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# The Hormel Institute

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## UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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### RESEARCH

#### **The Hormel Institute Scientist Luke Hoepfner, PhD, Receives \$50K Award From American Cancer Society**

Luke Hoepfner, PhD, Associate Professor at The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota, is the recipient of a \$50,000 supplemental award from the American Cancer Society (ACS). The award will support small cell lung cancer research connected to the Hoepfner lab's currently funded ACS Research Scholar Grant of more than \$780,000 that was awarded for a four-year period beginning in 2021.



The research has the potential to pave the way for new treatment options for small cell lung cancer, one of the deadliest lung cancer subtypes.

"Standard therapy for SCLC patients has not substantially improved since the introduction of chemotherapeutic agents over 30 years ago because oncogenic drivers remain poorly understood," said Dr. Luke Hoepfner. "Recent advances in immunotherapy have proven effective against some types of SCLC, but immunotherapy is not effective in many cases of SCLC. New strategies to treat small cell lung cancer are urgently needed."

[Read full article here](#)



### NEWS

#### **The Hormel Institute's and Mower County Public Health Launch New "Wellness on Wheels" Program**

Wellness on Wheels, a new program offered by The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota, and Mower County Public Health, held its first event in Grand Meadow on June 25.

Wellness on Wheels will offer free preventative health screenings and other vital information and resources to rural Mower County communities on a monthly rotating basis.

"For many people, it is hard to find the time or the money to go to the doctor when they are sick, let alone make time for preventative screenings. The NIH has estimated that only 8% of adults in the U.S. undergo routine preventative screenings," said Clinical Research and Outreach Lead Emily Heath. "We want to eliminate as many barriers as possible for people to get these important screenings."



On July 23, Wellness on Wheels will make its way to Adams. To stay up to date on Wellness on Wheels dates and locations, visit [hi.umn.edu/community-events](http://hi.umn.edu/community-events).



## SUPPORT



### Hormel Family Visit

Jimmy & Jana Hormel toured The Hormel Institute and learned about current and future research, education, and community outreach efforts. It was truly thrilling to share the legacy of research Jay Hormel created by founding The Hormel Institute in 1942 with members of the Hormel family.

### Dutchtown Jumpers Golf Tournament

Thank you to the Dutchtown Jumpers and all who participated for a great day of golf raising funds to support Paint the Town Pink!



### Biofuels Research Project

Absolute Energy & American Coalition for Ethanol hosted a farmer meeting at The Hormel Institute and Gail Dennison presented on the ongoing Biofuels Research Project funded in part by the two organizations.



Gail Dennison also presented to an international group at the Iowa Corn Growers Association headquarters in Des Moines about the Biofuels Research Project and The HI.

**Thank You, Donors!**

[DONATE NOW](#)



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION

### Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) Interns Begin Internship at The Hormel Institute



#### **Attention, Past Hormel Institute Interns**

We want to continue to connect with our SURE interns after their time at The Hormel Institute. Our goal is to keep you connected with us and to help you maintain and strengthen your relationships with one another, as well as with current and prospective interns and with faculty/staff. We also want to know what our SURE intern Alumni are doing, from careers, family and more.

Our interns are a valued part of our family!

Stay connected: <https://z.umn.edu/HISUREConnect>

#### **Teacher Externship Program Begins**

Starting in June and going through July, The Hormel Institute Teacher Externship has commenced, with educators from Kasson-Mantorville, Lyle, and Austin Public Schools immersing themselves in cutting-edge scientific research and laboratory methodologies.

This initiative aims to empower teachers to integrate real-world applications into their classrooms. By program's end, participants will develop curriculum modules and establish a lending library to share their newfound knowledge statewide. This invaluable opportunity was made possible through the generous support of Paul and Joanne Worlein and a grant from Southeast Service Cooperative.

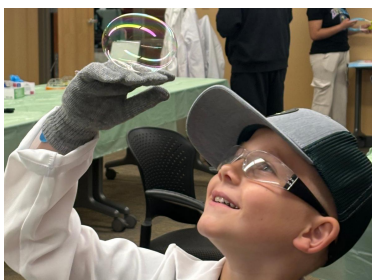
## New BioDiscovery High School Internship

Starting in June and throughout the month of July a new BioDiscovery High School Internship Program offers students a four-week immersive experience, working alongside researchers to gain hands-on knowledge and foster a passion for science.

Participants will contribute to ongoing research projects, experiencing the role of a lab member firsthand. This program is made possible by The Hormel Institute research labs, a donation from Paul and Joanne Worlein, a grant from Southeast Service Cooperative, Austin Aspires, and MN Workforce Development.



## The Hormel Institute in the Community



Discover Science Together

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Discover Science Together Day in June at The Hormel Institute and those who visited us at the 4th Ave Fest, where we shared information on cancer prevention and research studies.



### Gustavus and Hormel Institute Research Summit

On June 27th, The Hormel Institute hosted faculty and stakeholders from Gustavus for a research summit aimed at fostering collaborations for current and future programs. This meeting facilitated the exchange of ideas and strengthened partnerships between the faculties of both institutions.

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

[DONATE NOW](#)



## Blog: More on Wellness on Wheels

Preventative healthcare is a proactive approach to addressing health concerns before they become a problem. The goal is to increase the likelihood that people will stay healthy and well for as long as possible.

At The Hormel Institute, we not only want to inspire discoveries that improve and extend human life, we also want to reduce barriers and provide opportunities for our community to help extend their own lives.

The Hormel Institute has partnered with Mower County Public Health to create a new program called Wellness on Wheels. Thanks to grants from the Austin Area Foundation and the Mower Freeborn Cooperative, Wellness on Wheels is a service that offers free preventative health screenings to rural Mower County communities on a monthly rotating basis.

Let's talk more about why preventative health screenings are so important—and how they can have a big impact on your health. [Read the blog here.](#)



## CLINICAL STUDIES

### Participate in a Smoking & Alcohol Research Study

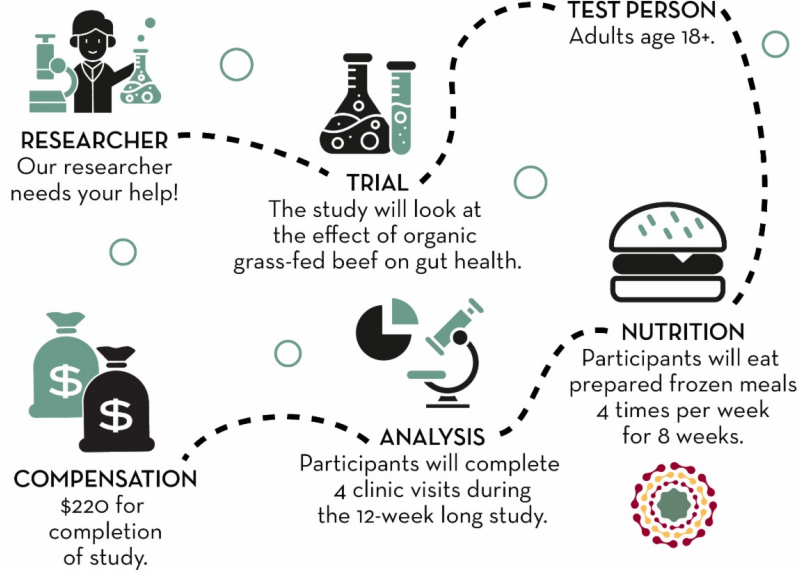


The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota is in search of participants for the Smoking & Alcohol research study. The goal of this research is to identify specific types of DNA damage that might be caused by smoking cigarettes and drinking alcohol. Participants may be compensated up to \$175 if all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

### Participate in a Dietary Study

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**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 12-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 8 weeks and compensation up to \$220. For more information, visit [redcap.link/HormelBeefStudy](https://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](mailto:tenkfs@umn.edu).

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The Hormel Institute | 801 16th Ave NE | Austin, MN 55912 US

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