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, translational, 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.

Today our world-class medical researchers are poised to make major discoveries in areas of neuroscience, regenerative medicine, immunology, and cancer. The school has also benefited from the recent completion of the state-of-the-art Biomedical Discovery District, a complex of research buildings on campus designed to allow interdisciplinary researchers to work side by side, facilitating new collaboration and discovery.

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

The University of Minnesota is Minnesota’s flagship, land grant university, with 4,000 faculty and 16,700 graduate and professional students. The University is ranked 9th among public research universities and boasts expertise from medicine and engineering to agriculture and the liberal arts.

Minneapolis/St. Paul Area

The Twin Cities area earns high rankings for livability, health status, environment, culture, and economics. The area is renowned for its cultural and recreational opportunities and beautiful natural surroundings. Numerous arts venues, five professional sports teams, 950 lakes and more than 100,000 acres of parkland provide a vast array of entertainment. The Twin Cities have the highest percentage of new Americans per capita of any large city in the United States, a strong, innovative business community with 18 Fortune 500 companies, and a leading K-12 public school system. This spring Minneapolis was named a nation’s healthiest city based on food choices, exercise opportunities, and community support.