Congressman Ron Kind visits Spring Point Project Islet Resource Facility and promised government support.

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Spring Point Project Scores At 12th Annual Golf Classic "Fore" Diabetes Research

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The Golf Classic “Fore” Diabetes Research is spearheaded each year by the Salmen Family and has been a significant fundraiser for Dr. David Sutherland and the Diabetes Institute for Immunology and Transplantation (DIIT), at the University of Minnesota Medical School. Over $5 million has been raised throughout the past decade, providing direct support to DIIT.

As part of our partnership with the University, Spring Point is now sharing in the work associated with ongoing research and running this amazing golf outing and will share in the proceeds raised at the event. Our goal is to elevate the financial support received to an even higher level and to make the Golf Classic “Fore” Diabetes Research the premier diabetes fundraising event in the state of Minnesota.

This year’s auction raised over $400,000, all of which will go toward research to eliminate diabetes. Spring Point will receive 30 percent of this year’s proceeds. Our percentage will continue to grow in coming years.

Highlights from this year’s event included the participation of Jeff Passolt, news anchor at Fox 9 TV, and Patty Cartier, Tom Cartier, Matt Cartier, Michelle Cartier, Katie Sandstrom, and Cory Cartier enjoying the Eleven Who Care evening. On September 5, Tom was awarded the Eleven Who Care award from KARE 11, the NBC television affiliate in Minneapolis. Each year, KARE 11 honors 11 individuals who inspire change in our community. Over 1,000 people attended the event and many more watched the ceremony telecast live on KARE 11. During the telecast, KARE 11 gave honorees the opportunity to share their amazing stories. Tom shared the Spring Point story and by the end of the evening had everyone inspired to help find a cure.

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His Passion is Inspiring Thomas Cartier Receives 2007 Eleven Who Care Award

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Cure Moves Closer to Reality Spring Point Project and the University of Minnesota Sign Historic Agreement

In late July, a Master Research Collaboration Agreement was signed between Spring Point Project and the University of Minnesota. The agreement came at the conclusion of over 18 months of negotiation. It is believed to be a one-of-a-kind agreement providing the framework to construct many sub-agreements as the partnership progresses.

“I have been working closely with Dr. Hering and the Diabetes Institute for so many years, that to finally have all of our work memorialized in this agreement really shows how close we are to making this cure a reality,” said Tom Cartier, Chairman, Spring Point Project.

A key feature of the agreement includes the option, granted to Spring Point by the University of Minnesota, to enter into exclusive royalty bearing agreements on all the intellectual property necessary to commercialize the diabetes treatment. In return, Spring Point will need to meet several practical milestones. Commercial control of the treatment will ultimately allow Spring Point Project to ensure an abundant supply of reasonably priced islets is available in the shortest amount of time.

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Sponsor a Pig Fundraising Campaign Launch

We are excited to announce the launch of our Sponsor a Pig fundraising campaign. The campaign kicked off at the Spring Point Project reception at the Joint Transplantation Conference in Minneapolis.

Pa and Ann Ryan made our first pledge. The Ryans pledged to sponsor 20 pigs for one year. Thank you to the Ryans.

A Sponsor a Pig pledge form is included in this newsletter. We encourage you to help spread the hope for a cure by sponsoring a pig as a gift for the Holiday season.
Our toy of the month is our big plastic apples—
All of our pigs have curly tails.

All groups (old and young) still like to pig pile
Boy and girl pigs are now separated in
they love to play with them.

Asleep on him or her.
The larger pigs tries to get up with someone still
when sleeping. It is very amusing when one of
noses through the penning.

out into the isle daily so they can nuzzle
the two older groups. Each group is let
in-life animal studies); Pratima Bannal-Pakala (immunology), Balamarugan Appakalai (islet isolation), and Klearchos Papas (islet quality control).

The porcine islet transplantation studies started
last January, generously funded by a grant from the
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and new immunosuppressive protocols are now under
with testing with the first promising results.

The group met with the Food and Drug
Administration (FDA) regarding immunosuppression
and islet donation. The FDA provided helpful feedback
that is being used in the outline of our next studies.

Research results on pig islet cell quality control
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**Joint Transplantation Conference 2007**

**Report on Presentations, Symposia, Reception, Breakthroughs and More**

From September 15 through September 20, nearly 850 scientists and exhibitors from around the world converged on the Minneapolis Hyatt for the 2007 Transplantation Society Joint Conference. This was the first ever combined meeting of the three sections of the Transplantation Society including: the Cell Transplant Society (CTS), the International Pancreas and Islet Transplant Association (IPITA), and the International Xenotransplantation Association (IXA). This joint meeting was organized and presided over by joint conference president Dr. Hering, who facilitated the unprecedented sharing of ideas between these society sections.

**Presentations**

Presentations and topics discussed at the meeting included:
- New developments in human organ, cell and tissue transplantation
- Progress in xenotransplantation—the transplantation of animal cells, tissues, or organs into humans, to overcome the donor shortage beginning with islet transplants for diabetes.
- Progress in stem cell initiatives
- Major medical advances in immunosuppression— including innovative approaches in the prevention of rejection
- Ethics
- Genetic therapy
- Organ preservation
- Islet isolation
- The black market of human organs

**Symposia**

A highlight of the conference was the Diabetes Research and Wellness Foundation (DRWF) Symposium on Islet Replacement, featuring an excellent overview of the major advances toward producing readily available, safe, effective islets for transplantation. Spring Point was highlighted as a key to making the porcine donor animals available in the near future.

Also of note was a satellite symposium titled “Source Pigs for Xenotransplantation Trials,” chaired by Spring Point Project CEO Dr. Henk-Jan Schuurman. The symposium resulted in lively debate on the best way to produce designated pathogen-free animals.

**Reception**

Spring Point Project conducted a well-attended reception, entitled “Partners on the Shortest Path to the Cure.” The reception highlighted the partnership between the University of Minnesota, particularly the Diabetes Institute for Immunology and Transplantation, and Spring Point Project. The DRWF was acknowledged for its generous financial support.

Present and speaking in support of Dr. Hering and Spring Point Project were:
- Carl-Gustar Groth, MD, PhD—founding and honorary president, International Xenotransplantation Association; past president, Transplantation Society and the International Pancreas and Islet Transplantation Association
- David E. Sutherland, MD—director, Diabetes Institute for Immunology and Transplantation; pioneer in pancreas and islet transplantation
- Richard N. Pierson III, MD—president-elect, International Xenotransplantation Association

**Breakthroughs**

A gala dinner was presided over by Dr. John Najarian, former chief of surgery at the University of Minnesota, and a renowned pioneer in organ transplantation. The dinner, entitled “Esteemed Experts Exchange Epiphanies, Eurekas, and Euphorias Experienced in an Exuberant Era of Experimentation” was filled with fascinating stories about how far transplantation has come in a short period of time, and how close we are to eliminating the organ shortage.

**More**

The DRWF board members and trustees held their annual meeting at the conference and attended the DRWF Symposium on Islet Cell Replacement. The international board visited the DRWF Islet Resource Facility, giving Spring Point Project staff the opportunity to introduce the ongoing work in the facility to board members from Washington D.C., the United Kingdom, and France.

**The Pig Pen**

**Pig fun and antics**

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