

June 18, 2024

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.

In December 2023, the Partnership awarded \$6.75 million to five projects that focus on the development of new research centers to address diseases and conditions that impact Minnesotans; each of these awards brings together investigators from the Mayo Clinic and the University of Minnesota:

- Minnesota Functional Omics Resource (MNFORce)
- Center for Functional Genomics of Immunotherapy (CFG1)
- Organoid Biomanufacturing for Transforming Healthcare
- Towards a Center for Advanced Synucleinopathy Diagnostics (ASCEND): Development and optimization of nanoparticle-enhanced seed amplification assays for blood-based detection of synucleinopathies
- The Healthy Aging in the Senior Years (HATS) Study: Cardiovascular Contributions to Brain Health and Dementia in Twin Cities Black Residents

Additionally, \$2.98 million was awarded in 2023 to 17 projects with commercialization potential through the Partnership's Translational Product Development Fund. These projects include treatments and diagnostic technologies for cardiovascular disease, genetic disorders, cancer, infectious diseases, and infertility.

Partnership awards have led to successful licensing, patents, and commercialization of discoveries. Since the initiation of the Partnership, there have been 11 licenses to existing companies for Partnership-supported innovations, and the formation of nine new start-up companies in Minnesota. Partnership funding has advanced six innovations to real-world use, including [Pneumeric Capnospot](#), the first FDA-approved medical device funded through the Partnership. Capnospot is a medical device used to treat tension pneumothorax, a life-threatening medical condition. The approval of this device is a significant milestone for the Partnership, and exemplifies the potential to impact patient health.

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.
Vice Dean of Research
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