Medical Discovery Teams

Medical Discovery Teams are an initiative funded by the State of Minnesota. The goal of the Board of Regents, President Kaler, Medical School leadership and faculty, and our state government is to increase the prominence of the University of Minnesota Medical School through recruitment of truly exceptional faculty and students, leadership at the forefront of discovery, and high-quality patient care.

In 2014 Gov. Mark Dayton appointed a blue ribbon commission comprising health system representatives, legislators, University faculty, and providers to develop recommendations to strengthen the Medical School. The final report included the concept of medical discovery teams (MDTs). MDTs will focus on high impact areas of biomedical/health care research with state funding available to recruit faculty considered national leaders in their fields.

Areas for the initial MDTs were selected by a call to Medical School faculty leaders for ideas, which were then reviewed by an external team of research leaders from around the country. Proposals were evaluated for NIH interest, University strength, and potential of impact on human health.

Areas Chosen for Investment
- Addiction
- Biology of Aging
- Optical imaging and Brain Science
- Rural/American Indian Health Disparities

The University is currently recruiting a leader for each MDT. The leader will in turn recruit other faculty to form an interdisciplinary team focused on solving complex health problems, in collaboration with current University faculty working in similar areas.

This is an exciting opportunity for the University of Minnesota Medical School to develop world-class expertise in additional important health areas. We are aiming for the discoveries that will change health and health care in Minnesota and the world.
The Medical School is a highly prestigious, widely respected, and academically productive center for the education and training of physicians, development of investigative scientists and researchers, basic, translation, and clinical research initiatives, and overall clinical excellence. Through the years, the Medical School has been home to groundbreaking work in areas including cardiology, organ transplantation and blood/marrow transplantation. Discoveries have also led to a thriving biosciences industry in Minnesota.

The Medical School includes a regional campus in Duluth, founded to serve the needs of rural Minnesotans and Native American communities. The campus is ranked #4 in rural health and top 10 in primary care by U.S. News and World Report. Research goals connect closely to the mission and span a wide range of interests from genomics to population health. Almost half of Duluth campus graduates select Family Medicine as a specialty and 40 percent practice in small communities. The campus is also known for graduating the second largest number of American Indian physicians in the country.

The Medical School overall is part of a large, comprehensive Academic Health Center, including 6 health professionals schools, interdisciplinary research centers, and interprofessional training programs. The University’s Academic Health Center trains nearly 70 percent of the state’s health professionals.

Duluth

The Duluth campus is physically part of the University of Minnesota Duluth campus, with more than 11,500 students in undergraduate and graduate programs. Duluth is 150 miles north of the Twin Cities and minutes from Lake Superior. It is a city of about 85,000 and is a regional center for banking, retail shopping, and medical care for northern Minnesota, northern Wisconsin, and northwestern Michigan. Duluth is a four season city with natural beauty and outdoor sports and activities year-round. The community is family focused and the city has been rated by Money magazine as one of the top four Midwestern small cities based on livability. Duluth was also ranked number 1 among the “16 best places to live in the U.S.” in Outside magazine’s Best Town rankings last year.