The Hormel Institute and the Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biophysics at the University of Minnesota are thrilled to announce the appointment of Susan Hafenstein, PhD, as Director of the Cryo-Electron Microscopy (Cryo-EM) core program at The Hormel Institute and Professor of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Biophysics.

Dr. Hafenstein's extensive expertise and dynamic leadership will elevate the Institute's advancements in cutting-edge cryo-EM and cryo-electron tomography (cryo-ET) research. Cryo-EM technology allows researchers to see the structure of cells at a near-atomic level.

Dr. Hafenstein comes to The Hormel Institute from Penn State's Huck Institute of the Life Sciences, where she served as the Director for the Center of Structural Biology, Huck Chair of Structural Virology, and Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Learn more about Dr. Hafenstein

The Hormel Institute Scientist Receives Grant to Support Mission to Improve Immunotherapy Treatments for Solid Tumors

Vivek Verma, PhD, Assistant Professor and section leader of the Immunology, Cancer Immunotherapy and Immune Metabolism at The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota, is the recipient of a two-year, $200,000 grant from the Cancer Research Institute. The highly competitive Cancer Research Institute’s Clinical Laboratory Integration Program (CRI CLIP) grant will support Dr. Verma’s lab efforts to improve mitochondrial metabolism in immune cells to make immune checkpoint-based immunotherapy more effective in treating solid tumors.

“There are many therapeutic avenues that are being tried in clinics against solid tumors that include immune checkpoint inhibitors, adoptive cell therapy and chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) cell therapies, which are all susceptible to failure owing to exhaustion in immune cells. The present study is extremely important in advancing our understanding of the exhaustion mechanisms, and in developing strategies to reverse this exhaustion.” - Dr. Verma

Read more
The Hormel Institute Scientist Receives Additional Funding for Research that Could Lead to New Treatments for Several Rare Diseases

The Hormel Institute's Amer Alam, PhD, has been awarded an equipment supplement from the National Institutes of Health, the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. The $175,000 supplement will support Dr. Alam's R01 grant titled "Molecular basis of fatty acid transport by peroxisomal ABC transposers."

Read more about Dr. Alam's research

The Hormel Institute Hosts Research Symposium

The Hormel Institute Symposium was held August 2-3. The symposium highlighted existing and future partnerships between The Hormel Institute, our collaborators at the University of Minnesota, and Mayo Clinic.

At the symposium, Dr. Carol Lange, Associate Director for Basic Sciences at the Masonic Cancer Center, UMN moderated a panel discussion called "Vision for the Future." The panelists were Dr. Robert Clarke, Executive Director of The Hormel Institute; Dr. Brian Buhr, Dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, UMN; Dr. Shashank Priya, Vice President of Research, Office of the Vice President for Research, UMN; and Dr. Y.S. Prakash, Associate Dean for Research, Midwest, Mayo Clinic, Rochester.

During the symposium, The Hormel Institute's Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) interns participated in a panel discussion and poster session highlighting what they learned during their 10-week internship. Congratulations SURE interns, and thank you for all of your hard work over the summer!

Are you a former SURE intern? We want to hear from you! Our goal is to maintain and strengthen relationships between SURE interns and The Hormel Institute faculty and staff, even after your internship is done. To stay connected, click here.

To see more photos from The Hormel Institute Symposium, click here.
The Hormel Institute Receives Lamp of Knowledge Award

The Hormel Institute is the recipient of the Lamp of Knowledge Award. The award is a partnership between the Greater Rochester Advocates for Universities and Colleges (GRAUC) and is given to an individual, business, or organization associated with the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce that actively supports higher education partnerships in Southeastern Minnesota.

All of us at The Hormel Institute are honored to receive this award. It is a testament to our commitment to education and inspiring the next generation of scientists." - Kelly Vincelette, Community Outreach and Education Manager, The Hormel Institute

Learn more

SUPPORT

Karl's Tourney Raises $84,000 for Cancer Research at The Hormel Institute

Karl's Tourney raised $84,000 for Wilms' Tumor research at The Hormel Institute. Thank you to The Karl Potach Foundation and everyone who participated in this event!

Cedar River Archery Club Raises $1500 for Paint the Town Pink

The Cedar River Archery Club raised $1500 at its first-ever Paint the Town Pink (PTTP) fundraiser! Thank you for supporting PTTP!

Upcoming Fundraisers Supporting The Hormel Institute

Blooming Prairie Cancer Auction
- September 8-9
- Under the big tent outside the Cue Company in
**Thank You PTTP Golf Cart Volunteers**

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to drive the Paint the Town Pink Golf Carts at the Mower County Fair!

Every dollar counts, because 100% of your donation goes directly to cancer and biomedical research. Today's RESEARCH, Tomorrow's CURES.

**Thank You Donors!**

[DONATE NOW]

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**COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION**

**The Hormel Institute at the Minnesota State Fair**

On August 24, The Hormel Institute had two booths at the Minnesota State Fair. Fairgoers were able to learn about skin cancer prevention and participate in hands-on STEM activities. **Thank you to everyone who visited us at the Minnesota State Fair!**

**THRIVE Cancer Survivorship Class Series**
This fall, The Hormel Institute will be broadcasting the Masonic Cancer Center's THRIVE Cancer Survivorship Class Series. Participants will watch the virtual program and participate in a hands-on activity while enjoying light refreshments and socializing with others.

- Tuesday, October 3, 6:00pm: Supplements & Nutrition
- Tuesday, October 17, 6:00pm: Trauma & Mental Health
- Tuesday, October 24, 6:00pm: Finding Joy in Nature
- Tuesday, November 14, 6:00pm: Caregivers

All sessions are free and those who attend in person will have the chance to win a door prize. To register for the THRIVE Cancer Survivorship Series, click here. Can't join in person? To register to attend virtually, click here.

Stay Healthy with The Hormel Institute's Clinical Research and Outreach Nurse: National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Although it is a hard topic to talk about, suicide is a major public health concern and a leading cause of death in the United States. More than 45,900 people die by suicide each year in the U.S. and it is the 12th leading cause of death overall. Suicide is complicated and tragic, but it is often preventable.

- The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) is a wonderful resource for all things mental health-related. Click here to view NIMH's frequently asked questions about suicide.
- If you or someone you know is in crisis, please call or text the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988 or chat at 988lifeline.org. The Lifeline provides free and confidential support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. Call 911 in life-threatening situations.
- If you are interested in learning more about clinical trials being conducted on many different types of mental health diagnoses, click here.

Emily Health, RN BSN, Clinical Research and Outreach Nurse, The Hormel Institute

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**CLINICAL TRIALS**

**Participants Needed for Clinical Trials**

**10,000 Families Study**

The Hormel Institute is partnering with the University of Minnesota for the 10,000 Families Study (10KFS). 10KFS is a study of family health across Minnesota looking at how environment, genetics, and daily life affect health and illness over time.
Two Drink Study

The Hormel Institute is in need of participants for the Two Drink Study. The goal of this research is to determine if consuming one of the two study drinks will help enhance the detoxification of multiple environmental toxicants and cancer-causing agents. There is compensation for participants of up to $690 if all parts of the study are completed. To learn more, click here or scan the QR code to the right.