

Research and Education

2024 Institute Highlights



Scaling up

At some point in the lifecycle of a research project or educational curriculum, it's time to move from project level to full-blown scalable solution. Examples of that progression can be hard to find. Our 2024 Highlights, however, provide ample examples of stellar efforts that expanded the Institute's reach and improved population health and well-being. In this report, we feature projects that reach large populations, generate significant amounts of data, create supportive infrastructures, and make a meaningful difference in the lives of the people we serve.

You will find stories of successful partnerships, technological breakthroughs and awards, and advocacy to ensure resources for training our workforce of the future. Our Institute teams continue to practice at the "top of their license"—and it shows!

We celebrated many successes over the course of 2024: a platinum award to our MMCORC team from the National

Cancer Institute for clinical trial enrollment excellence; welcoming our first fellow to the Neurology Advanced Practice Clinician Fellowship Program; a 49% success rate for federal grant submissions in 2023; more than 125,000 site hits for the Institute's Knowledge Exchange; and a President's Award for the Clinical Simulation Team. Perhaps most importantly, all our teams continue to report they feel appreciated, welcomed and included.

Enjoy this 2024 HealthPartners Institute Highlights report.

With gratitude,

Nico Pronk, PhD
President and Institutional Official
HealthPartners Institute
Chief Science Officer, HealthPartners

Jen Augustson
Vice President
HealthPartners Institute

National experts visit to discuss technology in diabetes management

Continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) are proven to help manage diabetes. They are affordable and widely available. So why aren't more people using them? International Diabetes Center has been discussing that very question with national experts.

In partnership with Alliance of Community Health Plans (ACHP), we hosted a two-day summit titled "Innovations in Chronic Disease: Solutions for Improving Diabetes Care" for clinicians and health plan leaders. Topics included CGM research, current coverage policies, knowledge gaps, and how health plans can increase access to this effective management technology. The next step is to implement pilot projects to help improve coverage policies, utilization and health equity at ACHP member organizations.

The Summit was part of a \$1.5 million project funded by The Helmsley Charitable Trust to bring awareness about the value of CGM to improve diabetes outcomes. ACHP partnered with International Diabetes Center on the project because of our internationally recognized expertise and unique model as a care, coverage and research organization.



International Diabetes Center has been a part of nearly 40 studies involving continuous glucose monitoring.

Knowing what leads to cancer development will help researchers better understand how to prevent it

Everyone knows someone who has or had cancer. But what we don't often know is why exactly that cancer developed.

This past year, we received \$11.2 million from the National Cancer Institute to ramp up recruitment over the next three years for a large cancer prevention cohort study. It's called the Connect for Cancer Prevention Study. The goal is to create a repository of lifestyle and genetic data from 200,000 people across the US that will allow researchers to explore how health behaviors and patterns may affect cancer risk over time. We expect this work will inform new approaches to precision prevention and early cancer detection.



Through this study, we're creating a huge data set that we can monitor and learn from over time. After a while, we'll begin to understand more precisely how genes, nutrition, sleep, exercise, and other factors may influence cancer development. When we know what leads to cancer development, we'll have a better idea of how to prevent it.

Strengthening workplace safety through simulation training

Our Clinical Simulation program took on a critical challenge last year: making our hospitals safer. As part of a system-wide effort to prevent workplace violence, the team developed and delivered training using simulation to prepare staff for real-life emergencies.

More than 650 participants completed the training, which covers emergency safety tactics, verbal and nonverbal de-escalation techniques, and team-based simulations. These hands-on sessions help staff recognize threats, respond effectively, and work together to defuse difficult situations.

Training is available for new hospital colleagues in direct patient care, and those in security, mental health, and emergency departments. It has already launched at Regions, Methodist, and Olivia hospitals, with plans to expand across our organization in 2025.

This initiative highlights the power of simulation to build confidence and readiness before an urgent situation arises. And it hasn't gone unnoticed – our Clinical Simulation team earned HealthPartners' highest recognition in 2024, the President's Award, for their innovative, life-saving work in preparing health care professionals for whatever comes their way.



Regions Hospital staff demonstrate a stabilization during advanced workplace violence training.



Orthopedic Physical Therapy Residency Program

TRIA Research and Education Center launched an Orthopedic Physical Therapy Residency Program. We're set to welcome the first class this year after final accreditation. Aims include supporting orthopedic physical therapists in focusing on patient-centered care, community well-being and patient outcomes.

MMCORC Platinum Award

Metro-Minnesota Community Oncology Research Consortium enrolled 589 participants to cancer clinical trials this past grant year. This success was nationally recognized by the National Cancer Institute who awarded us Platinum level recognition for the 2023/2024 grant year. This underscores our commitment to expanding access to care and advancing oncology research. HealthPartners Cancer Center at Regions Hospital and HealthPartners Frauenthuh Cancer Center are the top accruing sites for the consortium.



Technology is instrumental in research and education. It supports innovation in many ways – advancing programs and tools like these.

Innovation in Action

Phil Anthropy: Manikin in Training

Phil Anthropy, our new high-fidelity manikin, helps teams refine their skills through hands-on simulation. Phil and five other advanced training tools are the latest additions to our Clinical Simulation program, thanks to generous donations and the support of our foundation partners.

Research meets MyChart: Reaching people where they are

We're exploring ways to integrate research study recruitment into online tools patients use to manage their health. Connecting through MyChart and online accounts will offer a secure, familiar way to engage with patients, streamline recruitment and reinforce research as a part of the care journey.

SS4L: Five years of connection

Our SharedSpace4Learning platform turned 5! This collaborative, Institute-developed tool has transformed the student learning environment by connecting schools, students, and preceptors. This supports rotations and collaboration across HealthPartners.

Fast-Tracking Research into Practice

Our Software Engineering and Technology Team won the Best Value Proposition award from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Their cutting-edge proposal for the Clinical Decision Support Connect competition aims to speed up the integration of research results into clinical care, ensuring that new evidence reaches patients faster.

NeuroWell: Guidance for every step

Our Neuroscience Research Center played a pivotal role in developing NeuroWell, a one-stop website for patients and caregivers navigating neurological conditions like stroke, dementia and Parkinson's. It offers expert guidance, community connections and access to research studies.

Research supports informed decisions about vaccination

Rigorous research is critical in understanding the risks and benefits of vaccination. As 24-year members of the Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD), we're proud of our contributions to vaccine safety in the US.

The VSD is a network of 13 health systems across the country that work in collaboration with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This past year, we hosted the VSD annual meeting, welcoming researchers from all member sites. Topics included community perceptions of vaccine safety and strategies to improve communication on findings from vaccine safety research.

Two of our current vaccine initiatives focus on the maternal respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine. The RSV vaccine was introduced in 2023 and is recommended for use during pregnancy to prevent severe illness in infants. Through the VSD, our researchers are studying its safety. And with funding from National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, we are looking at the effect of RSV vaccination during pregnancy on lactation as well as newborn and child health.

Advocating for increased graduate medical education funding

Health care took center stage during Minnesota’s 2024 legislative session, and we played a key role in supporting a proposal to increase funding for graduate medical education.

Our Office of Health Professional Education joined with HealthPartners’ Government Relations and Finance teams, the Metro Minnesota Council on Graduate Medical Education, and state legislators to push this important issue forward. Kelly Frisch, MD, Executive Director of Health Professional Education, represented HealthPartners in a key committee hearing, voicing strong support for the proposal – which ultimately passed.



We are pleased that the legislature approved this funding increase, which will provide more resources to train and support the next generation of health care professionals and strengthen care in our communities for years to come.



Knowledge Exchange: A global resource

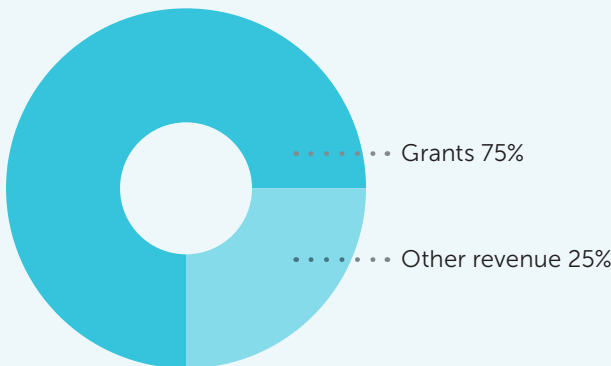
Accessed in 177 countries last year, our Knowledge Exchange is making an impact worldwide as a trusted source for health care discoveries and learnings generated by HealthPartners. Visit healthpartners.com/knowledgeexchange

FINANCIALS 2024

Operating Revenue
\$53M

Operating Expenses
\$55M

Operating Revenue Sources



Total net assets \$78.1M
100% of our net assets are unrestricted

Mission: To improve health and well-being in partnership with our members, patients and community.

Vision: Health as it could be, affordability as it must be, through relationships built on trust.

Visit our website to learn more about the Institute.

healthpartnersinstitute.org

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