

Pond Hockey Tournament Scores Big for Spring Point Project

This past January, over 25,000 people descended on Lake Minnetonka for a three-day Pond Hockey Tournament organized by North American Pond Hockey Championships. A portion of the proceeds was dedicated to Spring Point Project and Second Harvest Heartland.

Fox Sports North (FSN) was a major sponsor of the event with public service announcements highlighting the event that ran for months on FSN, generating great publicity for Spring Point Project.

Sponsor A Pig *It's more important now than ever.*

At Spring Point Project, we continue to maintain timelines for "medical grade" pig production and look forward to moving to the next level of pivotal preclinical and clinical trial supply.

We've assembled and continue to add to our team of highly qualified and motivated staff, board, supporters and advocates. We understand the importance of a culture of teamwork and respect and have succeeded in fostering such a culture in our organization. We're a small group and consider ourselves members of a family—each focusing attention on our tasks with a constant eye on the ultimate goal of making a cure for diabetes a reality in the near future.

In these tough economic times, funding is, of

Cory Cartier, son of Tom Cartier, founder and chairman of the board of Spring Point Project, organized a team of northern Minnesotans for the event and competed under the Spring Point Project banner. Team Spring Point Project was competitive, winning a few games before ultimately succumbing to the winner of the tournament's open division.

Thanks to Denny Loving for his support of Spring Point Project. We look forward to helping out in an even bigger event next year.

course, an issue. Fulfillment of existing, as well as new pledges is needed to reach our team's budgetary goals. If everyone who receives this newsletter helps by getting involved in our exciting Sponsor a Pig program, we'd be on our way to alleviating this much needed funding gap.

We're asking for your help. By sponsoring a pig and helping us defray costs, you could free a person with diabetes from the day-to-day burden of insulin dependence.

Please consider sponsoring a pig for a day, week, month, quarter, or year.

For more information about Spring Point Project, the exciting cure in development, and how to sponsor a pig, please go to springpointproject.org.

Lion Larry Winner named Multiple District Spring Point Project Chair



Larry Winner
Multiple District
Spring Point
Project Chair

Congratulations to Larry on his appointment as Multiple District Spring Point Project Chair. Larry is the Diabetes U.S. Co-Chair for District 5M10 as well, and has been a supporter of the Schulze Diabetes Institute and Spring Point Project since the beginning.

In his new position, Larry will act as the liaison between the Minnesota Lions Diabetes Foundation and Spring Point Project by promoting awareness and financial support for our activities throughout the Lions organization.

Larry's work promoting diabetes research for over 12 years was recently acknowledged at the District 5M10 Midwinter Convention, where he received an International President's Certificate of Commendation for promoting Spring Point Project as an MD5M official project. He also received a Certificate for Diabetes Awareness for his work promoting diabetes awareness programs.

We look forward to working closely with this gifted, passionate Lion. The Lions have given over \$80,000 to Spring Point Project to date. Words don't even come close to the appreciation we feel for the support of this organization.

Students Tackle Reimbursement Issues



Students with their associate program director Connie Rutledge and Spring Point Project staff. From left to right: Ryan Petz, Leann Yu, Robert Sabina, Dominick Grande, Rukaiya Yamyolia, Anil Hurkadli, Feben Gobena, Mack Traynor, Connie Rutledge and Henk Schuurman.

It is our hope that in the near future the diabetes cure being developed by Spring Point Project, in partnership with the Schulze Diabetes Institute, will become readily available and marketed to people with diabetes as an affordable means to treat their disease.

Part of that process includes developing a health economic model to present to insurance companies that demonstrates that our approach is feasible considering the healthcare costs of diabetes. To that end, we recently had the privilege of working with a group of students in the Carlson Ventures Enterprise program of the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota.

The students, under the leadership of associate program director Connie Rutledge, worked with Brian Flanagan from the Schulze Diabetes Institute, and Mack Traynor and Henk Schuurman of Spring Point Project on the question of reimbursement. Questions included how reimbursement is organized for transplant procedures and how this would apply to pig islet transplantation. The students worked for a month to find answers and make suggestions. They prepared a report, which they presented to Spring Point Project on May 12.

At this point, there are no definitive answers, but the work this group did will be very valuable as we progress past our first clinical trials.

Lions in the News *Lions to invade Minneapolis for International Convention*

The 92nd Lions International Convention will be held July 6-10, at the Minneapolis Convention Center in downtown Minneapolis. The International Convention is the association's premier event for all worldwide members, bringing together Lions from all over the globe to celebrate, share fellowship and learn. An estimated 12,000 Lion delegates from over 200 countries are expected to attend this year.

Spring Point Project's Henk Schuurman will be giving two presentations:

- Wednesday, July 8, at 3 pm
- Thursday, July 9, at 12 pm

A reception at Spring Point Project offices for invited representatives of the Minnesota Lions Diabetes Foundation is planned for:

- Thursday, July 9, from 5:30-7:30 pm

Lions from the Minnesota Lions Diabetes Foundation, as well as Spring Point Project personnel will staff Exhibit Hall Booth 80 where they will explain what Spring Point Project is all about and give away buttons that say: **Lions & Pigs can change the world!**



News from Schulze Diabetes Institute (SDI)

- A review of the progress being made in the field of islet xenotransplantation as a therapy for type 1 diabetes by Niketa Walawalkar and Bernhard Hering was published in the journal *Transplant Immunology*.
- A second paper by the group highlighted the difference in the rates of insulin independence between those individuals receiving an autoislet transplant for their pancreatitis and those who receive an alloislet transplant to treat their type 1 diabetes.
- Preparations continue for the launch of the preclinical studies of pig islet-to-nonhuman primates.
- To continue building awareness in the community for the common goals of the Schulze Diabetes Institute and Spring Point Project, the staff was invited to update members of the Tribal Health and Minnesota Department of Health.
- The staff also had a booth at the American Diabetes Association conference in Chicago promoting the Schulze Diabetes Institute's islet transplantation program.
- Finally, the staff attended the Minneapolis/St. Paul chapter of Certified Diabetes Educators semi-annual conference to highlight our clinical program.

Pig Postings

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

- We are in full production mode.
- Work on site is primarily centered on caring for and breeding the second generation of animals who will produce the subsequent generations of animals needed to supply the research being done at the Schulze Diabetes Institute.



Documentary to Feature Spring Point Project and Schulze Diabetes Institute

The work being done by Spring Point Project and the Schulze Diabetes Institute is getting a lot of attention—even outside the United States. Henk Schuurman was contacted some time ago by a producer of a documentary being made in the Netherlands about how humans and pigs live together.



Henk Schuurman explaining where the pancreas can be found in the body of a pig.

One of the many featured examples of humans and pigs working together includes the use of pigs as islet donors for patients with diabetes. Henk contributed to the documentary by being interviewed about science and holding a session with seven young adults with type 1 diabetes where he discussed the work being done by Spring Point and the Schulze Diabetes Institute in detail. Subjects touched on during the discussion included the present status of islet transplantation, the use of pig donors and the ethical aspects of the procedure.

“The young adults were well prepared and very interested in the project,” said Henk. “Interestingly, at the end almost all answered positive to the question ‘if you were eligible for a pig islet transplant, would you accept?’”

The documentary will be broadcast (in Dutch) on public television in early 2010.

Don't Miss Events

Tee Up at the Path to a Cure Golf Tournament

The District 5M10 Lions invite us to join them for the first ever annual Path to a Cure golf tournament presented by District 5M10 Lions. This fun afternoon will feature a scramble format tournament. An evening of music and dancing with the Lions is also planned. All proceeds from this event go to the Minnesota Lions Diabetes Foundation to support diabetes-related service projects.



Be Cool at the Pool

Join us poolside to enjoy an evening of great food, bid on some wonderful silent auction items, hear the latest news and achievements in our path to a cure and help us celebrate how far we have come. All proceeds from this event will go to support research partnerships on the path to find a cure for diabetes.



Date: Saturday, August 15, 2009

Time: 11:30 am Registration & Lunch
12:30 pm Tee Off – Shotgun Start
5 pm Social Hour & Silent Auction
6 pm Golf Awards,
Program & Live Auction

Location: Black Bear Casino Golf Course
1791 Hwy 210, Carlton, MN

For more information, contact Kara Fischer at the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation at 952-851-0770 or kfischer@jdrf.org.

Date: Sunday, September 20, 2009

Time: 4-8 pm

Location: The home of Tim & Tara Clark
(Spring Point Project Board Director)

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact us at 612-333-4108 or info@springpointproject.org.

Meet Tom Spizzo



Tom Spizzo
Director of Operations

Director of Operations Tom Spizzo happens to be Spring Point Project's first employee. Tom has been involved in every step of Spring Point's growth and has watched our operations blossom from a small office in Duluth to sites in Minneapolis, Wisconsin, and South Dakota.

Tom oversees the complex operational needs of Spring Point Project with dedication, calmness and remarkable patience. It is uncanny how he pragmatically handles everything from evaluating equipment needs to preparing pig production plans.

When Tom's not commuting from his home in northern Minnesota to the Twin Cities and back, he enjoys venturing into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW), camping, hunting and ice fishing. His adventurous spirit has even taken him to the wilds of Alaska where he followed the trails of Yukon gold rush prospectors from long ago.

Tom's favorite things:

Movies:
The Princess Bride and *Raising Arizona*

Books:
Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time by David Sobel

Adventure Locations:
The Canadian Rockies and the BWCAW