Community-Funded Internal Grants Program Awards $440,000 for The Hormel Institute Research Projects

$440,000 is being awarded to scientists at The Hormel Institute to support their biomedical research projects through the Internal Grants Program. These grants are made possible thanks to fundraisers such as Paint the Town Pink, Eagles Cancer Telethon, Karl's Tourney/Karl Potach Foundation, Bowling for the Battle, and many others.

Paint the Town Pink Awards
- Vijay Reddy, PhD: $50,000 for "Generation of nanoparticle-based vaccines against HER2-positive breast cancers"
- Tianshun Zhang, PhD: $50,000 for "Role of CD70 in solar UV-induced skin damage, immune response, and photocarcinogenesis"
- Surojeet Sengupta, PhD: $50,000 for "Understanding metabolic adaptions in TCA cycle and mitochondrial electron transport chain in endocrine therapy-resistant breast cancer"
- Luke Hoeppner, PhD: $50,000 for "Targeting primary cilia to prevent kinase inhibitor resistance in lung cancer"

Eagles Telethon Postdoctoral Fellowships
- Auripita Shah, Ph.D., and Dong Wang: $60,000 each ($120,000 total) for team project "Mechanism of CMTM6 regulation of colorectal liver metastasis"
- Seyedehsahar Mortazavifarsani, PhD, and Melike Ozgul-Onal, PhD: $60,000 each ($120,000 total) for team project "Targeting mitochondrial metabolism in CD8 T cell enhancement of anti-PD1 therapy response in melanoma and breast cancer"

"This is an exciting announcement for all of us when we get to share with the community what they make happen. Without these dollars, this research would not be possible. We congratulate the scientists and truly thank all who work so hard and give so generously." - Gail Dennison, Director of Development and External Relations, The Hormel Institute

Read more here

The Hormel Institute Scientists Author Invited Review on Links Between Social Isolation and Breast Cancer

An invited review co-authored by The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota’s Leena Hilakivi-Clarke, PhD, Professor of Food Science and Nutrition, and Fabia De Oliveira Andrade, MSc, PhD, was recently published in Endocrinology (Oxford University Press). The paper examines the connections among social isolation, stress, microbiota composition
It is still not clear how social isolation promotes diseases such as breast cancer, but it is known that social isolation can affect many signals in the body, such as the release of stress hormones which then cause inflammation and impair cellular metabolism. The most interesting and recent evidence is that stress also affects the gut microbiota and the resulting gut dysbiosis can be the main mediator of social isolation in impairing human health.” - Dr. Fabia De Oliveira Andrade

“Because social isolation may affect breast cancer mainly by altering gut microbiota, attempting to restore the balance of the gut microbiota might be a potential strategy to prevent breast cancer and reduce mortality.” - Dr. Leena Hilakivi-Clarke

The Hormel Institute Hosts the Viral Vector Core Consortium Workshop

The Hormel Institute hosted the Viral Vector Core Consortium Workshop on September 22. Academic experts and industry leaders from across the country gathered to share progress and explore opportunities for future collaborations that could accelerate the transition of life-changing genetic treatments from bench to bedside.

“Viral vectors have a proven record of being effective for the treatment of a variety of genetic diseases and cancers. They can deliver healthy copies of dysfunctional genes and restore normal function of cells and tissues.” - George Aslanidi, PhD, The Hormel Institute

Meet Our Scientists: The Hormel Institute’s First Cryo-EM Core Program Director Explores Uncharted Territory at the Microscopic Level
Dr. Hafenstein stepped to the helm as The Hormel Institute’s first Director of the Cryo-Electron Microscopy (Cryo-EM) core program and Professor of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Biophysics in August. Dr. Hafenstein’s hiring marks a new phase for The Hormel Institute as she joins our robust team of researchers to embark on new territory in establishing the Minnesota Bioimaging Center (MBiC), a project that involves expanding The Hormel Institute’s current cryo-EM and cryo-ET capabilities to be of greater use to researchers within the Institute and across the Midwest region.

Read more about Dr. Hafenstein and her groundbreaking research

The Hormel Institute Scientist Receives Additional Funding for Research That Could Lead to New Treatments for Bile Duct Cancer and Other Biliary Diseases

The Hormel Institute's Sergio Gradilone, PhD, has been awarded a $163,000 supplement from the National Institutes of Health. The funding will support Dr. Gradilone's R01 grant titled “Primary Cilia Loss in Bile Duct Cells – the Interplay with the Autophagy Machinery.”

The NIH supplement is offered with the goals of increasing and promoting diversity in health-related research, and to promote career development for recipients.

Read more about Dr. Gradilone's research

The Hormel Institute Scientist Presenting at Global Ethanol Summit

The Hormel Institute's Leena Hilakivi-Clarke, PhD, will present at the US Grains Council Global Ethanol Summit on October 16. She will present early results of a biofuels research project The Hormel Institute is leading, in collaboration with researchers from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and Energy Resources Center at University of Illinois, Chicago.

SUPPORT

9th Annual Hunt for a Cure

The 9th Annual Hunt for a Cure will be held on October 7. All proceeds benefit cancer
When: Saturday, October 7 at 8:00am
Where: Three Arrows Hunting Preserves, 78590 125th Street, LeRoy, MN
Details:
- $150 registration fee per person. Payment is required on the day of the event.
- 4 birds released per participant
- Participants may bring their own dogs
- Participants will be assigned to hunt a 2-hour window
- Dress for the weather
- Hunters and others walking in the field MUST wear blaze orange (Both a cap and vest are recommended)
- Bring a 12 or 20-gauge shotgun with a working safety and your own shells
- A parent or guardian MUST accompany hunters 12 to 16 years of age

The Hormel Institute Scientist Presents for Local Organization

The Hormel Institute's Annie Lin, PhD, presented to the Austin Noon Lions in September. She shared her talk called "Selecting Foods to Fit You: Using Science to Throw Away Food Rules."

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

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION

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.
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 Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In this blog, Clinical Research and Outreach Nurse Emily Health breaks down the idea of "pinkwashing," how The Hormel Institute is helping in the fight against breast cancer, and what you can do to protect yourself from the disease.

"At The Hormel Institute, we understand that National Breast Cancer Awareness Month means different things to different people. Some want to celebrate in head-to-toe pink, while others feel unseen, and still others may quietly observe the month. We want those affected to know that we support all ways of observance, and we are doing everything we can to continue inspiring discoveries that improve and extend human life." - Emily Health, Clinical Research and Outreach Nurse, The Hormel Institute

Read more

CLINICAL STUDIES

Blog: How Clinical Research at The Hormel Institute Benefits Rural Minnesota

Clinical research helps us understand what keeps humans healthy and what factors may contribute to illness or disease. Findings from clinical research can help people make more informed decisions to protect their health and lead to safe, effective treatment or preventative measures when illness or injury arise.
The Hormel Institute currently has three clinical studies underway. Read our blog to find out what each one involves, how you can get involved, and why including rural Minnesota in clinical research matters.

**Participants Needed for Clinical Studies**

**Smoking & Alcohol Research Study**

The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota is in search of participants for the Smoking & Alcohol research study. The goal of this research is to identify specific types of DNA damage that might be caused by smoking cigarettes and drinking alcohol. Participants may be compensated up to $175 if all parts of the study are completed. To learn more, click here or scan the QR code to the right.

**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.

Want to see if your family is eligible to join 10KFS? Click here. Questions? Email tenkfs@umn.edu.