



The 5th CALL FOR SPARK TEL AVIV Mentoring Program PROPOSALS 2024-2025

Enhance Translation of Academic Discoveries
for Drug Repurposing

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SPARK TEL AVIV is a mentoring program created to accelerate scientific discoveries, aiming to increase the impact of academic inventions for the benefit of society. Our mission is to help researchers from TAU and its affiliated hospitals navigate the challenges of translating their research discoveries into new disease treatments. The repurposing track is designed to guide the transition from academic proof-of-concept studies to well-developed preclinical and clinical trials that adhere to industry standards.

This call is open for projects focused on **REPURPOSING OF EXISTING DRUGS** (approved or investigational drugs)

for new indications that are outside the scope of the original medical indication.

Invited applications are for projects in the pre-translational phase, where proof of concept has already been established, and clinical implementation is possible within 2 years. The program will support expenses needed for taking the project towards clinical study, including pre-clinical studies, patient profiling, regulatory consultancy, clinical trial protocol development, product design, and efforts required for clinical readiness.

Awarded projects will receive milestone-based funding for two years, up to \$100,000 per project/year. Funded projects will also receive ongoing mentorship, access to expert advisors and educational programs throughout all stages of product development.

YOUR BENEFITS:

- Funding to de-risk your project
- Advice from industry leaders and access to experts
- Project management support and mentorship
- Education on drug development and clinical readiness
- Membership in the global SPARK community and network
- Support for bringing your invention to the clinic

ELIGIBILITY AND PRIORITY:

- Applications will be accepted from regular full time TAU researchers (not emeriti)
- Priority will be given to teams that include a collaboration of TAU researchers and physicians from TAU affiliated hospitals.

CRITERIA:

- Scope of UNMET CLINICAL NEED
- Quality of DATA with SOLID PROOF OF CONCEPT
- TEAM suitability
- FEASIBILITY (budget and time)

HOW TO APPLY?

- Use the application form at the SPARK TEL AVIV website <https://spark-telaviv.tau.ac.il>,
- **Deadline: September 30, 2024**
- Review by an academic committee from TAU and affiliated hospitals and external key opinion leaders in the relevant fields.
- Final decision will be announced during January 2025
- The selected projects will participate in monthly educational lectures. Participation is obligatory.

For questions and additional information, please contact: hinbal@tauex.tau.ac.il, moriakwiat@tauex.tau.ac.il

