SPARK®

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH BOOTCAMP

Stanford University

November 9 - 11, 2026

WELCOME MESSAGE

We are delighted to welcome you to the SPARK Translational Research Bootcamp at Stanford University. Over the last 20 years, SPARK at Stanford has created and refined an innovative educational and training ecosystem that helps faculty and students advance a drug or diagnostic from discovery to human trials and commercialization, leading to a 52% success rate.

This bootcamp builds upon SPARK's global mission of empowering academic innovators with the knowledge, skills, and networks necessary to translate discoveries into solutions that benefit patients and society.

The goals of the bootcamp are:

- To immerse Hebrew University of Jerusalem participants in the culture that makes SPARK successful: open scientific exchange, candid dialogue about translational challenges, and close collaboration between academia, clinicians, entrepreneurs, and industry experts;
- Build enduring relationships—across our program and people;
- Refine Target Product Profiles and Project Development Plans with expert feedback from Stanford SPARK advisors

These interactions are designed to deepen your practical understanding of translational research strategy while strengthening the global network of SPARK innovators. We hope this bootcamp will further inspire Hebrew University of Jerusalem towards building a strong and sustainable ecosystem that will benefit Israel and the world.



Daria Mochly-Rosen, PhD
Founder & Co-Director
SPARK at Stanford



Kevin Grimes, MD, MBA
Co-Director
SPARK at Stanford

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PARTICIPANT LIST

NAME	TITLE	AFFILIATION
Jason Moore	Director of Operations	Academic Exchange
Nachum Braverman	Executive Director	Academic Exchange
Josh Rednik	Chief Executive Officer	American Friends of Hebrew University
Justin Pressman	Executive Director, Western Region	American Friends of Hebrew University
Yishai Fraenkel	Vice President, Advancement and External Relations	Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Richard Eidinger	Partner	Heidrick & Struggles, Inc
Guy Harpaz	Vice President, International Affairs	School of Law, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Michael Melamed Yekel	Student	School of Medicine, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Ori Cohen	Student	School of Medicine, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Michal Lipschuetz	Associate Professor	School of Nursing, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Gali Umschweif	Assistant Professor	School of Pharmacy, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Haitham Amal	Associate Professor	School of Pharmacy, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Katy Margulis	Assistant Professor	School of Pharmacy, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Rami Yaka	Head of the School of Pharmacy	School of Pharmacy, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Tawfeeq Shekh-Ahmad	Associate Professor	School of Pharmacy, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Yossi Tam	Vice Dean for Research	School of Pharmacy, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Carol Karp	Advisor	SPARK at Stanford
Daria Mochly-Rosen	Founder & Co-Director	SPARK at Stanford
Dirk Mendel	Associate Director, Translational Science	SPARK at Stanford
Gretchen Ehrenkaufer	Associate Director of Education & Program Manager	SPARK at Stanford
Jeewon Kim	Associate Director of Business Development & Program Manager	SPARK at Stanford
Jeremy Chang	Associate Director	SPARK at Stanford
John Sninsky	Advisor	SPARK at Stanford
Kathy Johnson	Executive Administrator	SPARK at Stanford
Kevin Grimes	Co-Director	SPARK at Stanford
Mary Romeo	Communications Manager	SPARK at Stanford
Matt Goldman	Advisor	SPARK at Stanford
Rieko Yajima	Director of Drug Discovery and Innovation & Program Manager	SPARK at Stanford
Skip Victor	Advisor	SPARK at Stanford
Viktoria Kheifets	Advisor	SPARK at Stanford
Will Goodyer	Associate Director	SPARK at Stanford
Alejandra de Almeida	Director	SPARK GLOBAL
Mario Gaspar	Executive Administrator	SPARK GLOBAL
Opher Kornfeld	Managing Director, Translational Science and Development	SPARK NS

PARTICIPANT LIST

NAME	TITLE	AFFILIATION
Shirit Einav	Professor	Stanford Medicine - Infectious Diseases
Thembi Chithenga	Graduate Student	Stanford Graduate School of Business
Anat Arzi	Assistant Professor	The Institute for Medical Research, Israel - Canada
Ayal Ben-Zvi	Associate Professor	The Institute for Medical Research, Israel - Canada
Eli Pikarsky	Dean	The Institute for Medical Research, Israel - Canada
Inbal Benhar	Assistant Professor	The Institute for Medical Research, Israel - Canada
Itamar Simon	Professor	The Institute for Medical Research, Israel - Canada
Ittai Ben-Porath	Head of IMRIC Research Institute	The Institute for Medical Research, Israel - Canada
Joel Yisraeli	Associate Professor	The Institute for Medical Research, Israel - Canada
Lior Nissim	Assistant Professor	The Institute for Medical Research, Israel - Canada
Maayan Salton	Associate Professor	The Institute for Medical Research, Israel - Canada
Michael Berger	Associate Professor	The Institute for Medical Research, Israel - Canada
Moran Yassour	Associate Professor	The Institute for Medical Research, Israel - Canada
Rami Aqeilan	Professor	The Institute for Medical Research, Israel - Canada
Reuven Wiener	Associate Professor	The Institute for Medical Research, Israel - Canada
Sahar Melamed	Assistant Professor	The Institute for Medical Research, Israel - Canada
Sheera Adar	Vice Dean for International Affairs	The Institute for Medical Research, Israel - Canada
Yoav Shaul	Associate Professor	The Institute for Medical Research, Israel - Canada
Yossi Buganim	Associate Professor	The Institute for Medical Research, Israel - Canada
Yuval Dor	Professor	The Institute for Medical Research, Israel - Canada
Yuval Malka	Assistant Professor	The Institute for Medical Research, Israel - Canada
Yuval Tabach	Associate Professor	The Institute for Medical Research, Israel - Canada
Zevik Melamed	Assistant Professor	The Institute for Medical Research, Israel - Canada

AGENDA

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2026

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Registration & Breakfast	
9:00 am – 9:05 am	**Welcome & Program Introduction** *Alejandra de Almeida, PhD*	
9:05 am – 9:50 am	**Introduction to Translating Academic Discoveries to Proof-of-Concept** *Daria Mochly-Rosen, PhD*	
9:50 am – 10:00 am	**SPARK GLOBAL Charter Signing**	
10:00 am – 10:30 am	**Target Identification & Validation** *Gretchen Ehrenkaufer, PhD*	
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Break	
11:00 am – 11:45 am	**Regulatory Aspects of Drug Development** *Carol Karp*	
11:45 am – 12:45 pm	Lunch	
12:45 pm – 1:30 pm	**Starting with the End in Mind - Target Product Profile** *Kevin Grimes, MD, MBA*	Mackenzie Boardroom Room 300 475 Via Ortega Stanford, CA 94305
1:30 pm – 2:15 pm	**Lost in Translation - Clinical Development** *Viktoria Kheifets, PhD*	
2:15 pm – 2:45 pm	**Peripheral Aminopeptidase A (APA) Inhibitors for Metabolic Disease** *Yossi Tam, PhD*	
2:45 pm – 3:15 pm	**Discovery of First-in-Class EXT1 Inhibitors for the Treatment of Aggressive Cancers** *Yoav Shaul, PhD*	
3:15 pm – 3:35 pm	Break	
3:35 pm – 4:05 pm	**Small molecule inhibitors of the oncofetal protein, Igf2bp1** *Joel Yisraeli, PhD*	
4:05 pm – 4:35 pm	**Engineering T cells to utilize trehalose as an alternative carbon source to enhance immunotherapy** *Michael Berger, PhD*	
4:35 pm – 5:05 pm	**Synthetic Biology Applications for Cancer Therapy: CAR-T cells and Cancer Vaccines** *Lior Nissim, PhD*	
5:05 pm – 5:35 pm	**Cellular Rejuvenation: Partial Reprogramming for Anti-aging Therapy** *Yossi Buganim, PhD*	
5:35 pm – 5:45 pm	**Day 1 Wrap Up**	
5:45 pm – 6:00 pm	Walk to Shuttle Pickup (Via Ortega)	
6:00 pm – 6:15 pm	Shuttle to Sheraton Palo Alto	

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AGENDA

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2026		
TIME	**EVENT**	**LOCATION**
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast	
9:00 am – 9:45 am	**What Surprised an Academician** *Daria Mochly-Rosen, PhD*	
9:45 am – 10:30 am	**A Design Thinking Approach to Translational Medicine** *Rieko Yajima, PhD*	
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Break	
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	**The Role of Pharmacology in Drug Development** *Dirk Mendel, PhD*	
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch	Mackenzie Boardroom Room 300 475 Via Ortega Stanford, CA 94305
1:00 pm – 1:10 pm	**Administrative Bootcamp Introduction & Overview** *Alejandra de Almeida, PhD*	
1:10 pm – 2:30 pm	**The SPARK Model: Program Operations, Advisors & Project Selection** *Daria Mochly-Rosen, PhD*	
2:30 pm – 2:50 pm	Break	
2:50 pm – 3:30 pm	**The SPARK Model: Education, Business Development & GLOBAL** *Gretchen Ehrenkaufer, PhD; Jeewon Kim, PhD, MBA; Alejandra de Almeida, PhD*	
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	**Open Discussion** *Moderator: Alejandra de Almeida, PhD*	
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm	Free Time	
5:30 pm – 5:45 pm	Shuttle to Sheraton Palo Alto *Pick up at Via Ortega*	

Notes:

1. Tuesday afternoon session is for invited administrators only

2. Participants staying at the Sheraton Palo Alto may return to the Marguerite Bus Stop #238 on Via Ortega to board the return shuttle to the Sheraton Palo Alto. However, any of the lines that service the Palo Alto Transit Center may also be used as the Sheraton Palo Alto is within walking distance. Please refer to the Transportation section of the program for additional information.

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2026

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast	
9:00 am – 9:45 am	**Diagnostic and Biomarker Development** *John Sninsky, PhD*	
9:45 am – 10:30 am	**What VCs Look For in Startups** *Matt Goldman, MD*	
10:30 am - 11:00 am	Break	
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	**Challenges and Opportunities of Product Development in Academia** *Moderator: Will Goodyer, MD, PhD* *Panelists: Viktoria Kheifets, PhD; Shirit Einav, MD; Opher Kornfeld, PhD*	
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch	
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm	**RNA Dicing: Shifting from a Monolithic to a Modular Gene Expression Model** *Yuval Malka, PhD*	
1:30 pm - 2:00 pm	**Turning Cancer's Greatest Strength into its Greatest Vulnerability** *Yuval Tabach, PhD*	Mackenzie Boardroom Room 300 475 Via Ortega Stanford, CA 94305
2:00 pm - 2:30 pm	**LABOR AI: Machine-Learning Decision Support for Intrapartum Risk Prediction** *Michal Lipschuetz, RN, PhD*	
2:30 pm - 3:00 pm	**Brain Epigenetic Liquid Biopsy** *Yuval Dor, PhD*	
3:00 pm - 3:20 pm	Break	
3:20 pm - 3:50 pm	**From Blood-Based Diagnosis to Small-Molecule Treatment of Autism: Translating Science into Clinical Solutions** *Haitham Amal, PhD*	
3:50 pm - 4:20 pm	**CCL21 as a Potential Biomarker for Depression** *Gali Umschweif, PhD*	
4:20 pm - 4:50 pm	**Nose-to-Brain Approach for Secondary Prevention of PTSD** *Katy Margulis, PhD*	
4:50 pm - 5:00 pm	**Closing Remarks** *Alejandra de Almeida, PhD*	
5:00 pm - 5:20 pm	Walk to LKSC	Li Ka Shing Center Room 130 291 Campus Drive Stanford, CA 94305
5:20 pm - 5:30 pm	Registration	
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	**SPARK Weekly Meeting**	
7:30 pm - 7:50 pm	Break	
7:50 pm - 8:00 pm	Walk to Shuttle Pickup (Campus Drive)	
8:00 pm – 8:15 pm	Shuttle to Sheraton Palo Alto	

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Daria Mochly-Rosen, PhD

Dr. Daria Mochly-Rosen is a Professor of Chemical and Systems Biology, the George D Smith Professor of Translational Medicine and the SPARK at Stanford Founder and Co-Director at Stanford University School of Medicine. She leads a multi-disciplinary research lab and has developed a number of drug leads for human diseases with a particular interest in mitochondrial biology and pathology. She has published over 300 papers and over 50 patents and patent applications. Dr. Mochly-Rosen was chair of her department (2001-2004) and the Senior Associate Dean for Research, Stanford University School of Medicine (2006-2013). Dr. Mochly-Rosen received her PhD in Chemical Immunology from the Weizmann Institute of Science and was a postdoctoral biochemistry fellow with Dan E. Koshland, Jr. at UC Berkeley. After seven years at UCSF, she joined Stanford University School of Medicine. Dr. Mochly-Rosen is President and Founder of SPARK GLOBAL, which has been adopted in over 70 institutes worldwide.



Kevin Grimes, MD, MBA

Dr. Kevin Grimes is a Professor of Chemical and Systems Biology and SPARK at Stanford Co-Director. Dr. Grimes began his career as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at Stanford, where his primary duties included the teaching and practice of internal medicine. Dr. Grimes received a Hartford Foundation Fellowship to study health economics and obtained an MBA at the Stanford Graduate School of Business. He was subsequently selected as a White House Fellow and assigned to the Department of Defense, where he served as Special Assistant to the Secretary. He spent fifteen years in industry, working in the medical device, life science consulting, and biotechnology sectors prior to returning to Stanford to co-direct SPARK. Dr. Grimes also teaches graduate student courses on drug discovery and development and continues to teach and practice internal medicine. He has received the David Rytand Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching and the Faculty Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching.



Will Goodyer, MD, PhD

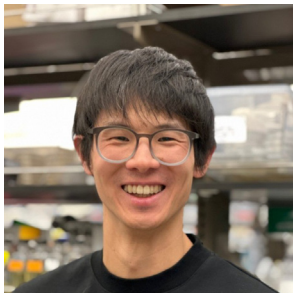
Dr. Goodyer is a physician scientist who specializes in Pediatric Cardiology and Electrophysiology. Will graduated from McGill University (Montreal, Canada) with a BSc in Biology prior to completing his graduate studies at Stanford University in the Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP). He subsequently completed residency training in Pediatrics at Boston Children's Hospital before returning to Stanford to complete a fellowship in Pediatric Cardiology and advanced fellowship in Pediatric Electrophysiology. He additionally performed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Sean Wu laboratory at the Stanford Cardiovascular Institute where he developed the first comprehensive single-cell gene atlas of the entire murine cardiac conduction system (CCS) as well as pioneered the generation of optical imaging agents for the real-time visualization of the CCS to help prevent accidental surgical damage during heart surgeries. Will's lab (www.goodyerlab.com) focuses on basic science advances aimed at the improved diagnosis and treatment of cardiac arrhythmias.

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Alejandra de Almeida, PhD

Dr. Alejandra de Almeida is the Director of SPARK GLOBAL at Stanford University, where she leads a translational research partnership network comprising programs across 25 countries on five continents. In this role, she organizes SPARK GLOBAL conferences worldwide and leads the program's bootcamps. She brings over 15 years of experience in partnership and program management across the government, academic, nonprofit, and startup sectors. Her background includes a position at the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), as well as work in COVID-19 research funding and industry-academic partnerships. Dr. de Almeida earned her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Buenos Aires and completed postdoctoral training at the University of Amsterdam and the University of California, San Francisco, where she was a Fulbright Scholar.



Jeremy Chang, PhD

Jeremy serves as Senior Director of Asset Acquisition at GondolaBio, a spinout company of BridgeBio,where has started development of six therapeutics that target genetic diseases at the source. He has a particular focus on using human genetics to aid drug development. Previously, he was a postdoctoral fellow in Cancer Biology at UCSF and in Bioinformatics at Columbia, and he completed his doctoral studies in Chemical and Systems Biology at Stanford.



Gretchen Ehrenkaufer, PhD

Dr. Gretchen Ehrenkaufer is a project manager and scientist with extensive experience in translational research, molecular and cell biology, and infectious disease. At Stanford School of Medicine, she has led research on Entamoeba histolytica, driving discoveries in parasite genetics, RNA biology, and drug screening. Her background includes over 15 years of laboratory research, grant writing, mentorship, and cross-functional collaboration. As Program Manager at SPARK, she supports early-stage therapeutic development, integrating scientific insight with project execution. Her work has contributed to the identification of novel antiparasitic compounds and advanced understanding of parasite life cycles.



Jeewon Kim, PhD, MBA

Dr. Jeewon Kim is a seasoned biotech executive and investment professional with over a decade of experience bridging translational research and commercialization. As Associate Director of Business Development at SPARK Stanford and an investment fellow at Life Sciences Angels, she has led due diligence and business development for over 200 biotech programs. With a strong scientific background in oncology, immunology, and neurodegenerative diseases, she has guided early-stage startups through regulatory planning, fundraising, and partnership development. Her expertise spans both R&D and financial strategy, leveraging a global network to accelerate innovative therapeutics from academia to market.

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Dirk Mendel, PhD

Dr. Dirk Mendel is a seasoned translational scientist and executive with over 30 years of experience in drug discovery and early clinical development across oncology, antivirals, and other therapeutic areas. He has contributed to the development of seven marketed drugs, including Sutent®, Tamiflu®, and Parsabiv®, through leadership roles in both biotech startups and major pharmaceutical companies. With deep expertise in PK/PD modeling, biomarker strategies, and portfolio management, he has driven programs from discovery through clinical proof-of-concept. Currently, he serves as Associate Director of Translational Science at Stanford's SPARK program, advancing innovation in biomedicine.



Rieko Yajima, PhD

Rieko Yajima is the Director of Drug Discovery Innovation at Stanford SPARK. At SPARK, she works with researchers and a community of volunteer industry advisors to de-risk the science in drug discovery and diagnostic projects, and to identify the quickest path to the clinic. She has a Ph.D. in chemical biology and served as a science policy fellow at the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. Her previous roles include being an Associate Program Director at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in Washington, DC, where she advised the scientific community on interdisciplinary research collaboration, implementation, and evaluation, and being a Research Scholar at the Center for Design Research at Stanford.



Mario Gaspar
Executive Administrator
SPARK GLOBAL



Kathy Johnson
Executive Administrator
SPARK at Stanford



Mary Romeo
Communications Manager
SPARK at Stanford

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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



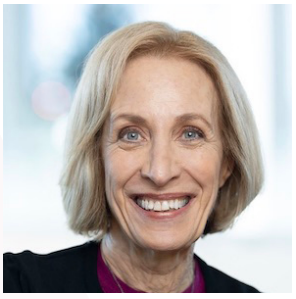
Shirit Einav, MD

Shirit Einav is a physician-scientist in the Department of Medicine (Division of Infectious Diseases) and the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Stanford University School of Medicine. After obtaining her MD from Tel-Aviv University in Israel, Shirit pursued Residency in Internal Medicine at Harvard University (Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center) followed by fellowship in Infectious Diseases at Stanford University. She joined the faculty at Stanford in 2011. Her basic research program focuses on understanding the roles of virus-host interactions in viral infection and disease pathogenesis. This program is combined with translational efforts to apply this knowledge for the development of broad-spectrum host-centered antiviral approaches to combat emerging viral infections and means to predict their progression to severe illnesses. Shirit is an Investigator at the Chan Zuckerberg Biohub in San Francisco and a Fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (FIDSA).



Matt Goldman, MD

Matt is currently a partner with J2 Ventures, a dual-use deep-technology venture capital fund. Previously, he was the founding Chief Medical Officer of the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU). At DIU, Matt worked to accelerate the transition of commercial innovation and technology into the hands of our service members across a wide range of topics including safety, survivability, prevention of combat injuries and training & simulation. As a physician researcher, he has worked with NATO's personalized medicine and performance sub-committees, as well as projects ranging from gastric cancer to using wearable technology to help with pre-symptomatic identification of infectious diseases including COVID-19.



Carol Karp

Carol is Chief Regulatory Officer for Prothena Biosciences, where she is responsible for regulatory affairs, quality, medical writing and regulatory program management. Prior to Prothena, Carol was Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs and Compliance at Esperion Therapeutics, following her role at Janssen Alzheimer Immunotherapy, a Johnson & Johnson company, as Vice President, Head of Global Regulatory Affairs, Pharmacovigilance & Risk Management. Carol has previously held leadership positions with CV Therapeutics and VIVUS, beginning her career with the Janssen Pharmaceutica, a division of J&J. Her experience in the biotechnology/pharmaceutical sector spans global development and commercialization of products to address unmet needs for therapeutic areas including neurodegenerative, cardiovascular, renal, ophthalmologic, metabolic, immunologic diseases and addiction disorders. Carol has been a SPARK advisor since 2009 and is an advisor to early-stage pharma and biotech companies. She earned her B.A. in Biology from the University of Rochester, where she is currently Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees.



Viktoria Kheifets, PhD

Viktoria Kheifets has 17yrs of startup experience, both in the operations and ideation. Most recently, she was Senior Vice President at Alkahest where she led a cross functional team to identify plasma bioactives and their mechanisms of reversing age-dependent decline in the brain and other critical organ systems. Prior to Alkahest, Viktoria focused on new company formation at Third Rock Ventures in the fields of liver regeneration and immunometabolism. She was a Senior Group Leader of Biology at Edison Pharmaceutics where she headed drug discovery efforts in orphan mitochondrial diseases and diseases of aging. Viktoria obtained her scientific training at MIT and Stanford.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Opher Kornfeld, PhD

Dr. Opher Kornfeld is the Managing Director of Translational Research and Development at SPARK NS, where he oversees a translational research program that combines funding with education, mentorship, and networking to advance academic discoveries toward impactful therapeutics in the clinic. Previously, he was a scientist at Genentech, where his research focus was at the intersection of target discovery, gene editing, imaging, and computational biology. Dr. Kornfeld received a PhD from Stanford University.



John Sninsky, PhD

John J. Sninsky, PhD. John received his doctoral degree from Purdue University and carried out postdoctoral studies at Stanford University before serving on the faculty of Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He served in executive positions at Cetus, Roche Molecular Systems, Hoffmann La-Roche, Celera, Quest Diagnostics, CareDx and Superfluid Dx for 30+ years. He is now an independent consultant for high dimensional Precision and Network Medicine. John's experience ranges from small to enterprise CLIA-CAP laboratories, and small to enterprise in vitro diagnostic companies that required FDA clearance and approval for commercialization of kits. In addition, John is the author of more than 115 scientific papers including advanced methods in molecular biology, lipid sub-fractionation, application of the PCR to virology (including COVID-19 virus) and cancer, genome-wide genetic association studies for multiple common, complex diseases, next generation sequencing for solid organ transplantation, cell free RNA-Seq and Biomedical Data Science.