

The Hormel Institute

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



Paint the Town Pink Continues in February and March

Paint the Town Pink officially kicked off in January during the Austin Area Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours event at The Hormel Institute and was co-hosted by Hy Vee. In addition to getting the area excited to participate in fun events that all help raise money for cancer research at the Institute, it was also a chance to introduce this year's Paint the Town Pink Ambassador, Breanna Bortner. That was just the start, because January also saw dozens of people take a frigid dip in East Side Lake during Plunging for Pink.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support all of the fun and important events. Keep checking Paint the Town Pink for photos and information on upcoming events.

Feb. 6: Austin Bruins Black & Gold Gala
Feb. 7 and 8: Toss for a Cure
Feb. 8: Shooters for Hooters
Feb. 8: Austin Bruins Paint the Rink Pink
Feb. 15: Fishing for A Cure
Feb. 22: VFW Dart Tournament
March 8: Smashing Cancer Demo Derby
March 15: VFW Pool Tournament



Breanna Bortner, 2025 PTPP Ambassador



Disguising Vaccines for Better Delivery

Associate Professor Vijay Reddy, PhD, at The Hormel Institute has a new publication in the

journal *Nature Communications* titled *Structure-derived insights from blood factors binding to the surfaces of different adenoviruses.* His research team's findings could have implications for improving vaccine delivery and efficacy in patients.

Adenoviruses (Ads) are pathogens that evade their host's immune system by fashioning a disguise for themselves, cloaking themselves in proteins belonging to the host that allows them to fly under the immune radar.

Using cryoEM technology, Reddy and his team studied the locations, structural characteristics, and interactions between blood coagulation proteins and different Ads.



Leaders from Austin and Minnesota Visit The Hormel Institute

January saw Leadership Austin and the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Leadership Minnesota tour the Institute to learn about the Institute's history with Hormel Foods, the cryoEM facility, clinical studies, upcoming initiatives, and ongoing research. Executive

Director Dr. Robert Clarke welcomed the groups and Dr. Eric Rahrman shared his lab's work related to better understanding metastasis.



Community Soars During Eagles Cancer Telethon

On January 18, the Eagles Cancer Telethon took flight for the 71st year of raising money for cancer research. It was a nonstop weekend of local talent, collective giving, and support, all brought to you live from the Rochester Mayo Civic Center by KTTC. On the opening night of the telethon, Brett Carlson, executive director of the Eagles Cancer Telethon, presented The Hormel Institute, the Masonic Cancer Center, and Mayo Clinic with a check totaling \$870,000 that was raised during last year's event. We are grateful for this support from the community, including Lyle Area Cancer and the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group who show that small towns are mighty.



Meet Us at the Ice

The Community Outreach and Education team from The Hormel Institute will be at the Austin Bruins game on Friday, February 28, starting at 6 p.m., and it's your chance to stop by our Study Recruitment Booth and see how you can get involved in advancing science and improving health outcomes.



Supporting STEM for All Ages

The Community Outreach and Education team was busy last month reaching out and bringing people into the amazing world of STEM at The Hormel Institute.

This year's class of Young Scientists includes 37 6th-8th graders from Austin Public Schools, and they stopped by the Institute to conduct experiments, visit laboratories, and learn how, when you've got science on your side, anything is possible. The Medical Detectives (6th graders from IJ Holton Intermediate School and Kasson-Mantorville Public Schools) also came by to extract DNA, learn about germ transmission, and made a delicious discovery by using liquid nitrogen to make ice cream. Both programs are made possible by the generous donations of Paul and Joanne Worlein.

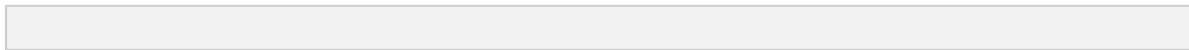
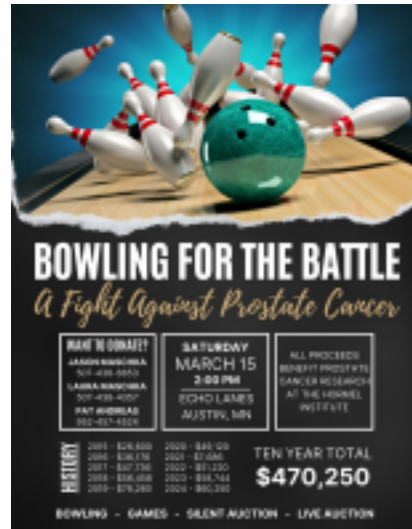
We didn't forget about the older students. In between hosting on-campus visits at Saint Mary's University, Winona, Winona State University, and University of Minnesota Rochester to promote our college-level SURE and PACE programs, 20 students from Riverland Community College's Chemistry 2 course took a tour of the Institute and received some career advice from Associate Professor Bin Liu and Assistant Professor Eric Rahrman.

On January 18, curious minds of all ages came to the Austin Public Library for Science Saturdays. Kayum Alam, PhD, showed participants how to create a "snowstorm in a glass" and explained the chemistry behind it.



Bowling for the Battle Returns in March

Now in its 10th year, “Bowling for the Battle” returns on Saturday, March 15, at Echo Lanes in Austin. This annual event helps raise money for prostate cancer research at The Hormel Institute. In addition to bowling, there will be a silent and live auction. For more information, call Jason Maschka at 507-438-6653.

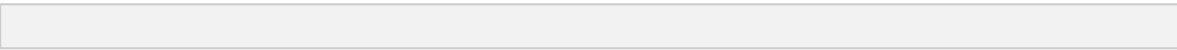


Be

a Part of the 10,000 Families Study

Representation matters, especially when it comes to improving the health of southeastern Minnesotans. That’s why The Hormel Institute partnered with the University of Minnesota’s 10,000 Families Study. This study looks at how genetics, daily life, and the environment affect family health and illness over time. Our partnership with this study means participants can avoid a trip to the Twin Cities and instead participate right here at the Institute. Visit [10,000 Families Study](#) to learn more, see if you and your family are eligible, and to sign up.

More Clinical Studies at The Hormel Institute



Paid Professional Development Through M-ASCEND

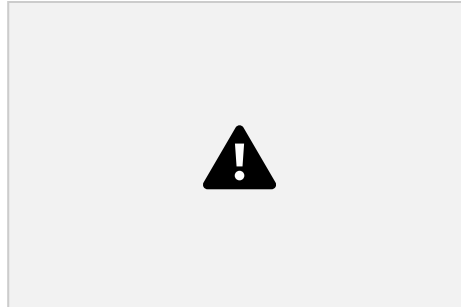
The Masonic Cancer Center at the University of Minnesota invites Minnesota public high school teachers to participate in the [M-ASCEND](#) program. This paid professional development program gives teachers the resources they need to develop curriculums related to cancer biology, local health care, and STEM careers. In addition to the new knowledge, successful applicants will receive a \$3,000 stipend. The application period closes February 24.

Apply to M-ASCEND

Blog: Easier HPV Testing Prevents Cervical Cancer

Last year, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved new uses for Human Papillomavirus (HPV) self-testing kits. For the first time, patients can now collect their own samples for testing in a healthcare setting if a doctor cannot collect a cervical sample. This decision makes it easier for more people to get tested and is a huge step toward increasing

cervical cancer screening rates. [Learn more about HPV Testing Kits](#)



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