

June 17, 2019

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

Dear Governor Walz:

A model of collaboration for 16 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 2018 Legislature demonstrated its continued support of the Partnership by continuing the base appropriation of roughly \$8.5 million in annual funding.

Research in Alzheimer's disease, brain cancer, diabetes and obesity dominated the Partnership's research grant program in 2018. Five projects were awarded roughly \$5.2 million to research new treatments for disease and develop novel diagnostics. The projects will:

- Generate new therapies for the treatment of type 1 diabetes
- Develop a new implantable central nervous system drug testing device for the treatment of brain cancer
- Study the gut microbiome to prevent the increasing incidence of obesity in immigrant populations
- Develop a retinal tool for early detection of Alzheimer's Disease
- Research stress-induced exacerbation of senescence-associated diseases

In addition, \$1.9 million remain allocated to the Translational Product Development Fund, which supports the advancement of projects that have the potential to be commercialized, such as projects that aim to form a start-up company or create a license agreement with an established commercial entity. This program is facilitated in cooperation with each institution's Clinical and Translational Science Award from the NIH. The remaining balance from the 2018 allocation remain dedicated to future awards.

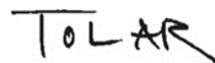
Previous Partnership awards have led to successful licensing, patents and other commercialization of discoveries including therapies for glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, type 2 diabetes, congestive heart failure, fungal infections, Alzheimer's disease, and various types of cancer. As of this year there have been at least 165 patent filings, 13 issued patents, more than 29 new technologies stemming from Partnership-funded projects, 10 licensed technologies to existing companies, and one new start-up company (CoreBiome, Inc.).

If you would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact us or our legislative staff, Christine Kiel at 651.442.6511 or Kate Johansen at 651.900.3482. Thank you.

Sincerely,



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



Jakub Tolar, M.D., Ph.D.
Dean of the Medical School
Vice President for Clinical Affairs
University of Minnesota

cc: Senator Paul Anderson, Chair, Higher Education Finance and Policy
Representative Connie Bernardy, Chair, Higher Education Finance and Policy Division