

## Update on the Partnership

# Partnership Leaders Write to Legislators

**H**ugh Smith, M.D., chair of the Mayo Clinic Board of Governors and Frank Cerra, Senior Vice President, Health Sciences at the University of Minnesota recently wrote to legislative candidates and senators urging them to consider the Partnership as a critical investment for the state and worthy of discussion this campaign season. They noted that the 2003 Legislature and Governor Pawlenty provided state funding to launch this collaboration that had strong bipartisan support during the 2004 legislative session for our \$20 million lab space bonding request. Additional points made in the letter were:

- The Partnership is a strong private-public initiative that will benefit Minnesota through major scientific advances, and by continued development of the biotech industry that will strengthen the State's economic base by attracting new business and quality jobs.



- There are four University of Minnesota-Mayo Clinic research teams that are working on important research involving prostate cancer, Alzheimer's disease, obesity and heart disease — issues that affect thousands of Minnesotans.
- The competition is fierce and Minnesota must move quickly to secure state funding in 2005. Much of this basic research can only be funded through government support. State support can be leveraged to attract major research funds from the federal government, and sends a powerful message to help keep our researchers in Minnesota.
- Resolution of our \$20 million bonding request, and state investment of \$70 million over five years, should be among the highest priorities for Minnesota and the 2005 Legislature. Moderate estimates show that with that level of state support, the Partnership will produce \$319 million in economic activity and more than 4,000 new jobs in the year 2010. Without state investment, Minnesota will not realize these returns. □

## Governor Pawlenty Visits Partnership Leaders and Researchers at Mayo Clinic

*“This (Partnership) is a priority for the state. We'll find a way to do it.”*

So said Governor Tim Pawlenty during a recent visit to Mayo Clinic in Rochester. The Governor also reaffirmed his support for funding additional research space to accommodate the Partnership and research funding for the program.

Governor Pawlenty started with a hands-on tour of Mayo laboratories, and learned about advances already achieved

through the Partnership's initial funding. Along with visiting legislators and other Minnesota business leaders, the Governor was briefed by Hugh Smith, M.D., chair of the Mayo Clinic Board of Governors, and Eric Wieben, Ph.D., Mayo's science coordinator for the Partnership. Dr. Mark Paller, who provides scientific leadership for the University of Minnesota in the Partnership, was also on hand.

Then the Governor hit the treadmill in the lab of James Levine, M.D., Ph.D.

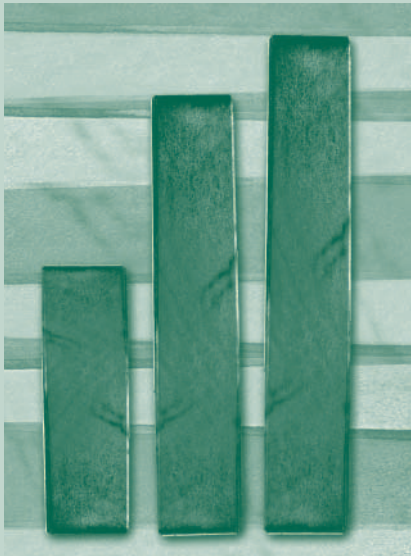
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*The Minnesota Partnership for Biotechnology and Medical Genomics is a Minnesota initiative*

*leveraging the scientific leadership of the University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic. This is the third newsletter to keep you informed on the progress of the Partnership and news in the field of biotechnology and medical genomics. For more information, visit our Web site at [www.MayoUMinnesotaPartnership.org](http://www.MayoUMinnesotaPartnership.org); call the Academic Health Center at the University of Minnesota at 612.624.5100 or Mayo Clinic at 507.284.9258.*

## Economic Developments



## Economic Quantification Study is Extended and Finalized

**T**ripp-Umbach Healthcare Consulting has refined the assumptions and models of the economic impact study quantifying the potential benefits of the Partnership. The modifications use slightly more conservative assumptions, creating the opportunity to use these models with actual data related to Partnership activity in the future. The final study confirms that a state investment of \$70 million over five years, with mid-range assumptions, will yield an expected overall economic impact returned to the state of \$320 million and 4,300 direct and indirect jobs in 2010.

To read the final study, go to <http://www.mayouminnesotapartnership.org/documents/quantification.pdf>. □

## Partnership Participates in *Positively Minnesota* at the Biotechnology Industry Organization Annual Conference in San Francisco

**T**he Partnership participated in the BIO 2004 Annual Conference in June, giving representatives from other genomic and biotechnology organizations the opportunity to meet the architects of the Partnership and learn about its unique business and research collaboration. Participation in events such as BIO 2004 gives the Partnership momentum to build collaborative relationships with a variety of public and private partners, develop innovative

approaches to attracting outside investor interest in the Partnership, and demonstrate the exciting research potential of the Partnership and the state of Minnesota.

To read the news release on the Partnership's presence at BIO 2004, go to <http://www.mayouminnesotapartnership.org/pressreleases/2004-0607.html>. For information on the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), visit [www.bio.org](http://www.bio.org). □

### *Governor's Visit continued ...*

Dr. Levine is partnering with the University of Minnesota's Catherine Kotz, Ph.D., to study how the body uses energy. Their Partnership-funded project is seeking a treatment for obesity. The treadmill, along with computers and telemetry, measures a person's exact expenditure of energy and stores the data. The Governor also saw some of Mayo's microarray processing labs and witnessed the need for additional research space. The range of projects on the tour illustrated the diversity and enormous potential of the Partnership

and the possible economic and medical advantages for the state, provided \$70 million in research funding is approved by the Legislature. Finally, the Governor visited the Stabile Building, where three additional floors of Partnership laboratory space are planned, pending passage of a state-bonding bill.

To read the news release on the Governor's visit, go to <http://www.mayouminnesotapartnership.org/pressreleases/2004-0607.html>. □

### *Did you know?*

*In addition to the scientific benefits of research collaboration, the Partnership is reaping the more traditional, tangible financial benefits of working together — Mayo and the University have negotiated a bulk purchasing agreement with a major manufacturer of gene chips — a critical tool in genomics research. The combined purchasing volume has allowed lower prices than either institution could negotiate alone.*

## Partnership Was Factor in \$12 Million Gift to Mayo Clinic to Research the Genomics of Alcoholism

Mayo Clinic has established a landmark research program in the genomics of addiction with the long-term goal of predicting and preventing alcoholism and other chemical dependencies, using genetic information to identify people who are at increased risk for alcoholism and developing personalized therapy that could change their lives.

The Samuel C. Johnson family of Racine, Wis., pledged more than \$12 million to start this program. The Johnson family took note of the Partnership as a factor in making this generous commitment. Hugh Smith, M.D., chair, Board of Governors, Mayo Clinic Rochester said "We are grateful to the Johnson family for their generosity and support. The early success of our partnership with the University of Minnesota through the Minnesota Partnership for Biotechnology and Medical Genomics helped spark interest from and ultimately the generosity of the Samuel C. Johnson family in making this gift." In honor of the Johnson Family's significant support, the program will be



named the Samuel C. Johnson Program in the Genomics of Addiction. Such funding leverages state investments and positions the Partnership to seek additional support from private sources.

To read more about the Samuel C. Johnson Program in the Genomics of Addiction, go to <http://www.mayoclinic.org/news2004-rst/2222.html>.

Other research developments at the Partnership include:

- Four of the University of Minnesota-Mayo Clinic collaborative research teams received competitive funding based on scientific merit from our initial \$4 million in research support. Additional internal support from Mayo and the University of Minnesota was made available to each of the five teams of finalists to encourage their collaborative research efforts.
- A joint effort by researchers at Mayo and the University on cell abnormalities that contribute to tumor formation will be published soon. Other teams are collaborating to study limiting the pain experienced by cancer patients.
- The Partnership has asked members of our congressional delegation for their support in securing federal funding of \$5 million a year for the next five years to establish a *National Center for Applied Biomedical Informatics* within the Partnership.

To read more about the Partnership's research, go to <http://www.mayouminnesotapartnership.org/research.html>. □

## Two New University-Mayo Research Advances

Collaborators James Levine, M.D., Mayo Clinic, and Catherine Kotz, Ph.D., University of Minnesota, published a research paper on their obesity studies that appeared in the *American Journal of Physiology — Endocrinology and Metabolism*. This publication stems from work prior to their being named Partnership researchers, but is yet another illustration of their national recognition and the effectiveness of their collaboration.

Similarly, based on their previous work together, University of Minnesota researcher Michael Garwood, Ph.D. and Mayo investigators Joseph Poduslo, Ph.D., and Clifford Jack, M.D., have submitted a research grant application to a national foundation and have begun the patent application process related to their research on Alzheimer's Disease. □

## Study Shows Minnesota is Not “Too Little, Too Late” in Bioscience

In June, a comprehensive report was released detailing bioscience initiatives in all 50 states, titled “Laboratories of Innovation: State Bioscience Initiatives 2004.” The report notes that Minnesota’s strengths are in the rapidly developing convergence of medical devices and biotech therapeutics, as well as in agricultural and industrial biotechnology. In national employment comparisons, Minnesota ranks as one of the top states in terms of number and concentration of medical device employment.

More highlights of the report include:

- In 2004, 40 states specifically target the biosciences for development and all 50 states have economic development initiatives available to assist bioscience companies. Investments have grown, and experimental approaches, such as tax credits to encourage investment in private venture capital funds, have also increased significantly.
- More than 885,000 people in the United States are employed in the biosciences. The largest segment of this group is working in the areas of medical devices and equipment, which

account for 37 percent of bioscience employment. Minnesota employed 20,490 in medical devices as of 2002, representing 6.3 percent of national employment in this sector.

- In 2003, bioscience workers on average were paid at least \$26,600 more than the overall national average private sector annual wage.

To read more about the report’s findings visit <http://www.mayouminnesota.com/partnership.org/pressreleases/2004-0607a.html>. To read the full report, go to <http://www.bio.org/speeches/pubs/battelle2004.pdf>. □

## States Adding International Twist to Biotechnology Development

**Wisconsin** Governor Jim Doyle and business leaders are working hard to develop a relationship with Japan to help fund bioscience firms in Wisconsin, promote Wisconsin to other countries and encourage development of the biotech industry. The State sees Japan as a source for funding for start-up bioscience companies. According to the Governor’s office, Japan is Wisconsin’s second largest foreign trading partner after Canada, and the Japanese are already backing 25 Wisconsin companies and as many as five bioscience firms are in talks with investors for joint ventures.

**Ohio** Governor Bob Taft led a large delegation to Taiwan promoting bilateral exchanges, particularly in research, development and commercialization of bioscience. Taft has led a multi-dimensional effort to make bioscience a pillar in the economic future of Ohio. Taft and business leaders participated in a forum sponsored by the nonprofit Development Center for Biotechnology on Ohio’s international effort to promote joint research and development as well as commercialization of bioscience and technology.

### *Your Support Matters*

*If you are intrigued by what you’ve read about the Minnesota Partnership for Biotechnology and Medical Genomics and would like to learn more or show your support, visit our Web site. If you or someone you know has benefited from medical advancements in biotechnology or medical genomics, please share your story with us.*

[www.MayoUMinnesotaPartnership.org](http://www.MayoUMinnesotaPartnership.org)

