

Minnesota Partnership
for Biotechnology and
Medical Genomics



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June 28, 2017

The Honorable Mark Dayton
Office of the Governor & Lt. Governor
Room 130 State Capitol
75 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Dayton:

A model of collaboration for 14 years now, the Minnesota Partnership for Biotechnology and Medical Genomics (the Partnership) has brought together researchers from the University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic to advance research aimed at improving the economic and human health of our state. The 2016 Legislature demonstrated its continued support of the Partnership by continuing the base appropriation of roughly \$7.5 million in annual funding as well as an increment of \$500,000 for research on Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

Research in Alzheimer's disease and cancer dominated the Partnership's research grant program in 2016. Twelve projects were awarded more than \$8 million to research new treatments for disease, develop novel diagnostics, implement new research infrastructure, and help researchers bridge the gap to production of new drugs or technologies. The projects will:

- Research biomarkers for Alzheimer's disease and other neurodegenerative diseases (2 projects)
- Explore new imaging technology for diagnosing pancreatic cancer
- Test new mouse models for asthma and lung disease
- Develop genomic and molecular screens for liver steatosis
- Study aromatase inhibitors in post-menopausal women with estrogen-receptor-positive breast cancer
- Develop high quality antibodies using antibody phage display
- Establish infrastructure for cancer, aging, neuroscience and diabetes research
- Implement new 3-dimensional, nanoscale resolution microscopy
- Prevent hospitalization through the measurement of potassium in patients with cardiac and renal disease
- Research minimally invasive pericardial resection to treat heart failure
- Develop a new treatment for trauma-induced acute blood loss

The above projects were awarded through one of three separate mechanisms facilitated by the MN Partnership:


- Research project grants, which fund promising medical research across a broad range of diseases;
- Infrastructure grants, which fund technology and medical research infrastructure needs; and
- Translational Product Development Fund, which helps bridge the gap to production of new drugs or technologies

Previous research awards have led to successful licensing, patents and other commercialization of discoveries including therapies for glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, type 2 diabetes, congestive heart failure, fungal infections, Alzheimer's disease, and various types of cancer. As of this year there have been over 62 patent filings, 12 patent filings still pending, 5 issued patents, more than 24 new technologies stemming from Partnership-funded projects, one licensed technology to an existing company, and one new start-up company (CoreBiome, Inc.).

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If you would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact us or our legislative staff, Christine Kiel at 612.626.7372 or Erin Sexton at 507.284.0588. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Gregory Gores, M.D.
Executive Dean for Research
Mayo Clinic



Brooks Jackson, M.D.,
Dean of the Medical School
Vice President for Health Sciences
University of Minnesota

cc: Senator Michelle Fischbach, Chair, Higher Education and Workforce Development
Representative Bud Nornes, Chair, Higher Education Policy and Finance