Women's Global Health Institute

PURDUE WOMEN'S GLOBAL HEALTH INSTITUTE STUDENT CHAPTER

Welcome to November!

We kicked off October with our first WGHI callout meeting and hiking event at Martell Forest! Thank you to everyone who attended. We're excited for what's ahead and look forward to connecting with you at our upcoming events!





Upcoming Events:

SEMINAR: Murray-Kolb Lab investigates the neurophysiological and neuropsychological outcomes of micronutrient deficiencies

Date: November 20, 2026
Time: 2:30 to 3:30 PM
Place: Purdue Winthrop E. Stone Hall (STON 144)

Register Here!

Research Spotlight: Murry-Kolb Lab

The Murray-Kolb Lab investigates the neurophysiological and neuropsychological outcomes of micronutrient deficiencies, with a key emphasis on iron status across women and child health.



Current projects include investigating whether iron deficiency exacerbates cognitive and physical symptoms in perimenopausal women, and if supplementation can alleviate these midlife challenges. Alongside this work, the group is conducting a new line of research examining the complex relationship between iron status and childhood obesity.

While we know obesity can block iron absorption, the lab is also exploring the flip side: whether low iron changes the brain to drive overeating and leads to weight gain. Integrating nutritional biochemistry with neurobiology, the team is also working on examining links between maternal iron levels and postpartum depression. Crucially, the lab's mission extends beyond fundamental science to drive real-world clinical practices and global public health policies.

Women's Health Spotlight: Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month



November is Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month!

Pancreatic cancer develops when cells within the pancreas begin growing uncontrollably.

Why is early detection so challenging?

Pancreatic cancer is often difficult to detect in its early stages because symptoms may not appear until the disease has progressed. Additionally, there is currently no recommended routine screening test for individuals at average risk.

What are the risk factors?

Smoking and tobacco use
Family history of pancreatic cancer
Certain inherited genetic mutations, including BRCA1, BRCA2, PALB2, and ATM
Chronic pancreatitis
Obesity
Diabetes

Having one or more risk factors does not mean someone will develop pancreatic cancer, and individuals without known risk factors can also be diagnosed.