

June 30, 2023

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 20 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 Minnesota Legislature continues to recognize the importance of the Partnership and has authorized ongoing funding totaling \$8 million a year.

Research in neuromodulation, artificial intelligence, and immunotherapy dominated the Partnership's research grant program in 2022. Three projects were awarded roughly \$4.5 million to research new treatments for disease and develop novel diagnostics; each of these awards brings together investigators from the Mayo Clinic and the University of Minnesota:

- Developing engineered cell therapy for the treatment of graft-versus-host disease
- ENTRUST AI: ENSuring the TRUSTworthiness of AI/ML Models to Optimize Continual Patient Safety
- Minnesota Personalized Neuromodulation Center (MinPeNCe) to explore new treatments for major depressive disorder and epilepsy

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 2022 there have been 27 issued patents involving 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, Christine Kiel at 612.626.3807 or Nikki Vilendrer at 507.538.5315.

Sincerely,



Y.S. Prakash, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Research - Midwest
Mayo Clinic



Peter Crawford, M.D., Ph.D.
Vice Dean for Research
University of Minnesota

cc: Senator Omar Fateh, Chair, Higher Education Committee
Representative Gene Pelowski, Jr., Chair, Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee