Minnesota Partnership for Biotechnology and Medical Genomics
University of Minnesota
Mayo Clinic

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June 30, 2015

The Honorable Mark Dayton
Office of the Governor & Lt. Governor
116 Veterans Service Building
20 W. 12th Street
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Dayton:

A model of collaboration for 12 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 2015 Legislature demonstrated its continued support of the Partnership by appropriating roughly $7.5 million in annual funding as well as an increment of $500,000 for research on Alzheimer's disease. The Partnership also launched a new award program in 2015: the Translational Product Development Fund. This is an effort to provide support to University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic investigators to advance projects with commercialization potential, defined as having the potential to lead to the formation of a start-up company or license agreement with an established commercial entity.

Investing in scientific infrastructure was the focus of one of the Partnership's two grant programs in 2014. The four infrastructure projects awarded a total of $2.5 million will support the purchase of equipment, software or other technology to help investigators target heart disease, cancer, drug development and the microbiome, all key focus areas of research in Minnesota. The infrastructure will be mutually available to the project participants at both institutions.

The Partnership's second grant program, focused on research projects, awarded a total of nearly $5 million to six projects. Each award brings together investigators from Mayo Clinic and the University of Minnesota to advance important research. Some of the projects will:

- Develop novel methods to treat calcification of aortic valves
- Create a therapy for treatment of glioblastoma, a highly malignant brain tumor
- Identify novel therapies for treatment of disease involving electrically active tissue, such as nerves and muscles
- Predicting response and resistance to proteasome inhibitors in multiple myeloma, a hematologic disease

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.,
Vice President for Health Sciences
Dean, Medical School
University of Minnesota

cc: Senator Terri Bonoff, Chair, Higher Education and Workforce Development; Representative Bud Nornes, Chair, Higher Education Policy and Finance