

February 5, 2013

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Commissioner Katie Clark Sieben  
Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development  
1<sup>st</sup> National Bank Building  
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E-200  
Saint Paul, MN 55101-1351

Dear Commissioner Sieben:

Now in its tenth year, the Minnesota Partnership for Biotechnology and Medical Genomics (the Partnership) continues to effectively position Minnesota as a leader in biosciences, fostering research that improves the economic and human health of our state. By appropriating \$7.5 million in annual funding through June 2013, the 2011 Minnesota Legislature demonstrated continued support for the Partnership and the promise of this remarkable collaboration.

Two of the four research grants awarded by the Partnership in 2012 are focused on two devastating forms of cancer. One project will develop methods to detect early stage pancreatic cancer, the fourth most common cause of cancer death in the United States. The other will improve both knowledge of the genetic basis and methods to target myelodysplastic syndrome, a disease that for one out of three people progresses to acute myeloid leukemia. The other two research grants awarded in 2012 are focused on neurological diseases. One grant will fund research to develop multifunctional nanoparticles to diagnose and treat cerebral amyloid angiopathy, the most common cause of dementia in the elderly after Alzheimer's disease. The other grant will help researchers reach the goal of establishing reliable diagnostic tests to help individualize the treatment of depression, a common and intractable disease that affects one out of eight individuals during their lifetime.

In 2012, important progress was made on the Partnership-led Decade of Discovery in Diabetes (the Decade). The Decade takes an unprecedented, "moonshot," approach to conquering diabetes, guided by three cornerstones:

- First, strong, **goal-directed research**, employing team science that incorporates the best of academia and industry working together toward a common, transformative goal.
- Second, a "mission-driven" commitment to large-scale **care delivery and prevention** with an understanding of system needs and the required alliances to impact those needs.
- And lastly, rigorous governance and program management across scientific and clinical themes with **clearly defined milestones and metrics**.

In addition, the Decade-funded Minnesota Health Atlas ([www.mnhealthatlas.org](http://www.mnhealthatlas.org)) was launched, serving as a public web-based data resource that serves as a single destination for information on diabetes and the health of Minnesotans.

Minnesota is well-positioned to be recognized globally as the diabetes laboratory for the world, and through the Partnership, the University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic are uniquely positioned to lead that transformation and create a lasting legacy for the State.

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



Aaron Friedman, M.D.  
Vice President for Health Sciences  
Dean, Medical School  
University of Minnesota

cc: Senator Bonoff, Chair, Higher Education; Senator Sparks, Chair, Jobs, Agriculture and Rural Development; Representative Pelowski, Chair, Higher Education Finance and Policy; Representative Mahoney, Chair, Jobs and Economic Development Finance and Policy