



## **Congratulations to new SPARK FLI Teams 2024**

We are delighted to announce the addition of four exceptional teams to the SPARK-FLI program! These visionary scientists, driven by the ambition to transform their ground-breaking research into impactful solutions, have been selected from a pool of talented applicants who participated in our 2024 Call and pitch session.

- DREAM (Ermolaeva lab): funding/mentoring/networking support
- SMALL-STROKE (Winek lab): funding/mentoring/networking support
- CYM-BOOST (Friedrich Schiller University): will receive mentoring/education and networking
- BactColDetect: (Friedrich Schiller University): will receive mentoring/education and networking

The SPARK-FLI program provides invaluable support to researchers, empowering them to bridge the gap between innovation and real-world application. This year, the program attracted a diverse range of projects from across FLI and external universities, reflecting the vibrant landscape of scientific exploration and innovation.

Following rigorous evaluation by an expert jury, we are proud to welcome two teams from FLI and two external teams from the Friedrich Schiller University into the SPARK family. These projects stood out for their potential to address pressing challenges and make a tangible difference in the world.

The selected FLI-teams will receive milestone-based funding over the next two years, coupled with personalized mentoring and access to an extensive international network of advisors.

Dr. Sonja Schätzlein, the dedicated program manager of SPARK-FLI, and her team will provide unwavering support to these teams as they embark on their translational journey, guiding them through the complexities of turning innovative ideas into impactful solutions.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the applicants and reviewers who participated in the selection process, contributing their expertise and passion to this transformative endeavour. The 2024 Call and pitch session was a testament to the power of collaboration and innovation, bringing together brilliant minds in a hybrid event that showcased outstanding translational projects and the brilliant individuals driving them forward.