



**ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
RESEARCH
PARKS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Creating Communities of Innovation

**U OF MINNESOTA ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER TAPPED TO HOST GLOBAL
RESEARCH PARK CONFERENCE**

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.—Global leaders in the research and science park field will gather in the Twin Cities in 2010 for the Association of University Research Parks (AURP) Annual Conference. AURP promotes and supports the development of university research parks around the globe.

The University of Minnesota's Academic Health Center was selected by AURP to host the conference expected to draw international representation. The conference, scheduled for September 15-17, will focus on new opportunities to fuel the world's economic recovery.

“The economic growth associated with research, science and tech parks is substantial. These ‘Communities of Innovation’ will continue to drive economic recovery,” said Gregory Deason, President of AURP. “Global partnerships are the key to building our future world economy. We’re looking forward to bringing together innovation leaders from around the world in Minneapolis.”

In 2008, the Minnesota Legislature approved funding for the Minnesota Biomedical Research Program, a landmark \$292 million project that authorizes the development of four state-of-the-art biomedical research buildings on the East Bank campus. The buildings will create space to conduct research in heart disease, Alzheimer's disease, cancer, and other illnesses.

“We’re very excited to host the AURP 2010 conference in the Twin Cities, as we’re in the midst of expanding our Biomedical Discovery District on campus,” said Frank B. Cerra, M.D., Senior Vice President for Health Sciences and Dean of the Medical School at the University of Minnesota. “To bring the world’s leaders in the development of university research parks to our city is an extremely important opportunity for our city, as well as for the Academic Health Center.”

“Minneapolis is one of the country’s leading life science centers. The cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul and the University are working together on a University Research Park,” said Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Tybak. “Our role is to build the physical environment that brings these talented professionals together, to support innovation and give them the confidence that their investments will be matched with a high quality of life, which includes access to an educated workforce.”

About AURP: The Association of University Research Parks is a professional association of university related research and science parks. AURP's mission is to promote and support the development of university research parks worldwide. For more information visit our Web site at www.aurp.net or contact Eileen Walker at eileenwalker@aurp.net.