

June 30, 2016

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 13 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 continuing the base appropriation of roughly \$7.5 million in annual funding as well as an increment of \$500,000 for research on Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

New treatments and diagnostics for Alzheimer's and cancer dominated the Partnership's research grant program in 2016. The seven projects were awarded more than \$6.5 million to support the research of new treatments and diagnostic strategies for disease, the development of novel vaccines and the invention of a new smart fabric, all important and innovative areas of research in Minnesota.

Each award brings together investigators from the Mayo Clinic and the University of Minnesota to advance important research. Some of the projects will:

- Develop oral vaccines against MRSA "Superbug"
- Regenerating Myelin in Multiple Sclerosis
- Molecular therapies for more efficient prevention of memory loss in Alzheimer's
- Early diagnosis of brain insulin resistance in Alzheimer's
- Smart fabric for cardio-performance enhancement
- Developing novel therapeutic strategies for treating Fuchs Endothelial Corneal Dystrophy
- Engineering new immunotherapy strategies for osteosarcoma

Research awards have also led to successful licensing, patents or other commercialization of discoveries including those involving therapies for glaucoma, prostate cancer, multiple sclerosis, type 2 diabetes, congestive heart failure, fungal infections, Alzheimer's imaging, and specific cancer drugs. As of this year there have been over 40 patent filings and more than 24 new technologies stemming from Partnership-funded projects.

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 Jenifer Loon, Chair, Higher Education Policy and Finance