

The Hormel Institute

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



RESEARCH

Study Published by The Hormel Institute Scientists Could Offer Solution for Reawakening Immune System Responses to Inhibit Cancer Progression

Robert Clarke, PhD, Executive Director and Professor, and Lu Jin, MS, Researcher at The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota, have co-authored a paper recently published in the journal *ACS Nano*.

The paper, “Iron oxide nanoparticles inhibit tumor progression and suppress lung metastases in mouse models of breast cancer,” details the findings of a study exploring how interactions between immune cells and certain nanoparticles can trigger immune system responses that effectively fight off cancer cells, limiting cancer spread, and potentially extending survival.



Robert Clarke, PhD

[Read more](#)

The Hormel Institute's Susan Hafenstein, PhD, Receives \$85K Grant to Study Hepatitis E

Susan Hafenstein, PhD, Professor and CryoEM Director at The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota, is the recipient of a six-month, \$85,000 grant from Nationwide Children’s Hospital (National Institutes of Health).

This support will enable the Hafenstein lab to use cryo-electron microscopy (cryoEM) and tomography (cryoET) to study the structure and functions of the hepatitis E virus (HEV). The research supported by this grant intends to pave the way toward more effective treatments and preventative measures. CryoEM and cryoET studies at The Hormel Institute will allow the researchers to map and study the structure of HEV at the near-atomic level.



Susan Hafenstein, PhD

[Read more](#)



NEWS

Governor Walz Visits The Hormel Institute



Governor Tim Walz visited The Hormel Institute on April 25 to meet with local leaders and learn of the Institute’s recent progress in groundbreaking biomedical and agricultural research and its expanding education and outreach initiatives. Austin community leaders and the leadership team for The Hormel Institute’s Minnesota Bioimaging Center (MBiC) joined a midday meeting to ask for Gov. Walz’s support for the MBiC project, which advances both of these causes. Gov. Walz has been a strong advocate for The Hormel Institute, including by supporting its major expansions in 2008 and 2016 and securing over \$2M for technology acquisitions when he was a U.S. representative.

The MBiC project will expand The Hormel Institute’s advanced bioimaging capabilities, provide high-demand biomedical workforce training for researchers, and establish a STEM education laboratory serving students from K-12 up to the graduate level—and their teachers—to create a pipeline of Minnesota-raised, Minnesota-trained researchers and innovators.

[Read more](#)

Austin Port Authority, Minnesota Legislators, and The Hormel Institute Members Hold Press Conference for Minnesota Bioimaging Center at State Capitol

Austin Port Authority, Minnesota state legislators, and members from The Hormel Institute held a press conference at the State Capitol to share awareness and support for the Minnesota Bioimaging Center (MBiC) in the state’s 2024 bonding bill. The project will expand The Hormel Institute’s current bioimaging capabilities and provide STEM education and workforce training opportunities to accelerate scientific discoveries in Minnesota that will have lasting, far-reaching impacts.



[Read more](#)

Minnesota Agriculture & Rural Leadership Group Visits

The Hormel Institute

Minnesota Agriculture & Rural Leadership (MARL) group visited The Hormel Institute. MARL is comprised of agricultural leaders from throughout Minnesota. The group, led by Executive Director Brad Scholesser and Kristin Mach, learned about the Institute's cancer, biomedical, and food science research and their connections to agriculture and human health, as well as the emerging Minnesota Bioimaging Center (MBiC) onsite with the only cryoEM technology in the state.



The Hormel Institute Featured on John McGivern's Main Streets

The latest episode of the PBS show [John McGivern's Main Streets](#) showcases everything Austin has to offer - including The Hormel Institute! Check out [this episode](#) to learn more about our unique history, cutting-edge technology, and cancer research!



SUPPORT

Thank You, Donors!



The VFW pool and dart tournaments raised \$5000 for cancer research at The Hormel Institute.

Pictured: The Hormel Institute's Daneka Wiechmann and the VFW's Axel Hansen



Shooters for Hooters trap shooting event raised \$6500 for cancer research at The Hormel Institute.

Pictured: Event organizers Joe and Mike Walerak



Students at IJ Holton Intermediate School held "penny wars" and raised \$3200 for cancer research at The Hormel Institute.



The Mower County Board of Directors raised \$20,000 for cancer research at The Hormel Institute.

Pictured: Renee Wangen, Julie Hendrikson, Denise Schneider, Randy Feuring, Dale Stark, The Hormel Institute's Dr. Kayum Alam, Russ Slowinski, Doug Jax, and Lasha Bungum

DONATE NOW



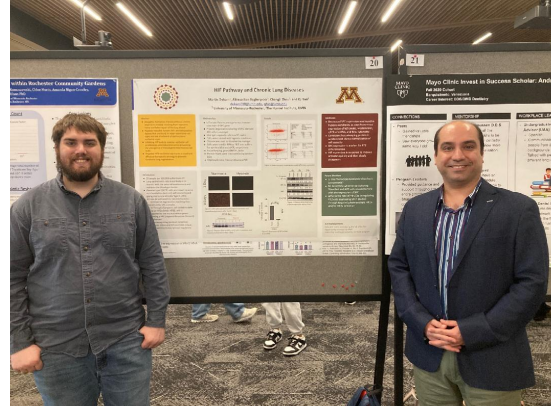
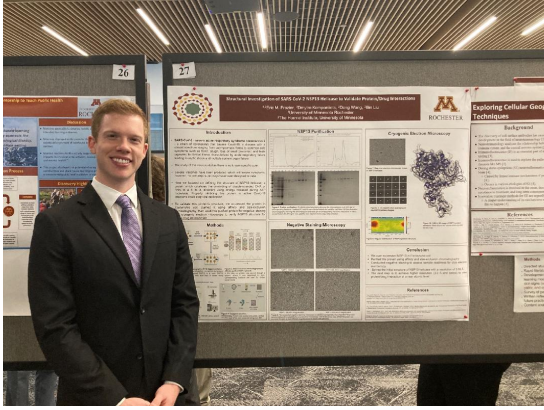
COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION

The Hormel Institute's Community Outreach & Education Department Receives Future Forward Impact Grant

The Hormel Institute's Community Outreach & Education Manager, Kelly Vincelette, M.Ed., has received a \$25,000 award from the Southeast Service Cooperative. The Future Forward Impact Grant will fund the study, "Lending Library and Teacher Externship." The funds will support Southeastern Minnesota Teacher Externships, curriculum development tied to The Hormel Institute research, and provide materials for statewide school districts to incorporate real research projects and techniques from the Institute into their classrooms. This grant will contribute to expanding the impact of generous donations made to The Hormel Institute's [Education Fund](#).



STEP Interns Present at UMR Symposium



The Hormel Institute's Student Training Experience Program (STEP) interns completed their program and presented what they learned at the 14th Annual University of Minnesota Rochester (UMR) Research and Education Symposium. STEP partners with UMR students who intern for up to three consecutive semesters at The Hormel Institute. [Learn more about STEP.](#)

The Hormel Institute in the Community



The Hormel Institute participated in the Hometown Food Security Project's "A Work of Art" event. The Hormel Institute offered a food-focused craft project for kids.



The Hormel Institute teamed up with the Austin Public Library for Science Saturday. Attendees had the opportunity to interact with a scientist and engage in hands-on science experiments.

Visit 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



Save the Date: Discover Science Together

Mark your calendar for The Hormel Institute's Discover Science Together!

When: Saturday, June 15 from 9:00 am-Noon

Where: The Hormel Institute, 801 18th Avenue NE, Austin

Go "Strollin' Through the Colon" to learn about colorectal cancer prevention, participate in hands-on science activities and experiments, and watch presentations from scientists. **This event is free and open to all ages!**



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

[DONATE NOW](#)

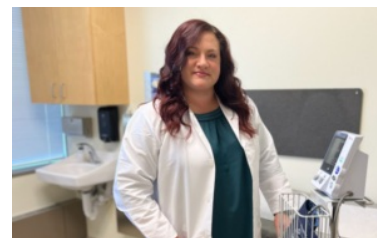
Blog: Reducing Cancer Disparities Among Asian American and Pacific Islander Populations



May is [Asian American and Pacific Islander \(AAPI\) Heritage Month](#), which celebrates the histories of Americans from across the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of **Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia**. While generally speaking, Asian Americans experience lower cancer rates when compared to the non-Hispanic White population in the United States, there are [cancer disparities](#) for certain types of cancer and among certain AAPI subgroups.

In recognition of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, The Hormel Institute's Clinical Research and Outreach Lead Emily Heath explores specific cancer risks for AAPI individuals and steps that may help reduce existing disparities.

[Read more](#)

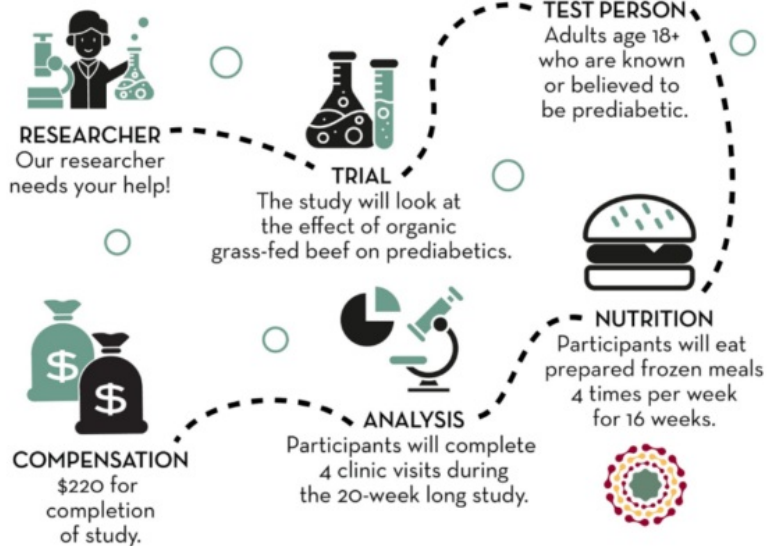


CLINICAL STUDIES

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.

The Hormel Institute UMN | www.hi.umn.edu



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