2021 Program Announcement
Translational Product Development Fund (TPDF)
Joint UMN/Mayo Program to Support the Development of New Commercial Products
That Improve Human Health

Purpose
The TPDF supports University of Minnesota and/or Mayo Clinic investigators with projects that aim to develop new products with commercialization potential, such as medical devices, diagnostics, therapeutics, software, or other human health innovations.

The objective of funding provided through this program is to accelerate the scientific maturation of the project, including identifying and resolving technical and commercial risks. The ultimate goal of this program is to bring new solutions and products to the market that improve human health.

Funding
Funding for the TPDF program is provided by the Minnesota Partnership for Biotechnology and Medical Genomics and administered jointly by University of Minnesota’s Office of Discovery and Translation and Mayo Clinic’s Office of Translation to Practice. Project awards provided through this program are administered through the sponsored projects offices of each institution and are categorized as sponsored research funding.

Award amounts are determined on a project by project basis depending on what is needed to reach the next critical development milestone. Typical awards are between $75,000 and $250,000 total direct costs for one to two years. Full (federal rate) indirect costs are included. Please request only the amount that is needed to advance development. Project review will strongly consider if funds are being requested for only the work critical to advance the innovation to the next development milestone. Projects successfully meeting project milestones, and that demonstrate continued advancement towards commercialization, may be eligible to apply for additional funding through the TPDF program.

Project Eligibility
Eligible projects must have commercial potential, defined as the potential to lead to the formation of a start-up company or execution of a license agreement with an established commercial entity.

Projects must meet the following requirements:
• Innovation addresses a human health need that does not have an adequate solution on the market
• Innovation is clearly defined and ready for further development
• A preliminary development pathway towards commercialization has been identified
• Proposed work is focused on development with potential to advance the innovation towards commercialization
• Intellectual property related to the innovation has already been disclosed to the University of Minnesota Technology Commercialization office or Mayo Clinic Ventures
• Intellectual property related to the innovation has not yet been licensed to a commercial entity

Eligible project types may include (but are not limited to):
• Therapeutic (small molecule or biologic): lead identification and optimization, in vitro and in vivo proof of concept testing, or preclinical development
• Medical device: prototype development and optimization, bench testing, animal model or cadaver testing, pilot studies in humans
• Diagnostic: testing of biomarker candidate sensitivity and specificity, development of clinical assays, validation with human samples
• Health IT: development and validation of mobile apps, software, algorithms, and database technologies

Applicant Eligibility
All full-time University of Minnesota faculty (all campuses) and Mayo Clinic Associate Consultant to Consultant investigators from the Rochester campus are eligible to apply; because this program is supported by funds from the state of Minnesota, non-MN-based investigators are not eligible. Collaborative projects between the two institutions are not required for eligibility.

Please contact your institutional TPDF program representative with any questions regarding eligibility (see contact information below).

Application Process
Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the appropriate institutional TPDF program representative to discuss alignment with the program prior to submission.

Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis through the following link:
https://redcap.ahc.umn.edu/surveys/?s=48NMJEMWX4

Completed submissions will be reviewed three times per year according to the following schedule:

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<th>Review Period</th>
<th>Earliest Project Start Date</th>
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Applicants may be asked to respond to questions raised during the review process. Prior to making a final funding decision, applicants may be asked to provide more detailed budget information and/or to consider revisions to their work plan reflecting feedback from reviewers.

Program Contact Information
Sandra Wells, PhD
Office of Discovery and Translation
University of Minnesota
Email: smwells@umn.edu
Phone: 612.625.3073

Roberto Zayas Nazario, PhD
Office of Translation to Practice
Mayo Clinic
Email: zayasnazario.roberto@mayo.edu
Phone: 507.293.7327