

**SOMETHING
BETTER
THAN HOPE**

Grants Working Group Recommendations
CIRM SPARK Training Program

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CIRM
CALIFORNIA STEM CELL AGENCY

CIRM Continues to Create Funding Opportunities Across Five Major Pillars



DISCOVERY



TRANSLATION



CLINICAL



INFRASTRUCTURE



EDUCATION



Education Pillar: Training Programs Pipeline for 2021+

SPARK

HIGH SCHOOL

ICOC allocated:
\$5.33M
11 awards
(Pending ICOC approval)

Bridges

UNDERGRAD/MASTERS

ICOC approved
July 2021:
\$51M
15 awards

Research Training

PRE/POSTDOCTORAL,
CLINICAL

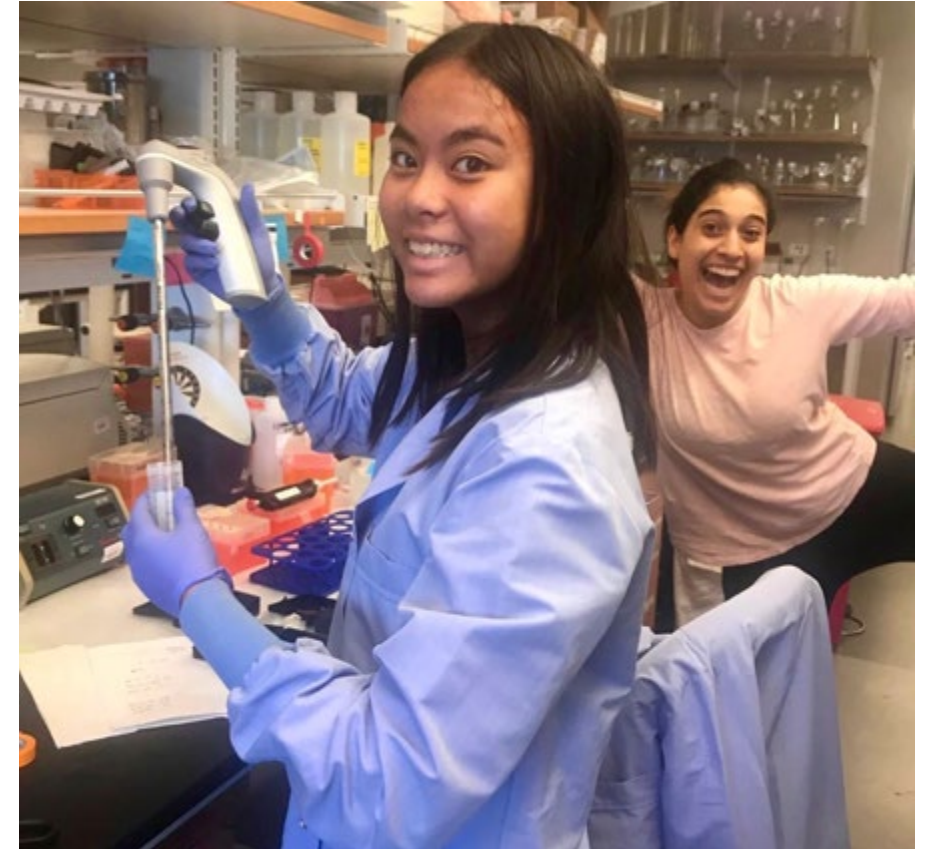
ICOC approved
Sept 2021:
\$86M
18 awards

SPARK Program: High School Summer Research Experience

Objective: To provide high school students with hands-on training in stem cell research through summer internships and to inspire their interest in regenerative medicine

Structure: SPARK programs supplement and integrate within existing summer programs sponsored by eligible California institutions

Funding: Creativity Awards (2012-2015) - RFA offered 2011
SPARK Awards (2016-2021) - RFA last offered 2015



SPARK/Creativity Awards: 10 Programs Across California



UCSF

**GLADSTONE
INSTITUTES**

C · H · O · R · I
Children's Hospital Oakland Research Institute

UC DAVIS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA


**Stanford
University**

UCSB

Caltech

 **City of
Hope™**


CEDARS-SINAI®

 **THE
SCRIPPS
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE**

● 7 currently active programs

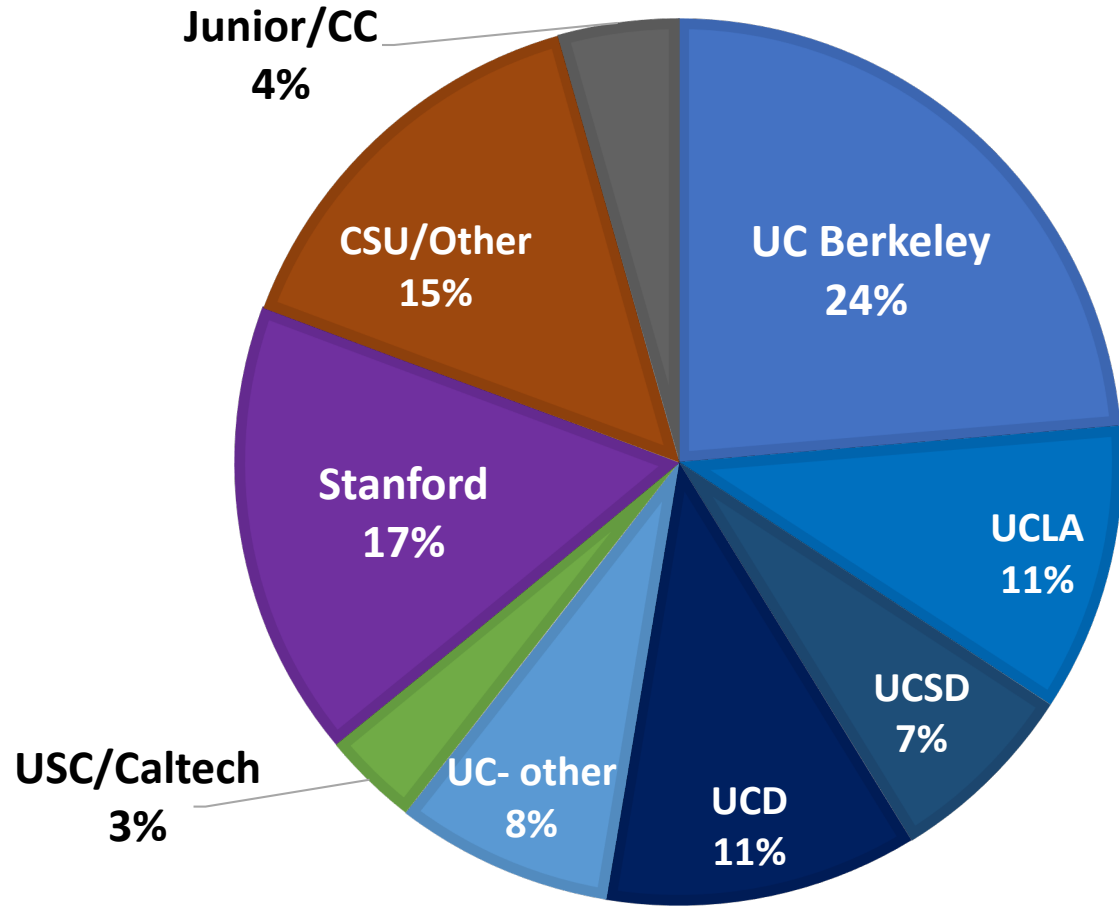
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SPARK Program: Outcomes and Impact to Date

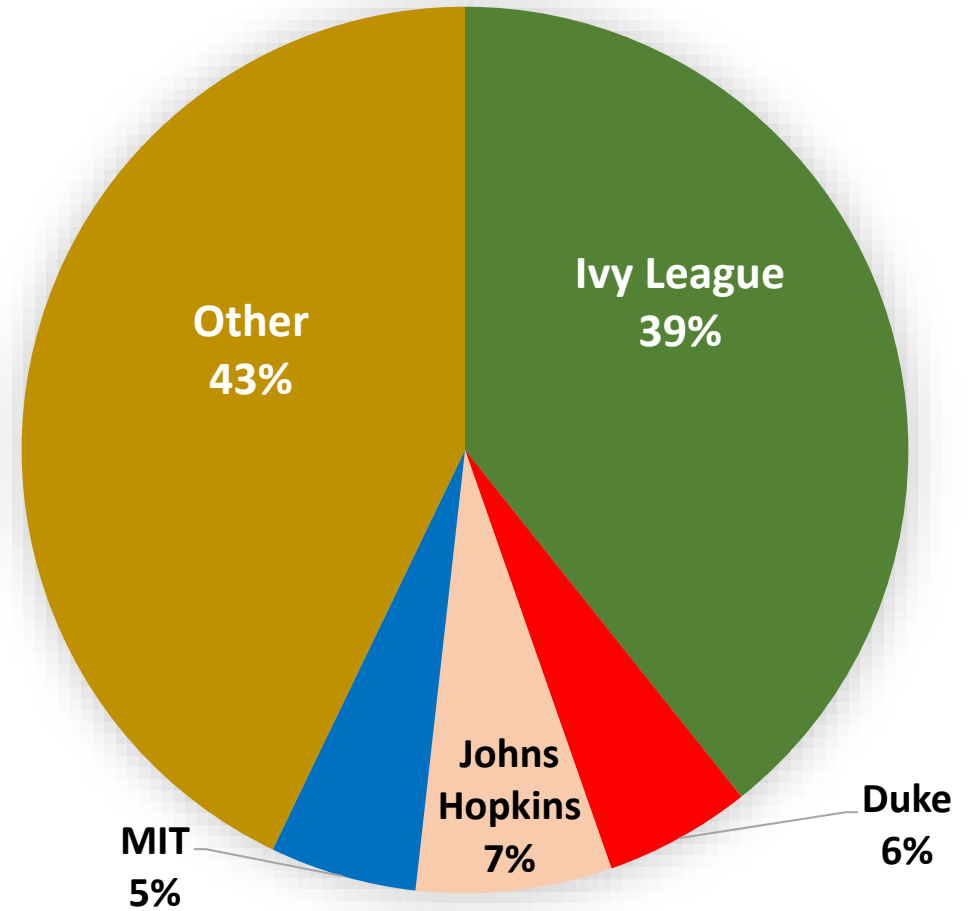
- 530 students have completed internships since 2012
- Some trainees are still in high school, but of **171** alumni who reported college attendance:
 - 40% attended/attending a UC
 - 26% attending another CA school (Stanford, Caltech, CSU)
 - 33% attend schools outside CA (Yale, Columbia, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Duke, Princeton, etc.)
 - Of 141 declared majors: 96% biology, other STEM related fields



SPARK Program Alumni: College Attendance (n=171)



CA Colleges (67%)



Outside CA (33%)

SPARK Training Program 2021 Updates

Building off the Established SPARK Platform:

- Expand the allowable scope of research projects beyond stem cell science to include gene therapy and related regenerative medicine research in accordance with Proposition 14
- Allow institutions to partner with another organization to increase availability and diversity of host laboratories
- Provide formal requirements to maintain and strengthen focus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Require an Alumni Tracking Plan to enable annual assessment and reporting on college acceptance, choice of major, and positions taken by program alumni
- Change budget structure and increase award amounts to reflect present economy, and to afford more flexibility for recruiting and appointing a diverse cohort that includes socio-economically disadvantaged students

Final Scoring System

- **Score of “85-100”**

Recommended for funding, if funds are available

- **Score of “1-84”**

Not recommended for funding

Applications are scored by all scientific members of the GWG with no conflict.

Review Criteria

1. Does the proposed program hold the necessary significance and potential for impact? (i.e., what is the value proposition? Will it have an impact on trainees?)
2. Is the training program well planned and designed?
3. Is the proposed program practical and achievable? (i.e., can they do it?)
4. Has the track record and outcomes of a prior training program demonstrated success?

GWG Recommendations

	Number of Apps	Total Applicant Request	Funds Available
Recommended for funding Score 85-100	11	\$5,332,462	\$5,332,462 (Pending ICOC approval)
Not recommended for funding Score 1-84	3		

CIRM Team Recommendation: Fund all projects (11) with a score of 85 or greater.

For each award, the final award amount shall not exceed the amount approved by the ICOC Application Review Subcommittee and may be reduced contingent on CIRM's assessment of allowable costs and activities.