

Minnesota Partnership  
for Biotechnology and  
Medical Genomics



University of Minnesota  
Communications  
420 Delaware Street SE, MMC 735  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
Tel. 612.624.5100

Mayo Clinic  
Stabile 13  
200 First Street SW  
Rochester, MN 55905  
Tel. 507.538.3939

June 21, 2022

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 19 years, 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 2021 Legislature demonstrated its continued support of the Partnership by authorizing the base appropriation of roughly \$8 million annually.

Research in cancer, atrial fibrillation, brain mapping, and liver disease dominated the Partnership's research grant program in 2021. Five projects were awarded roughly \$4.5 million to research new treatments for disease and develop novel diagnostics. The titles of the projects are as follows:

- Manipulating natural killer cell signaling to enhance immunotherapy
- Novel implementation of spatiotemporal mapping and electroporation for the treatment of persistent atrial fibrillation
- Unexplored pathways: The impact of abnormal glycosylation on the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal and -gonadal axes and bone health in patients with congenital disorders of glycosylation.
- An intraoperative stylet-based electrode array for mapping subcortical brain regions
- Lead optimization of a novel epigenetic inhibitor series for alcoholic hepatitis therapy

Finally, \$3 million of current year and previous year funds were allocated to the Translational Product Development Fund, which supports the advancement of projects with potential to be commercialized, such as projects that aim to form a start-up company or create a license agreement with a commercial entity. This program is facilitated in cooperation with each institution's Clinical and Translational Science Award from the NIH.

Partnership awards have led to successful licensing, patents and commercialization of discoveries including therapies for glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, heart failure, fungal infections, Alzheimer's disease, and various cancers. As of 2021 there have been more than 79 patent filings, 18 patent filings still pending, and 15 issued patents. This involves more than 32 new technologies stemming from Partnership-funded projects, with 7 currently licensed to existing companies, and two start-up companies (CoreBiome, Inc. and Qlaris).

If you would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact us or our legislative staff, Kelly Mellberg at 262.960.4000 or Kate Johansen at 651.900.3482.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory Gores".

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "TOLAR".

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

cc: Senator David Tomassoni, Chair, Higher Education Finance and Policy  
Representative Connie Bernardy, Chair, Higher Education Finance and Policy Division