

## SpringPointProject.org

*Newly renovated. Better than ever.*

If you haven't logged on to [springpointproject.org](http://springpointproject.org) lately, check it out. You'll find a newly renovated Web site that maintains the great feel of our original site, while streamlining the way visitors access information about us or make a donation.

Log on and learn more about what's happening at Spring Point Project and the Diabetes Institute for Immunology and Transplantation and why our partnership is so vital and unique.

We'd like to thank the talented people at H.T. Klatzky & Associates and 801 Hosting and Design for all their help with this project and for a job well done.



## Pig Postings

from the Diabetes Research and Wellness Foundation Islet Resource Facility, home of Spring Point Project

- All of our animals are healthy and doing well.
- The first litters of the critical second-generation animals were born in the second quarter of this year—increasing our population 1.6 fold in only 40 days.
- Additional pregnancies have been confirmed, and when the pigs are delivered, we will be at full capacity.
- Thanks to the hard work of our staff, we continue to be on track to produce the animals needed for clinical trials slated to start in 2009.



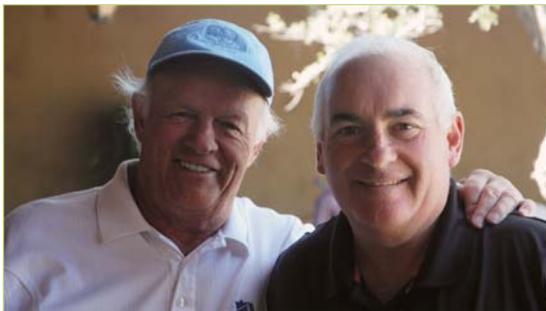
## News from DIIT (Diabetes Institute for Immunology and Transplantation)

Led by Dr. Bernhard Hering, the researchers at DIIT:

- Had a paper reporting prolonged insulin independence in people transplanted with human islets at the DIIT accepted for publication in the *American Journal of Transplantation*. Successful results using human islets provide a foundation to launch clinical trials in humans of “medical grade” pig islets provided by Spring Point Project.
- Continue to make significant progress in preventing rejection in pig islet-to-nonhuman primate pre-clinical trials. The goal of these trials is to generate the data needed to obtain FDA approval for a clinical trial involving the use of pig islets in humans.
- Have recruited a number of highly talented personnel to the porcine islet isolation and quality control teams accelerating the research needed to develop a cure for all people with type 1 diabetes.

### UMN-DIIT, Spring Point and Sanford Health Collaborate to Find a Cure!

A series of meetings were recently conducted between researchers and clinicians at Sanford Health, the University of Minnesota Diabetes Institute of Immunology and Transplantation (UMN-DIIT) and Spring Point Project. The meetings were held to determine how this collection of world-renowned experts might work together to advance their common goal of a world without diabetes. These meetings were made possible through a friendship between T. Denny Sanford and Tom Cartier, founder and chairman of Spring Point Project and a long-time supporter of UMN-DIIT.



*T. Denny Sanford and Tom Cartier*

“I am elated that Denny and I have been able to bring all of these tremendously talented and dedicated researchers together,” said Tom Cartier. “I’m even more excited that they have discovered approximately a dozen areas in which to collaborate.”

The first collaborative area is a series of education seminars conducted by UMN-DIIT scientists at Sanford Health. The seminars will educate diabetes care specialists on the progress being made in clinical trials currently underway at UMN-DIIT. The goal of these seminars is to recruit candidates for clinical trials currently underway in Human Islet Transplantation at UMN-DIIT and to identify qualified candidates for the Porcine Islet Transplantation Clinical Trials expected to start in 2009.

### Hutterian Brethren Riverside Colony Hosts Board of Directors

On June 11, 2008, the Hutterian Brethren Riverside Colony in South Dakota hosted our board of directors meeting. This very special place was the site of our first animal facility, the Riverside Multiplier Unit (RMU) founded nearly four years ago. Offspring of those first animals were brought to the Diabetes Research and Wellness Foundation (DRWF) Islet Resource Facility, where they were bred and maintained to serve as donors for transplantation.



*Riverside Colony choir performs at BBQ get-together*

The board had a successful and productive meeting celebrating our recent progress in pig production. Members were also treated to a tour of the Colony, the RMU and a social get-together including songs by the Colony choir and a barbecue.

The board went home after a very productive day and were most grateful to their hosts at the Colony for the warm welcome.



*Board members, staff, and their spouses enjoy the day*



*Spring Point Project board members and Minneapolis staff visit the RMU*

## Meet Brandon Decker

Brandon Decker is an animal care technician at Riverside Multiplier Unit (RMU). He is our lone South Dakota employee and spends his day maintaining and expanding the herd that is so vital to our mission.

When he's not with the pigs, he enjoys spending as much time as possible with his wife Katie and their two horses, two dogs and one cat. He also likes channel surfing for the latest sporting event and is a walking Sports Center. He is a devoted Twins, Vikings and Celtics fan and likes watching NASCAR's Jimmie Johnson.

Brandon doesn't spend all of his time watching sports. He also enjoys participating in as many as possible and is an avid hunter eagerly waiting for the beginning of South Dakota's hunting season.

Brandon's favorite things:

- Food:** Meat (beef or pork)
- Athlete:** Tim Tebow (University of Florida quarterback)
- College Team:** North Carolina Tar Heels



*Brandon Decker  
Animal Care Technician*

## Hogs Raising Money for Hogs

### *15th Annual Diabetes Memorial Ride*

Thanks go out to the organizers of the Annual Diabetes Memorial Ride who decided to partner with Spring Point Project this year to help raise money for a cure. This past June, a group of 200—mostly Harley-Davidson riders and their friends—took to the road for a daylong ride that raised more than \$6,000 for Spring Point Project.

Each year the group rides to honor the memory of Dan Glumac and Tom Gillen, two young Duluth, Minnesota men who died suddenly from complications of diabetes. The group's mission is to generate awareness about the killer that is diabetes and to raise money to research a cure.



Ride organizers were excited to learn about Spring Point Project's promising research, which dovetailed with their goals. They also couldn't help but like the idea of hogs—slang for the rumbling bikes—raising money for hogs of the four-legged type.

THANKS HOGS!



*Riders take to the road for a cure*

## In Honor of Jeff Dobbs

### *Dobbs-Sutherland Diabetes Research Chair*

*(The following article appeared in the Fall 2008 issue of Discoveries in Diabetes, published by the Minnesota Medical Foundation.)*

Jeff Dobbs had been enthralled by golf since his childhood days of hitting balls with his dad in the backyard of their New Hope, Minnesota home. As an avid sportsman, the robust and enterprising father of four also loved helicopter skiing, fishing, coaching his children's soccer teams, and driving racecars.



*John Smith, Tom Cartier, Jeff Passolt, Pat Ryan, Tim Clark*

When he was diagnosed at age 35 with type 1 diabetes, he battled its effects but still tried to keep the disease from interfering with the activities he loved.

"He would tell the people he was on a trip with about his diabetes, in case he needed help," says his wife, Kay. "But it was something he didn't share with everyone."

And, Jeff Dobbs was captivated by the idea of pushing diabetes research forward.



*Jennifer Dobbs*

"He was really passionate about trying to find a cure," says his 19-year-old daughter Jennifer. "Not for himself, but for us, his kids, and for people in the future."

In the mid-1990s, as friends batted around the idea of creating an annual diabetes fundraising golf tournament, Dobbs stepped in with characteristic vigor. Through ProStaff, a



*"Got Islets" volunteers*

Minneapolis-based temporary staffing company he started from scratch, he underwrote the expenses of the University of Minnesota's first Golf Classic "for" Diabetes Research in 1996. His quiet gesture ensured that all money raised could go directly to studies focused on eliminating the disease.

The annual tournament he ushered in has become a mainstay and a critical source of funding for the University of Minnesota's Diabetes Institute for Immunology and Transplantation (DIIT). In its twelve years of existence, the tournament has raised more than \$2.5 million for studies at the DIIT.



*Paul Mahmood and David Sutherland*

At this year's event, which took place on June 16, the early-bird round of the tournament had a special meaning. Dubbed "Jeff's Derby," the round was reserved for more than 120 of Jeff's family and friends.

Jeff Dobbs died in October 2007 at the age of 51. The Institute that he supported with such enthusiasm recently honored his longtime commitment to raising

money for diabetes research by renaming the endowed chair held by pioneering physician-scientist David E.R. Sutherland, head of the Transplant Division in the University's Department of Surgery and director of the DIIT. Historically called the Golf Classic "fore" Diabetes Research Chair, it will now be called the Jeffrey Dobbs and David E.R. Sutherland Diabetes Research Chair.

Kay Dobbs is certain that her husband would have been astounded by the personal recognition.



*Dr. Selwyn Vickers, chair of the UMN department of surgery, and Dr. David Sutherland*



*Jack and Joan Barrett, Ann and Pat Ryan*

"He was just very excited by the possibilities he saw happening at the Institute and was impressed with the dedication of the doctors," says Kay. "He was motivated to do everything he could to bring about a cure."

To make a gift to the Dobbs-Sutherland Diabetes Research Chair, visit [www.mmf.umn.edu/give/diabetes](http://www.mmf.umn.edu/give/diabetes) or contact Jean Gorell at 612-625-0497 or [j.gorell@mmf.umn.edu](mailto:j.gorell@mmf.umn.edu).

## Save the Date

June 15, 2009

13th Annual Golf Classic "fore" Diabetes

### *Special Golf Shirts Still Available*



The day of the Golf Classic, Jeff Dobbs' daughter Jen unveiled a logo she designed bearing the initials she shares with her father. She explained that she designed the logo while in a class at the University of Minnesota as a way to remember her father. The logo was put on golf shirts and sold at the tournament. There are still a few shirts left. If you'd like one, please call Geraldine at (612) 333-4108. And next time you see Jen, ask her if you can see *her* logo. She has it tattooed on her foot.

## A Big Splash

For the past seven years, a group of mothers in the Twin Cities who have children with diabetes have sponsored a silent auction to benefit diabetes research. This year's event benefited Spring Point Project and was a poolside party held on June 29 on Lake Harriet.

Titled *Change a Life, Sponsor a Pig*, the evening included live music, food, a silent auction and updates from Dr. David Sutherland and Dr. Henk Schuurman on the breakthroughs Spring Point Project is making in diabetes research.



Auction table



Interested participants learn about Dr. Hering's research

Spring Point staff attended the event and had the pleasure of meeting the event hosts and other supporters. We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the hosts of this event: Connie and Lin Branson, Ellie and Dan Cadmus, Donna and John Hill, Janet Martin and Deborah Weston.



David Sutherland and Henk Schuurman



Poolside party helpers Morgan Carney, Anne Traynor and Lucy Ryan

## Welcome New Board Member

We would like to introduce you to our newest board member.



Scott A. Dee, DVM, PhD

**Scott A. Dee—Elected 06/11/2008**

Scott A. Dee is Professor of Veterinary Population Medicine in the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Minnesota. Before joining the college in 1999, Scott was a swine practitioner. He received his academic education and obtained his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and PhD degrees at the University of Minnesota. Scott is a well-recognized authority in swine infectious diseases with numerous awards in the field and more than 100 peer-reviewed publications in scientific journals. He is a swine consultant in over 30 states and 20 countries and has served as president of the American Association of Swine Practitioners.

"Scott has been connected to Spring Point Project since its first years of existence and has given us valuable advice on the design of our animal facilities," said Tom Cartier, chairman of the Spring Point Project board. "He brings an expertise in all aspects of swine infectious diseases and experience in disease transmission to Spring Point Project."

Because a young child closely related to Scott recently developed diabetes, he says he is doubly motivated to help advance Spring Point Project's mission and to serve as a member of its board of directors.

