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MEDICAL SCHOOL | UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

## Med News Matters

### January 2017

Dear Colleagues,

The new year is off to a fast start with many exciting developments to report this month.



We are kicking off 2017 with a new ranking! Education research site, StartClass ranks the **University of Minnesota 20th of 174 U.S. Medical Schools**. [StartClass](#) obtains its data from public sources and bases its ratings on a number of attributes including, admissions standards, student resources, and school funding. This recognition is a reflection of the progress we are making toward our goal of raising the preeminence of the Medical School.



### Medical Discovery Team Hire

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I am proud to announce we have hired [Prakash Kara, Ph.D.](#), the first member of the Optical and Brain Science Medical Discovery Team (MDT). Dr. Kara is renowned for his work in visual perception, optical imaging, and the field of neurovascular coupling and comes to the University of Minnesota from the Medical University of South Carolina where he was an Associate Professor in the Department of Neuroscience. The Optical Imaging and Brain Science Medical Discovery Team will develop and apply innovative technologies for acquiring fundamental insights about how the nervous system functions in health and disease. As a member of this team, Dr. Kara will have a significant role in our efforts to revolutionize our understanding of the brain.

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### Governor Dayton Supports Medical School Funding Requests

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Thanks to the success of Minnesota Discovery, Research, and Innovation Economy (MnDRIVE) programs, like our BRAIN initiative, Governor Dayton is supporting the University's request to expand MnDrive. As part of his budget proposal, he has recommended a \$8 million over the next two years to expand access to cancer care through a newly created statewide cancer clinical trials network. He is also recommending

patient care programs are at risk. This is a great first step, but we also need the backing of our legislators. The University has an [advocacy network](#) with resources that detail how to connect with our elected officials. Let's do our part to ensure our state lawmakers pledge their support of these very important requests.

## Chainbreaker Kickoff Reception

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Lastly, I would like to personally invite all of you to join me at the Chainbreaker kickoff reception, this Wednesday, February 1, 2017, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Mayo Auditorium. Chainbreaker is a weekend bike-a-thon established to fund lifesaving cancer research at the University. I hope you will attend, enjoy some refreshments, and [register](#) to ride!



Sincerely,

Brooks Jackson, M.D., M.B.A.

Dean of the Medical School

Vice President for Health Sciences



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