

*Request for Research Proposals
Details and Instructions for Faculty*

The Minnesota Partnership for Biotechnology and Medical Genomics (MNP) is funded by the State of Minnesota and comprises a Collaboration between the University of Minnesota (UMN) and the Mayo Foundation for Medical Research (Mayo). The MNP has helped establish Minnesota as a world leader in biotechnology and biomedical research by supporting the discovery and development of important medical breakthroughs, and fueling economic growth in Minnesota. The 2024 MNP RFP seeks to promote continued investment in a diverse portfolio of high-impact innovations.

Project Information

The 2024 RFP seeks to solicit Discovery Science projects, and to highlight additional MNP funding opportunities outside of this RFP (page 4).

Discovery Science projects are projects that address critical knowledge gaps in the biology of approaches to human health. These projects have the potential to impact patient care in the future, but are at the stage of basic research. Discovery science projects do not have a defined product or solution that is ready to demonstrate feasibility or test the potential for real-world use.

Examples of eligible **Discovery Science** projects include:

- Applications in all areas of human health, health-related and disease-related research
- Novel applications of recent advances in biotechnology, genomics, proteomics, imaging, and bioinformatics to solve unresolved questions in human health are strongly encouraged
- Projects that seek to understand mechanisms related to disease natural history, prevention, diagnosis or treatment

The Partnership is particularly interested in supporting projects that aim to prevent, treat, and research causes of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias through each of the opportunities described above.

Expected Outcomes from Discovery Science Awards

Examples of outcomes expected as the result of MNP-project funding include:

- Dissemination of discoveries through publications, including citation of MNP funding support
- Obtaining follow-on funding from funding sources such as foundations, philanthropic donors, and federal funding opportunities (e.g. NIH R01, ARPA-H, DoD)

Award Information

MNP will fund total project costs (direct and indirect) up to \$750,000 for Discovery Science projects over the span of up to three years. MNP anticipates awarding at least three Discovery Science awards in 2024.

Eligibility

This RFP is open to researchers at the University of Minnesota (all campuses) and Mayo Clinic (Minnesota sites only). To be eligible, the proposed project must satisfy the following requirements:

- The applicant must be ready to initiate work on the funded project within 90 days of approval
- Principal Investigators (PIs) may only submit one application per MNP cycle; you may serve as a Co-Investigator (Co-I) on multiple projects

Special Considerations:

Joint applications that include a PI from each Mayo and UMN are particularly encouraged; such applications should reflect a true collaboration that equally leverages both institutions. Joint applications will support advancement of existing collaborations, and/or lead to the development of new research collaborations between the institutions. While this is not an eligibility requirement, competitive joint applications will be given funding priority over single-institution applications of equal caliber.

MNP encourages early-stage investigators from diverse backgrounds to apply.

Application Process and Timeline

Discovery Science applicants are asked to initiate the submission process by submitting a competitive letter of intent online at <https://umnodat.infoready4.com/#freeformCompetitionDetail/1941517>. The online submission portal includes a word limit constraint shown below.

Competitive LOI Components

- Application title and the identity of the PI(s)
- A brief description of the hypothesis/specific aims and the experimental approach (limit 500 words)
- The role and responsibilities of research team members (limit 250 words)
- The total budget requested and proposed timeline (limit 250 words)
- A brief description of the value of UMN-Mayo collaboration (if applicable for joint applications) (limit 250 words)

NIH biosketches for the PI(s) will be required upon submission of the LOI.

The letter of intent is due by 12 pm CDT on July 18, 2024. The letter must be submitted electronically using the online form available at: <https://umnodat.infoready4.com/#freeformCompetitionDetail/1941517>.

Letters of intent will be screened for eligibility and overall competitiveness by the MNP Program Leadership Team. Each letter of intent will be screened for novelty/innovation of the proposal, strength of the research team, and whether the specific aims are both achievable and competitive for future funding.

Please note: A faculty member who is a PI on a currently funded MNP Grant cannot be a PI on a new application. A faculty member may apply for only one grant per cycle on which they would be a PI. There

is no limitation to the number of grants on which a faculty member would participate as a co-investigator or collaborator.

Applicants invited to submit a full proposal will be notified by August 20, 2024.

Proposal Components: Proposals must be submitted electronically using an online submission form. An InfoReady link will be provided upon invitation. The online form requests the following information:

- Funding request: direct and indirect costs
- Abstract: a summary of the project
- Background: prior work summary (previous work on this project)
- Research Plan: study description, hypothesis/specific aims, experimental plan, intended outcomes, potential pitfalls and alternative plans, and references
- Disease-orientation: how will the project advance the understanding, prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of a disease
- Timeline: major tasks to be completed within the funding period that will be used by the Program Management Team to track progress throughout the funding period
- Faculty Roles: roles and responsibilities of the PI(s) and key personnel (include only individuals who will play a prominent role on the project)
- Success: why does the project have a high expectation for success
- State-wide Impact: describe the potential impact of the project on the State of Minnesota
- Layperson Summary: a summary of the project that could be understood by a lay audience
- Letters of Support: (limited to 1 page each) may be uploaded as a combined PDF
- Biographical Sketches: (for key personnel) in NIH format must be uploaded as a combined PDF. (Include a detailed description of current or pending funding for the PI(s), and the degree to which the proposed study overlaps with current or pending awards)
- Resource Inventory: a listing of major resources available for the project
- Budget: a budget template is provided in the online submission form; please complete and upload the template showing direct and indirect costs. Eligible direct costs include all allowable NIH costs. Faculty salary requests should be based on the current NIH cap if appropriate. Indirect calculations for equipment, patient care costs, etc., should be consistent with NIH policies.

Special instructions for University of Minnesota faculty: A Proposal Routing Form (PRF) is not required. However, your department may wish to approve your proposal prior to submission.

Special instructions for Mayo Clinic proposal teams: A MIRIS/OSPA budget is not required for LOI submission, but it will be necessary before finalization of any award.

The deadline for receipt of complete proposals is 12 pm CDT on October 1, 2024.

Applications must be submitted electronically using the InfoReady submission link provided upon invitation.

Review Process:

The MNP Program Leadership Team will review Letter of Intent submissions and select projects for proposal submission.

Proposals will be reviewed by the MNP Program Leadership Team and subject matter expert (SME) scientific reviewers. Criteria considered for funding include:

- Scientific merit

- Novelty/innovation of the proposal
- Strength of the research team
- Feasibility of specific aims
- Potential impact of the innovation

RFP Schedule and Deadlines

RFP Launch Date	06/20/24
LOI Due	07/18/24
LOI Evaluation	07/19/24-08/15/24
Proposals Invited	08/20/24
Proposals Due	10/01/24
Proposal Review	10/02/24-11/21/24
Awards Announced	12/16/24
Earliest Start Date	02/21/25

Contacts

For questions not answered in the RFP:

For UMN Applicants contact ODAT@umn.edu

For Mayo Applicants contact MNP@mayo.edu

Other Active MNP Funding Opportunities (not part of this RFP)

Translational Research- applied research projects that are advancing the development of defined products, solutions or approaches to improve patient care that are ready to demonstrate proof-of-concept or verify that a concept has practical potential in a real-world application. Interested applicants may contact: UMN applicants, ODAT@umn.edu; Mayo applicants, OTP@mayo.edu.

Commercialization - projects that are advancing development of defined drugs, diagnostics, medical devices, software or other technologies to improve human health that have intellectual property and are on the pathway to a license to a start-up company or existing commercial entity. Interested applicants may contact: UMN applicants, ODAT@umn.edu; Mayo applicants, OTP@mayo.edu.

Center Grant Support - projects that are part of a plan to seek large, center-level funding within 3 years of current award initiation. Center-level funding is defined as projects that seek at least \$1M/year (direct cost) for at least 3 years. Interested applicants may contact: UMN applicants, ODAT@umn.edu; Mayo applicants, OTP@mayo.edu.