National Project Funding of Gene- and Cell-Based Therapies

2025

SPARK BIH

SPARK-BIH

Charité BIH Innovation SPARK-BIH
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Berlin Institute of Health @Charité

GCT National Strategy Gene- and Cell-Based Therapies **Project Funding**

Beauftragt durch:

Bundesministerium für Forschung, Technologie und Raumfahrt

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SPARK-BIH National GCT Overview

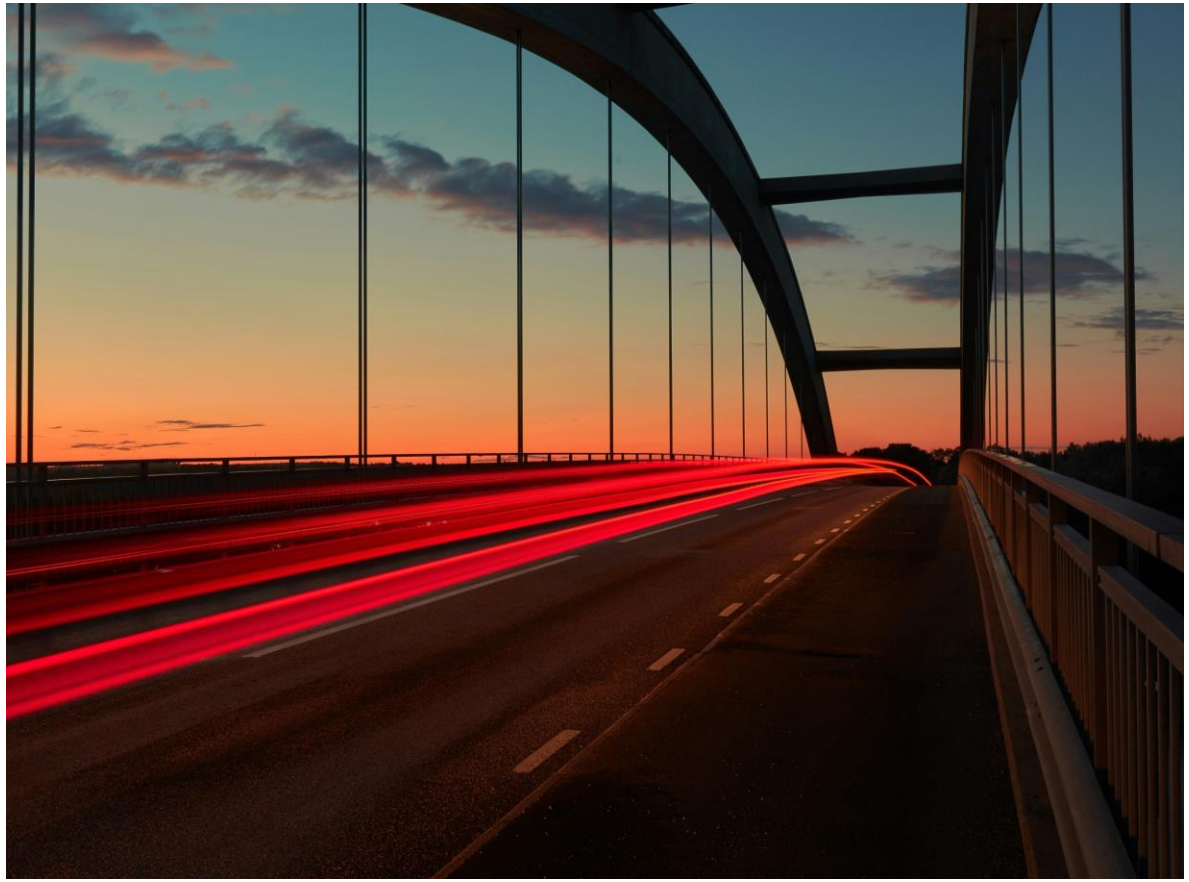
SPARK-BIH: Bridging Biomedical Research and Clinical Application

At the core of biomedical research lies the challenge and necessity of translating scientific discoveries into clinical applications. This process, known as "**Medical Transfer**", is crucial for transforming innovative research into meaningful benefits for patients, society, and the economy. However, only a small fraction of biomedical discoveries is developed into new products, often due to a lack of funding, expertise, or a transfer-oriented mindset among academic researchers.

The Mission of SPARK-BIH

At SPARK-BIH, our mission is to accelerate the translation of academic research into clinically relevant therapies, diagnostics, and medical devices, addressing unmet medical needs.

In order to achieve this, we support researchers and clinicians with milestone-based funding, mentoring and education, fostering a collaborative and supportive environment. Our aim is to turn innovative ideas into impactful solutions that benefit patients and society.



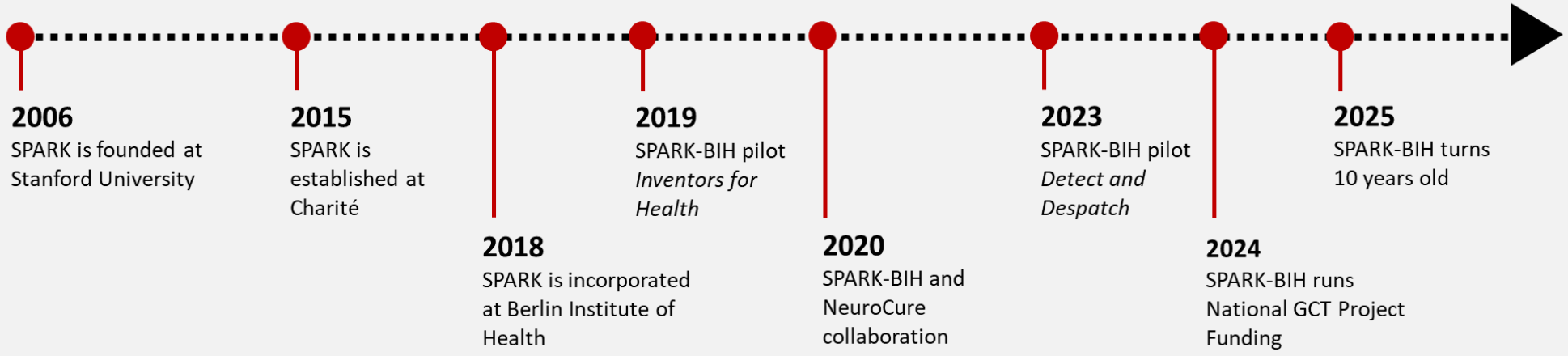
Our Journey

Founded in 2006 at **Stanford University**, SPARK has evolved into a global network comprising over 60 participating institutions worldwide.

SPARK-BIH was established in Berlin in 2015 by Prof. Dr. Craig Garner and Prof. Dr. Ulrich Dirnagl, with the support of **Stiftung Charité**. In 2018, the program became an integral part of the **Berlin Institute of Health (BIH)**, which is focused on medical translation. In 2021, the BIH was integrated into the **Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin**, the joint medical faculty of Freie Universität Berlin and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and one of Europe's largest university hospitals.

Today, SPARK-BIH is part of **Charité BIH Innovation (CBI)**, the joint technology transfer of BIH and Charité.

Furthermore, SPARK-BIH has established a long-term collaboration with NeuroCure, has developed two programs to promote early innovation and, as part of BIH, runs the project funding within the National Strategy for Gene- and Cell-Based Therapies (GCT), which is the focus of this booklet.



SPARK concept rolls out in Germany in the context of Gene- and Cell-Based Therapy

In March 2023, the Federal Ministry for Research, Technology, and Space (BMFTR, formerly BMBF) commissioned the Berlin Institute of Health (BIH) to coordinate the National Strategy for Gene- and Cell-Based Therapies (GCT).

Designed in collaboration with multiple stakeholders, it aims to develop safe and effective therapies and diagnostics for severe, currently incurable diseases, enhance collaboration across Germany's strong research landscape, and accelerate the translation of research findings into clinical application. At the same time, it seeks to strengthen Germany's international competitiveness in the field of gene- and cell-based therapies (GCT).

One aspect of the National GCT Strategy is Project Funding.

BIH decided to use the SPARK concept — so far established locally for Charité-centric projects — and expand it to a nationwide program in the field of gene- and cell-based therapies as well as associated diagnostics. This decision was driven by SPARK's ability to provide not only financial support but also a wide range of non-monetary services essential for strengthening the gene- and cell-based therapy ecosystem in Germany.

Currently, 36 projects from across Germany are participating in the program, benefiting from financial support as well as mentorship, and educational opportunities from GCT experts.

For more details on this program click here or visit this website.

GCT
National Strategy
Gene- and Cell-Based Therapies
Project Funding

The national SPARK-BIH GCT Selection Process

The national SPARK-BIH GCT team invites applications for funding from public and private (state-recognized) universities in Germany for individual and coordinated projects with designated project leaders, coordinators and/or partners. Non-university research institutes and companies may apply only as partners within a consortium.

Applications are welcomed for innovative projects in the fields of gene- and cell-based therapies, as well as associated diagnostics. Proposals will be evaluated based on the level of innovation, the significance of the unmet medical need, competitive advantages over existing solutions, data quality, and the likelihood of translational success, including the regulatory plan. Currently there is no open call.

The program funding in two tracks:

- **Track 1** supports **early-stage** projects with up to €50,000 for one year.
- **Track 2** funds more **advanced** projects with amounts exceeding €50,000, available for up to two years.

All funding is **milestone-based**, with close monitoring and tailored support from the SPARK team to ensure progress and effective resource use, accelerating the translation of biomedical research into clinical applications.

SPARK-BIH National GCT Team

Dr. Tanja Rosenmund
Director of SPARK-BIH

Dr. Sharesta Khoenkhoen
Project Manager

Dr. Marialucia Massaro
Project Manager

Dr. Stefan Köster
Project Manager

Dr. Josephine Kemna
Project Manager

Dr. César Cordero Gómez
Project Manager

Rosa Montserrat Xifré
Team Assistant of SPARK-BIH

SPARK-BIH National GCT Program in Numbers

Applications received from all over Germany

In two calls for applications, an increased number of submissions from across Germany was received, with Track 1 and Track 2 applications almost evenly distributed.

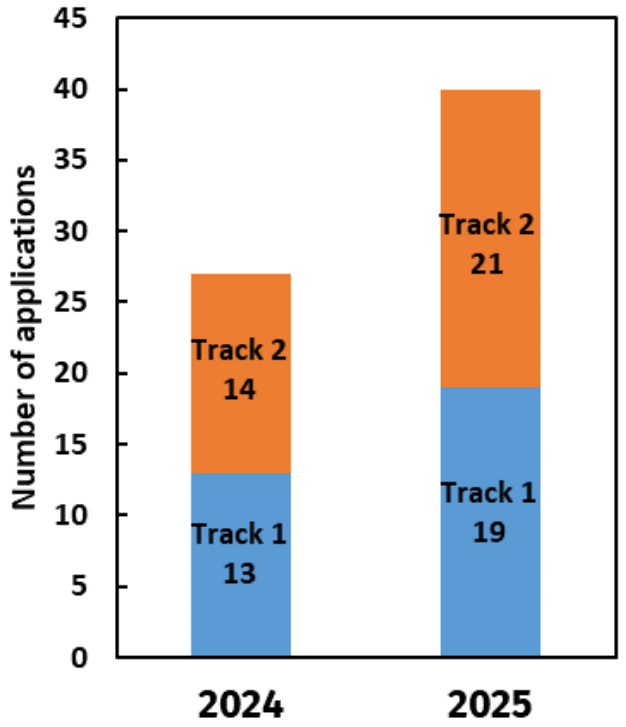
67 Project proposals received

17 Currently funded teams (Call 2024)

23 Teams joining the program soon (Call 2025)

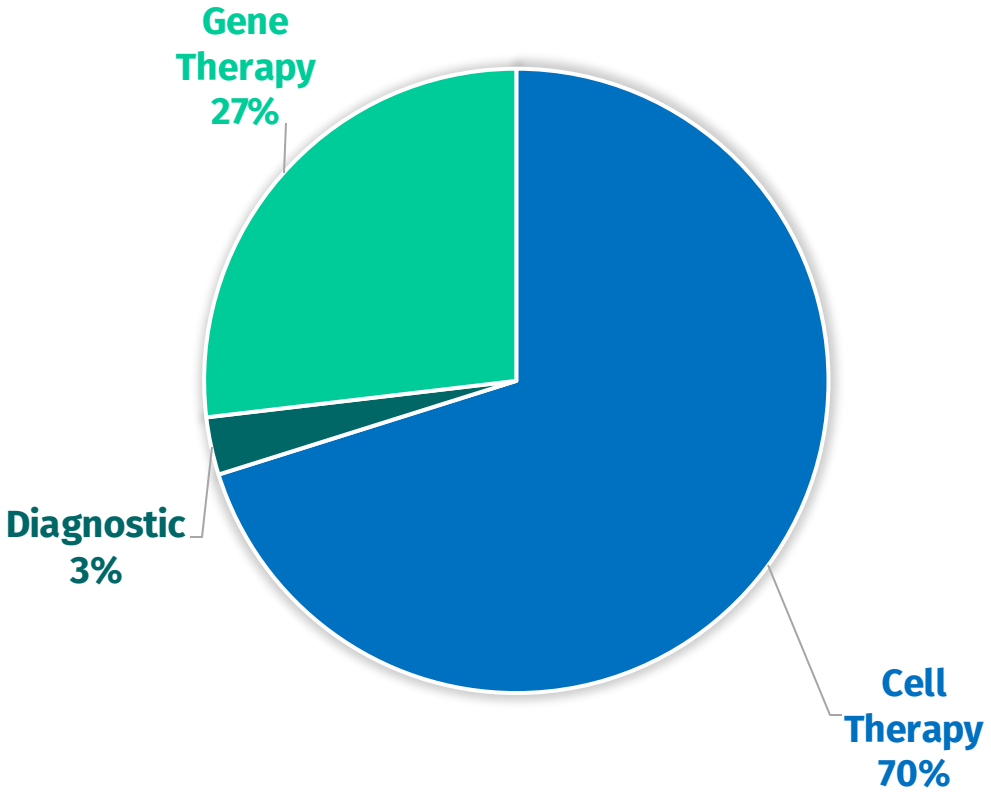
7.7 Mio € Funds provided (Call 2024)

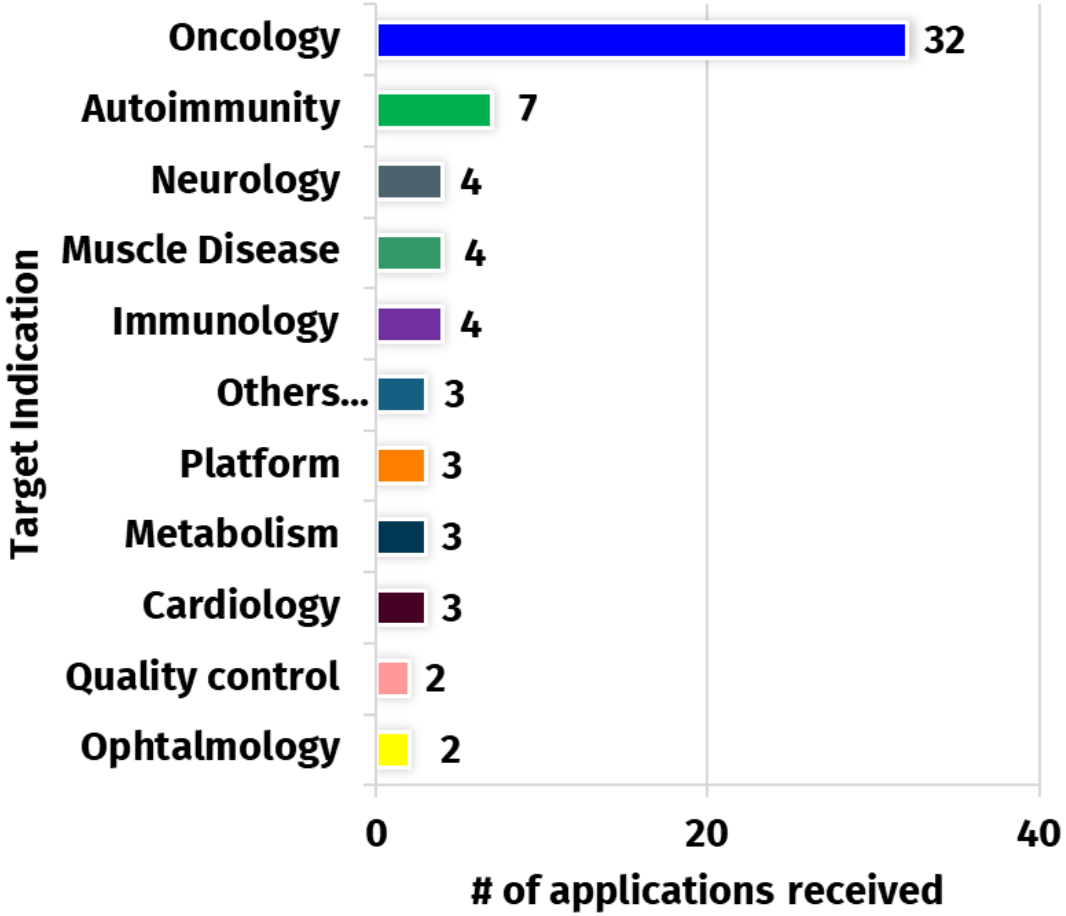
9.4 Mio € Funds will be provided (Call 2025)



Cell Therapy is the lead modality among the submitted applications from both calls 2024/2025

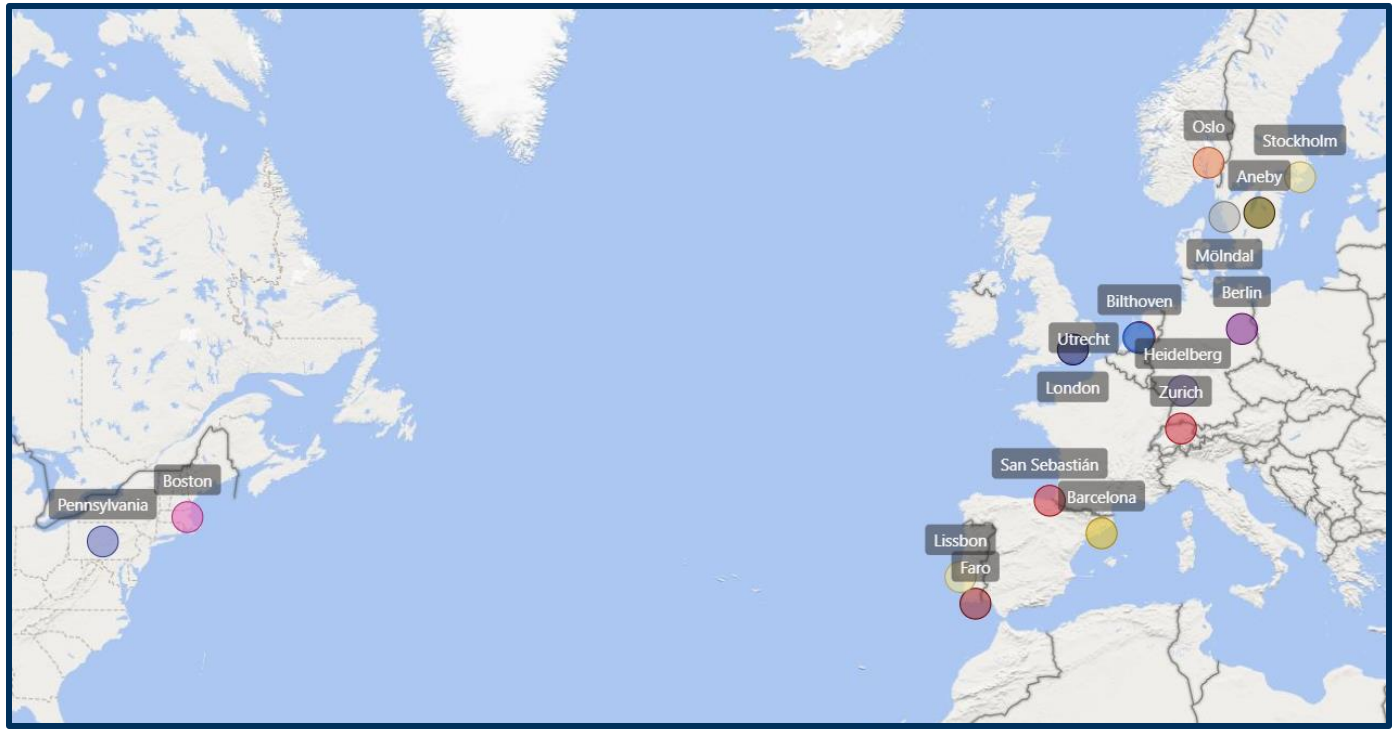
Most projects are centered on somatic cell therapies, with a focus on oncological indications





SPARK-BIH GCT connects teams with global expertise

29 international experts in the field of gene and cell therapies have joined regular meetings as advisors.



Our global jury and advisor network brings together experienced experts who guide and support funded teams. The advisor network provides interdisciplinary insights, expert feedback, and experience-driven support, helping teams improve, overcome challenges, and accelerate progress for greater impact.

*If you are interested to join the program as an advisor, please contact us!

Creating a new educational series tailored specifically to gene- and cell-based therapy topics

6 Lectures so far

276 Participants

4.5/5 rating*

The educational series is open to anyone interested in developing gene and cell therapy products. Three more lectures are scheduled until the end of the year, covering the following topics: Business and Innovation, Competitive Landscape Analysis Tools, and Clinical Trial Design.

* based on surveys

SPARK-BIH National GCT Projects

A novel self-inactivating alpharetroviral vector-based gene therapy strategy for IL7RA deficient severe combined immunodeficiency

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR and PROJECT PARTNERS:
Dr. Teng Cheong Ha, Prof. Axel Schambach,
Prof. Michael Morgan, Dr. Melanie Galla & Dr. Michael Rothe
Institute of Experimental Hematology
Hannover Medical School

Gene Therapy
Immunology
& Pediatrics

2024

TRACK 1

SUMMARY

Children suffering from IL7RA-deficient severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) have almost no functional T-cells to fight infections and, without treatment, often do not survive beyond their first year of life.
The current standard treatment is a bone marrow transplant (BMT), which depends on identifying suitable donors and carries significant risks and long-term health issues. The goal of ARISE is to develop a safe and effective gene therapy for IL7RA-deficient SCID patients.

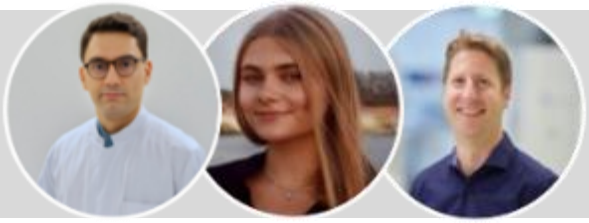
PROJECT GOALS

- Develop a safe and effective gene therapy to repair the defective IL7RA gene in SCID patients

LONG TERM GOALS:

- Fulfil regulatory requirements
- Perform phase I/II clinical trials with further funding
- License to Biotech/Pharma or clinical co-development
- Deliver a safer alternative therapy for patients

Gene therapy targeting neuroinflammation in Alzheimer's Disease



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR and PROJECT PARTNERS:
Dr. rer. hum. biol. Dr. med. Sergio Castro-Gomez, Ida Kulinska,
Prof. Dr. Florian I. Schmidt
Center for Neurology / Institute of Physiology II
University Hospital Bonn

Gene Therapy

Neurology

2024

TRACK 1

SUMMARY

Alzheimer's Disease (AD) is a devastating and incurable disorder. Currently, research is shifting from addressing classical neuropathological hallmarks to neuroinflammation. The common adaptor inflammasome protein ASC (Apoptosis-associated speck-like protein containing a CARD) has been implicated as a target in AD. Our project aims to develop AAV-based gene therapy targeting ASC to modulate neuroinflammation and protein aggregation in AD, with the goal of creating a breakthrough treatment.

PROJECT GOALS

- Optimize AAV vectors for efficient and brain tissue–specific transduction.
- Develop an AAV-based gene therapy targeting the ASC inflammasome protein to specifically to modulate neuroinflammation in early AD.
- Validate ASC *in vivo* as a viable therapeutic target in AD therapy

LONG-TERM GOALS

- Develop a systemic gene therapy for Alzheimer´s disease

Safety of genome editing as therapy for autosomal dominant osteopetrosis

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:
Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Uwe Kornak
Institute of Human Genetics
Georg-August-University Göttingen

Gene Therapy

Muscle Disease

2024

TRACK 1

SUMMARY

Autosomal dominant osteopetrosis (ADO), a hereditary skeletal disorders caused by mutated CLCN7 gene impairing osteoclast function, leads to fractures and bone pain, with no effective or safe causative therapy currently available. We aim to develop a genome editing therapy for ADO and have already demonstrated proof-of-concept for restoring osteoclast function *in vitro*. In this project, the safety of this therapeutic approach will be investigated, by carefully assessing off-target effects.

PROJECT GOALS

- Optimisation of DISCOVER-seq for use in cells of the hematopoietic lineage
- Apply optimized DISCOVER-seq to identify localization and frequencies of off-target editing sites in the genome
- Independent validation of identified off-target candidates

LONG-TERM GOALS

- Clinical application of ADO gene therapy

Reference Material for Mesenchymal Stromal Cell Critical Quality Attribute Assays

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:
Prof. (apl.) Dr. rer. nat. Karen Bieback
Cell and Immune Therapy, Institute of Transfusion Medicine and Immunology, FlowCore Mannheim, Medical Faculty Mannheim, Heidelberg University

Cell Therapy

Quality Control

2024

TRACK 1

SUMMARY

Strict quality standards apply to medicinal products like mesenchymal stromal cells (MSCs) to ensure safety. However, reference materials for testing the identity, purity and efficacy of MSCs are not available on large scale yet. This project aims to develop, produce, and test large-scale reference materials to verify the identity, purity, and efficacy of MSCs for use in cell therapies. These standards will support consistent quality and help overcome regulatory barriers to MSC-based therapies.

PROJECT GOALS

- Generate reference material for use in critical quality assays of MSCs

LONG-TERM GOALS

- Support development and commercialization of MSC therapies

SIMPLE-seq – Advancing Safety in Genome Editing

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR and PROJECT PARTNER:
Dr. Carla Fuster García, Prof. Dr. Toni Cathomen
Institute for Transfusion Medicine & Gene Therapy
Medical Center – University of Freiburg

Cell Therapy

Quality Control

2024

TRACK 1

SUMMARY

The SIMPLE-seq project aims to develop an innovative, user-friendly in vitro method for evaluating the off-target activity of base editors (BEs). While CRISPR-Cas9 induces double-strand breaks, BEs create single-strand breaks. SIMPLE-seq converts these into detectable signals, enabling accurate, high-throughput mapping of unintended DNA alterations. The aim is to comprehensively assess the safety and specificity of BEs, making their clinical applications safer and more predictable.

PROJECT GOALS

- Validate SIMPLE-seq in benchmark studies using established BEs

LONG-TERM GOALS

- Position SIMPLE-seq as a reliable, cost-effective, and scalable method with broad applications in both research and industry
- Establish SIMPLE-seq as the new gold standard for safety assessment of BEs

Gene-edited CD38/CD45-CAR-NK cells for leukemia treatment and non-toxic conditioning

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:
Prof. Dr. Boris Fehse
Research Dept. Cell & Gene Therapy, Dept. of Stem Cell Transplantation
University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf

Cell Therapy

Oncology

2024

TRACK 1

SUMMARY

CAR-based immunotherapies have revolutionized the treatment of some blood cancers but have not been successful in treating acute myeloid leukemia (AML) so far due to the lack of suitable target antigens and the rapid progression of the disease. To address this, we are developing off-the-shelf CAR-NK cells that target both CD45 and CD38, antigens commonly found on AML cells. We previously demonstrated that CD38 and CD45 double-knock-out prevents fratricide and results in highly effective elimination of cancer cells.

PROJECT GOALS

- Develop a method for the efficient production of CAR-NK cells with double-knock-out of CD38 and CD45 and dual CARS targeting CD38 and CD45

LONG-TERM GOALS

- Further develop the technology for future clinical use

Development of a nanobased mRNA therapy for heart diseases

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR and PROJECT PARTNER:
Univ.-Prof. Dr. med. Georg Daniel Dürr, Dr. Tim Stüdemann
Department of Cardiovascular Surgery
University Medical Center Mainz (Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz)

Gene Therapy

Cardiology

2024

TRACK 1

SUMMARY

Engineered mRNA, a novel and highly adaptable class of therapeutics, offer a new solution for treating cardiac diseases. In this project, we aim to evaluate nanoparticles that may target human cardiomyocytes derived from explanted myocardium ex vivo. These nanoparticles will be used to deliver mRNAs encoding factors demonstrated to elicit cardiomyocyte proliferation and cardiac regeneration in transgenic mice.

PROJECT GOALS

- Evaluate nanoparticles for targeted mRNA delivery to cardiomyocytes

LONG-TERM GOALS

- Facilitate treatment of cardiac diseases and improve patient outcomes

RNA-Based Delivery of Prime Editors targeting MYO5B Deficiency

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:
Prof. Dr. med. Tobias Cantz
Dept. of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, Infectious Diseases and Endocrinology: RG Translational Hepatology and Stem Cell Biology, Hannover Medical School

Gene Therapy
Metabolism & Pediatrics

2024

TRACK 1

SUMMARY

Proper hepatocyte polarization is essential for functional hepatobiliary transport, relying on motor protein such as Myosin-5b (MYO5B). Myosin-5b and Rab11a are crucial for the bile canaliculus formation, and defects in either can alter the polarization, leading to major pathological consequences.

Thus, RAPIDMYO aims to define a robust Prime Editing approach targeting MYO5B-mediated progressive familial intrahepatic cholestasis (PFIC) as unmet clinical need.

PROJECT GOALS

- Develop defined mRNA/ pegRNA combination for Prime Editing

LONG-TERM GOALS

- Efficient and safe restoration of liver function

Bridging deep gaps in translation and tissue: a blueprint for TEP development from a corneal sealer

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR and PROJECT PARTNER:
Dr. Anna Resch, Prof. Dr. Günther Schlunck
University of Freiburg & University of Freiburg Medical Center

Cell Therapy

Ophthalmology

2024

TRACK 2

SUMMARY

Around 1.6 million people worldwide are estimated to be blind due to eye injuries and around 19 million have impaired unilateral vision. Severe corneal injury, one of the main causes, is typically treated with sutures, which can cause scarring, inflammation and corneal opacity. We aim to develop a safe, elastic corneal adhesive containing living keratocytes in a protein-based hydrogel. The adhesive can seal wet wounds; it is elastic and biocompatible. It should be degraded by keratocytes and replaced by natural extracellular material.

PROJECT GOALS

- Build an early basis for a quality-by-design manufacturing strategy
- Study preliminary toxicity in rabbits

LONG-TERM GOALS

- Providing a regulatory strategy as blueprint for similar products

Enhancing Cellular Therapy for B-Cell Neoplasms

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:
PD Dr. Antonia Busse
Charité University Medicine Berlin

Cell Therapy
Oncology

2024

TRACK 2

SUMMARY

Immunotherapy with CAR-T cells has shown success in the treatment of malignant B-cell tumors, but cure rates are only 40-60%. Major limitations are loss of target expression in tumor cells and the limited lifespan of CAR-T cells. TCR-T cells offer an alternative therapy option, as they recognize peptides from proteins if they are presented by MHC molecules. We have developed a TCR, T3225, which specifically targets the CD22 antigen on B cells and has shown better efficacy than CD22 CAR-T cells.

PROJECT GOALS

- Develop a bispecific T cell product based on T3225

LONG-TERM GOALS

- Commencing a clinical phase I trial

Preparation of a clinical trial of CAR-NK cells in patients with Her2- expressing tumors

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:
Prof. Dr. Torsten Tonn
Goethe University Frankfurt/M

Cell Therapy

Oncology

2024

TRACK 2

SUMMARY

Her2 is a tumor antigen expressed by approx. one-third of breast, ovarian, colon cancer, osteosarcomas and other tumor indications, which often respond particularly poorly to standard therapies. We plan to treat patients with Her2-expressing tumors using NK cells genetically engineered to carry a CAR that allows the specific targeting and killing of Her2-expressing cells. This CAR-Her2-specific cell line, NK-92/5.28.z, is currently used in clinical trials in patients with recurrent glioblastoma.

PROJECT GOALS

- Validating GMP manufacturing of a CAR-Her2-specific NK cell line
- Preparing a study protocol and investigational medicinal product dossier (IMPD)

LONG-TERM GOALS

- Commencing a clinical phase I trial

All-in-One Genome Editing Therapy for the Treatment of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR and PROJECT PARTNERS:
Prof. Dr. Wolfram-Hubertus Zimmermann, Prof. Dr. Hildegard Büning,
Prof. Dr. Rabea Hinkel, Prof. Dr. Bernd Wollnik
University Medical Center Göttingen, Hannover Medical School & German Primate Center

Gene Therapy
Muscle Disease & Pediatrics

2024

TRACK 2

SUMMARY

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) is a genetic disease with current treatments providing palliative care only, which do not prevent loss of ambulation or premature death. Genome editing is emerging as a promising option to convert DMD into a milder or even asymptomatic condition. In this collaborative project, we use optimized AAVs for All-in-One delivery of small CRISPR/Cas9 to skeletal and heart muscle. Preliminary results show that this approach can improve contractile function.

PROJECT GOALS

- Complete nonclinical testing of a novel DMD genome editing therapy candidate

LONG-TERM GOALS

- Converting patient-tailored approaches to an off-the-shelf exon-tailored therapy adaptable to most DMD-causing deletions/ mutations

Innovation in AML Treatment

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR and PROJECT PARTNER:
Prof. Dr. Toni Cathomen, Prof. Dr. Evelyn Ullrich
University of Freiburg & Goethe University Frankfurt

Cell Therapy
Oncology

2024

TRACK 2

SUMMARY

The neClectAML consortium is developing a novel immunotherapy for acute myeloid leukemia (AML), an aggressive and challenging form of blood cancer. At the core of the project are genetically engineered natural killer (NK) equipped with a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) derived from a llama nanobody targeting CLEC12A, a molecule found on AML cells. To further enhance NK cell activity, an NK cell-specific immune checkpoint will be selectively deactivated.

PROJECT GOALS

- Establish clinical-scale production of these gene-edited CAR NK cells and conduct preclinical testing to ensure their safety and efficacy
- Define preclinical work packages based on scientific advice from PEI

LONG-TERM GOALS

- Prepare for a Phase I/II clinical trial

Clinical-grade manufacturing of NY-ESO-1 TCR-modified stem-like T cells overexpressing the pre-miR-155 SNP, rs377265631

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR and PROJECT PARTNERS:
Dr. Dr. Roland Schelker, Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Herr, Prof. Dr. Luca Gattinoni, Prof. Dr. Simone Thomas, Prof. Dr. Matthias Edinger
University Hospital Regensburg & Leibniz Institute for Immunotherapy

Cell Therapy
Oncology

2024

TRACK 2

SUMMARY

This project focuses on generating stem-like T cells (T_{SCM}) from naive $CD8^+$ T cells of patients and equipping them with a NY-ESO-1 TCR and an immunostimulatory microRNA, the miR-155 SNP rs377265631. These T cells are expected to trigger an enhanced and sustained anti-tumor response in patients with metastatic sarcoma. The project marks an important step towards clinical application and could significantly improve treatment outcomes for patients in the long term.

PROJECT GOALS

- Develop large-scale manufacturing process
- Develop comprehensive quality control tests to ensure that the product meets the required clinical standard

LONG-TERM GOALS

- Prepare for Phase I trial

In Vivo Generation of Chimeric Antigen Receptor T cells with T cell-retargeted Adeno-Associated Virus Vectors

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR and PROJECT PARTNER:
Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Hildegard Büning, Prof. Dr. Michael Hudecek
Hannover Medical School & University Clinic Würzburg

Cell Therapy

Oncology

2024

TRACK 2

SUMMARY

CARtrAAVic aims to revolutionize CAR-T therapy by generating CAR-T cells directly in the patient's body through an cells *in vivo* approach. This eliminates the need for complex *ex vivo* manufacturing and enables a more physiological anti-tumor response with low toxicity. The approach also addresses key clinical challenges, such as cytokine release syndrome, limited response duration, safety concerns related to off-target integrations, while significantly reducing production costs and manufacturing time.

PROJECT GOALS

- Provide preclinical proof-of-concept
- Prepare for clinical development

LONG-TERM GOALS

- CARtrAAVic aims to bring a scalable, chemotherapy-free, next-generation CAR-T therapy platform with broad therapeutic potential, rapid and broad availability and a sustainable cost structure into clinical application

PHOENIX: Promoting Healing and Overcoming ELANE Neutropenia with ex vivo CRISPR

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR and PROJECT PARTNERS:
Prof. Dr. Julia Skokowa, Dr. Masoud Nasri, Dr. Cornelia Zeidler, Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Bethge, Prof. Dr. Claudia Lengerke, Prof. Dr. Karl Welte, Prof. Dr. Peter Lang, PD Dr. Dr. Markus Mezger, Prof. Dr. Stefanie Joos, Prof. Dr. Toni Cathomen, Prof. Dr. Doris Steinemann
University Hospital Tübingen, University Hospital Freiburg & Hannover Medical School

Cell Therapy Immunology & Pediatrics

2024

TRACK 2

SUMMARY

In the PHOENIX project, we aim to advance the clinical development of the MILESTONE gene therapy approach for congenital neutropenia. This innovative procedure inactivates the disease-causing gene through the editing of its promoter. Here, we will use it to target the non-essential *ELANE* gene, which is mutated in half of patients with congenital neutropenia. In addition to the preclinical work, we are actively engaging patients by structured patient interviews and engaging with patient organizations.

PROJECT GOALS

- Adapt and apply GMP-compliant editing process to large-scale editing of hematopoietic stem cells
- Develop IMPD

LONG-TERM GOALS

- Conduct clinical study (IIT)

Innovative lipid nanoparticles for cell and gene therapy

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR and PROJECT PARTNER:
Prof. Dr. med. Petra Reinke, Dr. Ing. Christoph Hein
BeCAT Charité & Fraunhofer IPK

Cell Therapy

Autoimmunity

2024

TRACK 2

SUMMARY

There is a high clinical need for improved GCT products, as current transfection methods, mainly based on viral vectors, are inefficient and costly. In the “NanoGen” project, non-viral multiplex gene editing of T cells is being developed to treat B-cell-mediated autoimmunity. Fraunhofer IPK’s proprietary Fdmix technology enhances lipid nanoparticle (LNP) delivery, improving particle stability and transfection efficiency, and creating a scalable platform for efficient gene editing in human T cells.

PROJECT GOALS

- Develop a novel process for nucleic acid-based drugs delivery into human T cells
- Provide proof-of-concept for multiplex T-cell therapy for B-cell-mediated autoimmunity

LONG-TERM GOALS

- Advance the approach to clinical trials

The journey continues:

11 new Track 1 and 12 new Track 2 projects from call 2025 will be added soon

Testimonials

*"I wish I had something similar to **SPARK-BIH** when I started developing ATMPs. I thoroughly enjoy helping scientists in their quest to develop new products and, in the long run, contribute to this Program in giving answers to patients in need."*

Ander Izeta, Former President of the Spanish Society for Gene and Cell Therapy (SETGyC)

As a scientific/CMC advisor to the SPARK-BIH program, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative impact of the program to bring innovative ideas discussion in open and interdisciplinary collaborative environment. I have seen phenomenal engagement from the world class experts and innovators for fostering new discoveries in Cell and Gene Therapy domain. The program effectively bridges the gap between academic research and clinical application, empowering researchers to navigate the complexities of translational medicine for patient focused solutions. By fostering innovation and providing strategic guidance, SPARK-BIH plays a pivotal role in advancing early-stage biomedical discoveries toward tangible patient solutions.

Dharmesh Patel, Ph.D., MBA
Strategic Scientific Advisor, Pennsylvania, USA