

Spring Point Project Scores

At 12th Annual Golf Classic "Fore" Diabetes Research

Due to a tremendous summer downpour, this year's Golf Classic "Fore" Diabetes Research, held at the Town and Country Club in St. Paul on June 18, was almost a washout. However, right before the scheduled shotgun start, the rain stopped, the clouds parted and 150 golfers—aiming to win some great prizes donated by our tremendous supporters—took to the course.

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 \$3 million has been raised throughout the past decade, providing direct support to DIIT.



Pictured are Gina Wildey, David Sutherland, Brian Flanagan, Bernhard Hering, and Henk-Jan Schuurman.

As part of our partnership with the University, Spring Point is now sharing in the work associated with organizing 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 affair 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, as our honorary chair. A dinner, live auction and the usual fun betting and antics on the course were all part of this event.

Thank you to everyone who attended this year's event.

His Passion is Inspiring

Thomas Cartier Receives 2007 Eleven Who Care Award

Thomas Cartier's passion to end diabetes started when his son, Cory, was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. Shortly after that diagnosis, Tom established the Cartier Challenge to raise funds for the research being done through the partnership of the Diabetes Institute and Spring Point Project and to provide hope for a cure for, and prevention of, diabetes. Besides raising funds for research, Tom has inspired countless others to join him in his pursuit of a cure.

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.

The Spring Point Project Family extends our sincere congratulations. You can view the Eleven Who Care awards ceremony by clicking on the *Latest News and Video* section of our Web site at www.springpointproject.org.



Pictured from left to right: Justin Black, Andrea Cartier-Black, Patty Cartier, Tom Cartier, Matt Cartier, Michelle Cartier, Katie Sandstrom, and Cory Cartier enjoy the Eleven Who Care evening.

Progress Update

Diabetes Institute for Immunology and Transplantation (DIIT)

As of this newsletter:

- The DIIT team, led by Dr. Bernhard Hering, is complete and includes—Brian Flanagan, Melanie Graham (in-life animal studies), Pratima Bansal-Pakala (immunology), Balarugan 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 testing with the first promising results.
- The group met with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding immunosuppression and islet isolation. The FDA provided helpful feedback that is being used in the outline of our next studies.
- Research results on pig islet cell quality control and recent transplantation to nonhuman primates was well received at a presentation at the Joint Transplant Conference.

The Pig Pen

Pig fun and antics

- Boy and girl pigs are now separated in the two older groups. Each group is let out into the isle daily so they can nuzzle noses through the penning.
- All groups (old and young) still like to pig pile when sleeping. It is very amusing when one of the larger pigs tries to get up with someone still asleep on him or her.
- All of our pigs have curly tails.
- Our toy of the month is our big plastic apples—they love to play with them.

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



*Spring Point Reception Group at "Partners on the Shortest Path to the Cure."
Left to right—Richard N. Pierson III, MD;
Alwood Dokken; Carl-Gustav Groth, MD, PhD;
Tom Cartier; Marty Athmann;
Bernhard Hering, MD; Mack Traynor.*

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.



Pat Ryan and Dr. Bernhard Hering enjoy the Spring Point Project reception.

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-Gustav 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

- David K.C. Cooper, MD, PhD, FRCS—Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center; a pioneer in the field of xenotransplantation and editor of the scientific journal *Xenotransplantation*
- Camillo Ricordi, MD—famous for his advances in islet isolation technology
- Tom Cartier—Spring Point Project’s founder and president
- Pat Ryan—board member of Spring Point Project

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, Eureka’s, 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

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.



DRWF international Board and SPP Staff.



Mike Gretschel, Diane and John Alahouzos during DRWF Board IRF visit.

Jeffrey Dobbs

Jeffrey Dobbs, a generous and active Spring Point Project board member, sadly passed away Wednesday, October 24. Jeff was CEO and founder of Pro Staff, a professional staffing services company started in 1982. He joined the Spring Point Project's board of directors in March 2006. His substantial contributions and fundraising efforts have helped us continue to carry out the Spring Point mission and his constructive and productive comments as a member of our board were always highly appreciated. It was a gift to have been able to work together with Jeff, and he will be sincerely missed by the Spring Point Project family.



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

Pictured below from left to right: Mack Traynor, CFO, SPP; Adrienne Schucker, DVM, Director of Veterinary Medicine, SPP; David Schnitzler, Mayor, New Richmond, WI; Representative Ron Kind, WI 3rd District; Henk-Jan Schuurman, PhD, CEO, SPP; Jerry Brown, President, New Richmond Economic Development Corporation; Mark Aumann, Representative Ron Kind staff member; Jeff Holmquist, Editor, New Richmond News; Brad Pfaff, Representative Ron Kind staff member; Tom Spizzo, Director of Operations, SPP.



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.

This historic agreement also reinforces Spring Point's credibility in the eyes of the scientific community and potential donors. As a result, we are planning to launch a joint fundraising campaign to provide the capital necessary for the partnership to carry out its work.

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.

Pat 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.

