M Health, Advancing human research protections, MnDRIVE

M Health: The University’s Board of Regents and University of Minnesota Physicians’ (UMP) Board of Directors have terminated a letter of intent (LOI) to create an academic health system with Fairview Health Services.

- The LOI was originally signed in October 2015 with the goal of creating a new, fully integrated academic health system and expanding opportunities for research, education, and clinical care.
- After months of discussion, the University and UMP presented Fairview with a proposal that would support and strengthen the University’s vital health sciences mission. Fairview did not accept the proposal.
- The decision to terminate the LOI allows the University and UMP to work more closely with other providers and systems in the state, looking for opportunities to advance the goals of the University of Minnesota Medical School and other health sciences colleges.
- This has no immediate impact on the existing relationship among Fairview, UMP, and the U. Patient care will not be affected by this decision, and the organizations will continue to provide high-quality care under the University of Minnesota Health brand. Termination of the LOI does not preclude future agreements or ongoing discussions with Fairview.

Advancing human research protections: The conduct of research is fundamental to the University’s mission. We are committed to protecting research participants, upholding the highest ethical standards, and improving our practice at every step of our work.

We are carrying out a plan to strengthen human research protections and cultivate a culture of research ethics. Over the past year, an immense effort among faculty, staff, and others has focused on these goals.

A University-wide research ethics communications campaign is set to fully launch in fall 2016. The campaign will promote and build awareness of the University’s principles, policies, and processes that uphold ethical research practices.

MnDRIVE Update: Over the past two years, MnDRIVE, supported by an $18 million recurring annual investment by the state, has allowed the University to further develop research strengths and work with industry partners to advance innovation. Each of MnDRIVE’s four research areas has had significant successes across the University system, including:

- Leveraging $76 million in external funding from private, public and nonprofit sources
- Submitting disclosures for 143 new inventions and launching three startup companies
- Engaging more than 225 external partners, including 3M, Boston Scientific, Syngenta, Tonka Waters, and Toro
- Hiring 442 faculty, staff, fellows, and students
- Publishing 1,500 research papers

University leadership is exploring new areas for research through various University forums and in consultation with the MnDRIVE advisory council. Ultimately, they are expected to choose several ideas to expand MnDRIVE and present them to the Legislature for additional funding in 2017.
1. We combine the power of research, excellence in teaching, and a commitment to the common good to transform lives, fuel creativity, and strengthen MN’s economy.

- **ROI:** Every $1 invested in the U by the state generates about $13.20 in economic benefit; this totals about $9 billion in annual economic impact.
- **Scope:** We are one of only four universities in the nation with schools of engineering, human and veterinary medicine, law, and agriculture on one campus.
- **Workforce:** About 284,000 U of M alumni live in Minnesota, holding more than 360,000 U degrees; we graduate about 80% of the state’s medical school grads and all of Minnesota’s pharmacists, dentists, and veterinarians.

2. We are driven to address the Grand Challenges of a diverse and changing world—and we are uniquely positioned to do so.

- **Funding:** We are the 8th most active public research university in the nation, with more than $900 million in research funding.
- **Innovation:** In 2015, U research helped launch a record 16 startup companies for a total of 57 new companies over the last four years.
- **Community:** Liberal arts scholars study the identity and interaction of communities, and the relationship between individuals and their communities.
- **Teaching:** Many undergrads participate in research; our professors are working across disciplines to engage students in courses focused on Grand Challenges.

3. We ignite students’ drive to discover, preparing them to become tomorrow’s leaders and global citizens.

- **Students:** We have more than 60,000 students, mentored by some of the world’s leading scholars on five campuses and learning increasingly via interdisciplinary teaching.
- **Graduation-focused:** Twin Cities graduation rates more than doubled in the past 15 years (four-year rate: 63%; retention rate of first-year students: 93%).
- **Access:** Among the most affordable colleges in MN for students from families earning less than $75,000 per year. Students at lowest income levels receive grant aid—without loans—that exceeds tuition and fees. Forty percent of Twin Cities undergrads graduate with zero debt from U sources.

4. We engage with people across the state and globe to drive innovation, transform communities, and apply knowledge to improve lives.

- **Statewide:** Nearly 23,000 Minnesotans work at U of M campuses, research and outreach centers, and regional Extension offices across the state.
- **Reinvestment:** In 2013-14, the U invested about $253 million in public service.
- **Improving communities:** We work with an increasingly diverse region to enhance understanding, bridge disparities, and dismantle barriers to opportunity.