

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### **How was this Partnership formed?**

The idea for the Minnesota Partnership for Biotechnology and Medical Genomics was born out of a desire by the University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic, together with the state, to move Minnesota bioscience research to a world-class and highly competitive level.

### **Why was this Partnership formed?**

The health care and economic potential of biotechnology and medical genomics is significant, but so is the cost of development. By bringing together the University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic, it enhanced Minnesota's ability to successfully undertake such a broad and far-reaching initiative. A partnership was announced in April 2003 to undertake joint research projects involving scientists from both the University and Mayo Clinic. There are areas of research that are better performed by faculty from both institutions and where research may have a greater likelihood of a break through - areas of true synergy.

### **Who is involved in the Partnership?**

Mayo Clinic and the University of Minnesota are collaborators in the Minnesota Partnership for Biotechnology and Medical Genomics, which is supported by state and private funding.

### **What are the goals of the Partnership?**

The Partnership seeks to position Minnesota as a world leader in biotechnology and medical genomics applications that will result in important new medical discoveries, thereby improving health care for patients and supporting economic opportunity in Minnesota.

The goals of the Minnesota Partnership for Biotechnology and Medical Genomics are threefold:

- To produce scientific advances
- To identify and lead to improvements in health care
- To provide stimulus for new jobs and an expanded tax base for Minnesota

### **Haven't the University and Mayo collaborated before?**

The University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic have collaborated before in areas of research and education. Indeed, the history of collaboration between the two institutions goes back more than a hundred years. This partnership is a focused, intense, and public effort to move Minnesota into a position of being a world-class center of biosciences research.

### **What does it mean to have a Minnesota Partnership for Biotechnology and Medical Genomics?**

The Minnesota Partnership for Biotechnology and Medical Genomics impacts lives in dramatic ways: advancing breakthroughs in new methods to accurately diagnose and develop innovative therapies for major diseases such as cancer, heart disease and/or neurological disease, among others; providing a pipeline for new businesses and quality jobs for Minnesotans; and an expanded tax base. Moreover, the success of the Partnership contributes to Minnesota's reputation for excellence in the health care, medical technology, and biosciences arenas.

### **Where is the Partnership located?**

The Partnership's research takes place at both institutions — cooperatively. The teams made up of scientists, researchers, and clinicians from both institutions are the real embodiment of the Partnership. They meet regularly, communicate constantly and publish jointly. The Minnesota Partnership for Biotechnology and Medical Genomics continues to assess ways to accommodate laboratory and other space needs on the Mayo Clinic campus in Rochester, as well as key infrastructure locations at the University's Twin Cities campus.

**What has been the state's role?**

State leaders have encouraged Mayo Clinic and the University of Minnesota to collaborate on important medical research that would yield benefits for the state. In addition, the State of Minnesota provides a recurring investment to leverage Mayo Clinic and the University of Minnesota's strengths in biomedical research. Public investment is critical to the ongoing success of the Partnership and Minnesota. Government, state and municipal, also has the tools to promote a business environment that will foster the development of new businesses.

**How are the funds allocated and used?**

State monies are allocated as a recurring item in the Minnesota budget. The funding is then prioritized by the Partnership's Steering Committee. The majority of operational funding is awarded to collaborative teams for competitive research projects, with most of the remainder allotted for joint equipment and technology awards.

**Who will own the rights to the research? Which institution controls the intellectual property?**

Oversight of appropriate intellectual property and patent decisions are made in accordance with University and Mayo Clinic existing institutional rules, policies, and laws and negotiated between both institutions. Decisions are largely driven by who is designated as the principal investigator on each research project. This area is a significant part of the partnership and the details have been carefully defined. It is in the best interest of both institutions and the State that scientific findings that lead to patents, royalty streams, and jobs be appropriately attributed and positioned to best enhance Minnesota's economy and its prominence as a leader in biotechnology.

**How does the state benefit from this research?**

The state benefits from the economic development opportunities provided by the Partnership and from the health benefits resulting from this powerful research. In the near term, the research is being leveraged into tens of millions in federal research dollars. The National Institutes of Health conservatively estimates that for every million dollars we receive in NIH research funding, at least 16 jobs are created to support that research. The Partnership has attracted more than \$60 million in NIH grants.