



By signing the SPARK Global Charter, you are gaining **affiliate status** and are thus entitled to use the SPARK Global brand, get access to SPARK Regional/Global services, and can send representatives to the annual SPARK Global Meeting (\$500 attendance fee per individual), initially without a vote. Please ensure that at least **two individuals** sign the Charter, one of whom must be a clinician or researcher at the signing institution.

I, as a SPARK Local Director and a representative of *<Name of the Institute>* sign this document to signify our adherence to the SPARK Mission and Values, as well as our promise to contribute to the collective efforts of the SPARK Global Community, and thus become members of the community, authorized to use the SPARK brand and logo, as well as gaining access to SPARK services and support.

Signature

Print Name

Title

Date

Signature

Print Name

Title

Date

Signature

Daria Mochly-Rosen

Print Name

President/Founder, SPARK Global

Title

Date

A. Why SPARK – The SPARK Value Proposition

SPARK fills a void: Its value proposition is to help increase the flow of high quality, translatable projects from academia into the clinic through the mentoring of PIs and financing of high-risk projects. What is unique about SPARK is that it is carried out within academia and is closely mentored and advised by volunteer industry scientists and experts. SPARK bridges the gap that exists between academia and industry, one that is difficult to bridge in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

B. SPARK Vision, Mission and Values

At its core, SPARK is a non-profit player, focused on academic values, whose mission is to turn good ideas into great projects and solutions through education, mentorship, and financial support of selected projects in academia **to benefit patients and society**. SPARK supports high-quality translational projects and solutions based on excellent science, addressing unmet need and satisfying industrial standards of clear differentiation, project strategy, experimental design, control, data integrity and replicability, while supporting commercialization of member technologies.

All SPARK Local Programs should encompass a broad scope of coaching and learning dimensions to prepare faculty members and their teams for innovation activities within and even beyond the borders of academia (professional research standards, regulatory sciences, project strategy, legal aspects, personal skills, partnering with industry, etc).

C. The SPARK Community Then, Now and in the Future

SPARK started as a grassroots initiative in Stanford and has since inspired similar grassroots initiatives around the globe. Although they all differ in what they focus on in terms of biomedical products and innovation culture, all SPARK Programs are held together by a standardized approach to selecting and coaching projects in academia so they become eminently translatable and create value for the host institutions, investors, industry and, most importantly, to patients.

D. The Operating Model of the global SPARK Community

Until now, local SPARK programs have been set up and have been operating with some guidance but without a unifying message or approach to translational medicine; the emerging global **SPARK Community** has so far been supported together by individual travel and by the Stanford founders and a small number of early program graduates (SPARKees). **To fully leverage its impact on biomedical innovation, SPARK Global is in the process of putting into place a global Operating Model, built on the fundamental principles of drug discovery and innovation in a translational context.** Still, it is important that individual SPARK Global programs operate each with its own needs in mind, fully capturing the spirit and flavor of the regional and local academic-industrial environment. The annual **SPARK Global Meeting** is the central organ of the global **SPARK Community**, where local operational reality meets global strategic leadership.

E. Roles and Responsibilities in the Global SPARK Community

Set-up and initial operations

- Local initiative, local appointment of leaders, ideally a basic and a clinical scientist, at least one of whom to be designated as SPARK Local Director
- Local organization of an institutional advisory board one of whose main tasks will be to ensure stability of leadership
- Putting in place financing mechanism (estimated annual running cost of \$0.5-\$2mn for 5-20 projects to be developed)
- You will have a guest status at SPARK Global Meeting as an Affiliate Member before fully setting up local program
- Initial learning about SPARK can be obtained by visiting Stanford or other established programs

- Standard advice will be provided by SPARK Global in writing for free
- Institution-specific programmatic advice can be obtained from SPARK Regional/Global for a standard per diem fee (\$1000/day for visits to the Institution by a SPARK Regional Director)
- Once the institutional representatives sign the SPARK Global Charter, the local program is entitled to use the SPARK Global brand, gets access to SPARK Regional/Global services for a fee and can send a representative to SPARK Global Meeting, initially without a vote

Becoming a full member with a vote in SPARK Global Meeting

- After a period of twelve months post-program initiation, the local affiliate will provide to SPARK Global, or the SPARK Global Regional Director, an annual report highlighting the progress made by the program over the previous year
- **Full membership** can be obtained after the second review (after two years)
- Reports will then continue to be provided every two years or in case of a request by local/regional levels
- Full membership status entitles voting rights in the SPARK Global Annual Meeting, access to funding, access to inter SPARK collaborations, etc
- Maintained status as a full member is contingent upon continued adherence to the SPARK Global Mission and Values

Membership Criteria

There are a number of criteria to be fulfilled by SPARK Local Programs to gain and retain rights to use the SPARK brand and logo, access to SPARK services and support, as well as full voting membership in the SPARK Global Meeting:

- Clear leadership in place (ideally a scientist and a clinician, one of whom designated as Director)
- Establishing a local advisory board of volunteer experts from industry (covering all aspects of drug development and commercialization)
- Financing mechanism for local operations in place
- At least two full cycles of project selection (a total of at least ten projects, exceptions can be made for smaller institutions) using SPARK selection criteria
- Clear definition of scope of projects (drugs vs devices vs bioinformatics, etc.)
- Regular coaching and education sessions for selected PIs and teams by SPARK Local officers, employees and external volunteers on campus (SPARK is not an off-campus incubator)
- Active contribution to the global SPARK Community at country/regional/global level
- Active collaboration with local TTO or other commercialization entity

The SPARK Mission

Turn 'good ideas into great projects and solutions' through education, mentorship and financial support of selected faculty members and projects in academia to benefit patients and society

The SPARK Values

Patients first, bridging science and clinical practice, operations driven by science, altruism, ethics, collaboration & transparency and mutual respect, not influenced by economic interest