

SPARK TEL AVIV Mentoring Program

Enhance Translation of Academic Discoveries to Novel Therapeutics

4 June, 2019

Prof. Ariel Porat, President, Tel Aviv University
 Prof. Yaron Oz, Rector, Tel Aviv University
 Prof. Ehud Grossman, Dean, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University
 Prof. Abed Abdussalam, Dean, GS Wise Faculty of Life Sciences, Tel Aviv University
 Prof. Dan Peer, Managing Director, SPARK TEL AVIV

CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2019-2020

SPARK TEL AVIV Mentoring Program supports **the development of novel therapeutics (small molecule or biologics) and diagnostic** for **unmet medical needs**, as well as **repurposing of existing drugs for new indications**. Admitted projects will receive milestone-based funds to support and de-risk each project, up to 100,000\$ per project/year. Funded projects, and a selection of non-funded projects, will receive continuous mentorship and access to expert advisors at all stages of drug development.

OUR CONCEPT

The current success rate of translating novel scientific findings into new therapies is disappointingly low at academic institutions worldwide. Causes include erratic selection of promising projects, high degree of project risk and minimal attention to intellectual property. The "SPARK TEL AVIV" program, (<http://spark-telaviv.tau.ac.il/>) designed to de-risk projects with high potential impact, addresses critical unmet medical needs for any indication. It is based on education, mentorship, advising and milestones based-funding. SPARK TEL AVIV is a member of the global SPARK community initiated by Stanford University working in the translational medicine field.

YOUR BENEFIT

- Mentored project management support
- Funds to de-risk your project
- Advice from volunteer industry leaders
- Learn what translation is all about
- Become educated on drug development and diagnostics
- Bring your invention to market and/or clinic
- Participate in a community of inventors and entrepreneurs
- Gain access to investors and experts on commercialization
- Be a member of the international SPARK network

ELIGIBILITY and PRIORITY

Applications will be accepted from **TAU researchers** and **priority will be given to teams that include both researchers (TAU) and physicians (affiliated hospitals)**.

Research projects funded by the Israel Innovation Authority can apply for the mentoring program but are not eligible for funding.

CRITERIA

Proposals, for any clinical indication, will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Scope of unmet clinical need
- Novelty of approach
- Feasibility (budget and time)
- Quality of data
- Team suitability
- Marketability/probability of commercialization

HOW TO APPLY

1. **Use application form at SPARK TEL AVIV website.** Submit two-page application of proposed therapy/ diagnostic or diagnostic. Deadline: **August 1st 2019**.
2. After selection by an academic committee from TAU and affiliated hospitals you will get an invitation **to pitch your project** before external advisory team comprising key opinion leaders in relevant fields. (**November, 2019**).
3. Selected projects will receive guidance and financial support (up to 100,000 \$/year – max. two years based on accomplishment of milestones).
4. Selected teams will participate in bi-monthly educational lecture series in various drug development and diagnosis fields. Participation is obligatory.