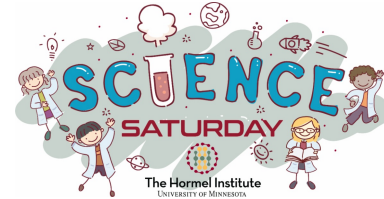
Southgate Elementary
School Science Fair.

visited The Hormel Institute
and participated in hands-on
learning activities and
science experiments.

PhD, and members of the
Community Outreach &
Education team participated
in the Career Pathways Fair
at Austin High School.

Save the Date: Science Saturday

The Hormel Institute is teaming up with the Austin Public Library for Science Saturday! The event includes a hands-on science activity and the chance to meet a researcher from The Hormel Institute.



When: Saturday, April 27. You may attend anytime between 11:00 am - 1:00 pm.

Where: Austin Public Library

Save the Date: Hometown Food Security Project Event



The Hormel Institute is teaming up with the Hometown Food Security Project and Hormel Foods for a free event to learn about the efforts to fight food insecurity in Mower County. The Hormel Institute will be providing a hands-on activity for kids.

When: Thursday, April 25 from 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Where: SPAM Museum, 101 3rd Avenue NE, Austin, MN

Save the Date: The Hormel Institute at Taste of Nations

The Hormel Institute will be participating in Taste of Nations! Stop by our booth to learn about the latest research and clinical studies happening at the Institute.

When: Saturday, May 18 from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Where: Bandshell Park, 4th Street and 9th Place SW, Austin, MN



Apply for The Hormel Institute Teacher Externship Program

The [Teacher Externship Program](#) at The Hormel Institute offers educators an immersive experience designed to enhance curriculum development, and equipment planning in the field of science. This program aims to bridge the gap between classroom teaching and real-world applications, providing educators with valuable insights and resources to enrich their teaching practices. **For more information and to apply, [click here.](#)**



Apply for The Hormel Institute's BioDiscovery Internship

The Hormel Institute's [BioDiscovery Internship](#) is for high school students who have completed 9th-11th grade and have an interest in biomedical research science. This internship will allow students to learn through both observation and hands-on experiences. For more information and to apply, [click here](#). Applications are due May 10.

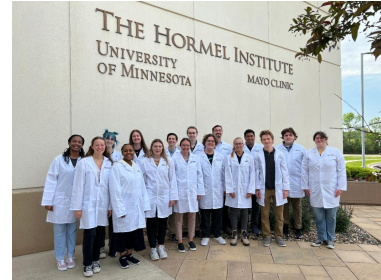


Attention Former SURE Interns: We Want to Connect with You!

Former SURE Interns - we want to hear from you!

Our goal is to maintain and strengthen relationships between Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) Interns and The Hormel Institute faculty/staff, even after your internship.

Our interns are a valued part of our family! To stay connected, [click here](#).



You can help contribute to education initiatives at The Hormel Institute by donating to our [Education Fund](#).

[DONATE NOW](#)

Blog: How the 10K Families Study Could Help Reduce Health Disparities

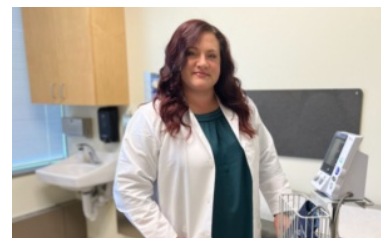
The [10,000 Families Study](#) (10KFS) is working to address the unique health needs of Minnesota by following families over time and studying how the influences of genetics, lifestyle, and environment affect health and illness, including cancer.

The goal of this study is to gather information that can be used to develop better advice on how to live a healthy life and to guide policies to promote health and reduce illness.



[In this blog](#), The Hormel Institute's Clinical Research and Outreach Lead Emily Heath explains how where we live can impact our health and how you can get involved in the [10,000 Families Study](#).

[Read more](#)

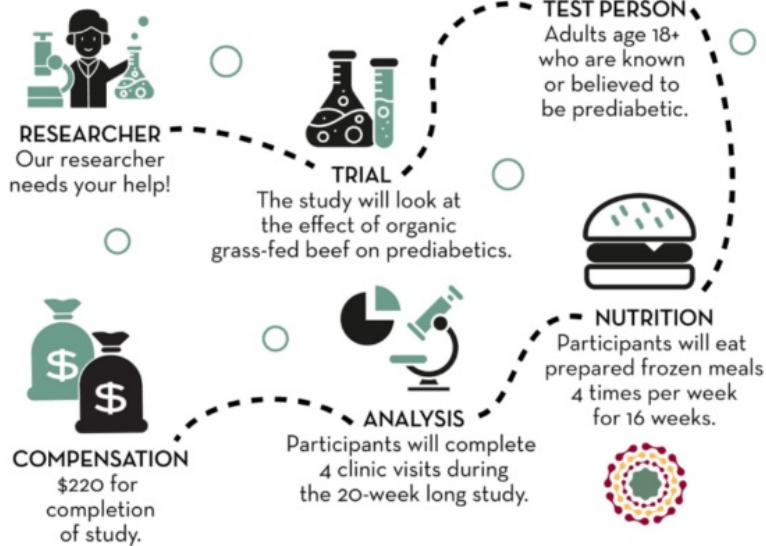


CLINICAL STUDIES

Participate in a Dietary Study

The Hormel Institute

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



Help with important research! At The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota, we are looking for men and women 18 years or older to take part in a 20-week long dietary research study looking at the effects of organic grass-fed beef on gut health. Participants will get four free meals per week for 16 weeks and compensation up to \$220. For more information, visit redcap.link/HormelBeefStudy.

10,000 Families Study

The Hormel Institute is partnering with the [10,000 Families Study \(10KFS\)](#) of the University of Minnesota. 10KFS is a study of family health across Minnesota, looking at how environment, genetics, and daily life affect health and illness over time. We invite families from Mower County and broader Southeast Minnesota to join the study. Let's make sure our region is represented in this landmark project! Participants can come to The Hormel Institute for the in-person part of the study.



To find out if your family is eligible to join 10KFS, [click here](#). Questions? Email tenkfs@umn.edu.

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