

# Spark\* News

## Spring 2023

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**Dear  
Colleagues,**

Spring is upon us and it's time for another edition of the Spark Innovation Programme's newsletter packed with updates and insights to help you stay informed and engaged with our growing healthcare innovation community.

**Spark\***  
Innovation Programme

Clayton Hotel, Cardiff Lane, Dublin

15  
JUNE 2023

# Spark Summit

Innovation in Action



First things first, on Thursday 15th June 2023, we will be hosting our Annual Summit in the Clayton Hotel, Cardiff Lane, Dublin. Book your ticket [HERE](#) - you won't want to miss it!

The Summit provides an opportunity for frontline healthcare workers from across Ireland to convene in the capital to celebrate innovation, connect with like-minded colleagues, engage in thought-provoking conversations, and draw inspiration for developing creative solutions to the unique challenges we face in healthcare.

Innovation in Action is the theme of this year's summit and we are hard at work confirming very special guests who walk the walk when it comes to finding and practicing new ways of thinking and working in health.

We're so excited for what will be our biggest Summit ever, and we can't wait to see you there! Keep an eye on our socials for ticket sales, speaker announcements and details of our Innovation Awards and poster competition.

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If you are interested in mentoring or advising the winning students with any of these exciting projects, do let us know. It is an amazing opportunity to dip your toe into design, share your valuable insights, and make a positive impact.

Contact [cathal.macdhaibheid1@hse.ie](mailto:cathal.macdhaibheid1@hse.ie)

## Design On The Frontline 2023

DESIGN ON THE FRONTLINE is our annual call to design students to come up with smart solutions to unresolved challenges and unmet needs. The initiative confirms our commitment to supporting emerging talent and encouraging designers to engage in healthcare.

We were blown away by the quality of applications this year from talented design students representing NCAD, University of Limerick, TU Dublin, ATU and Maynooth University. 11 winning projects have been selected by our panel.

These focus on:

- ED waiting rooms
- Living with neurogenic bladder
- Correct dosage in radiotherapy
- Laparoscopic instrument design
- Diagnosing menstrual disorders
- Braces for foot drop
- Waste reduction in the operating theatre
- SLT waitlists
- Outpatient management of chronic mental health conditions
- Improved efficiency in skin biopsy procedures
- Rehabilitation following major trauma

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# Spark\*Design

## Innovation by Design

Here at Spark HQ, we firmly believe design can have a transformative impact on healthcare. We understand that design is not just about aesthetics, but about creating solutions that are efficient, effective and easily accessible. We are committed to leveraging design to address complex challenges and to make a meaningful difference.

Are you interested in learning more about how design can enhance how we think and work? Our immersive online workshops will introduce you to design thinking methodologies and their applications in healthcare. Expect expert insights and practical advice on creative problem solving. The workshops are open to all HSE frontline staff. Book now!

Design Thinking Inspiration **BOOK**

Design Thinking Introduction Part I and II **BOOK**

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# Spark\*seed

## Now OPEN 24/7!

Have you noticed a problem in your clinical area?

Do you have a solution or want to learn how design-led innovation might help you address the problem?

Then get involved!

Spark Seed can provide training, micro-funding and support to fledgling frontline innovators to help tackle healthcare challenges.

We are excited to announce that Spark Seed is now open at all times (with periodic closing dates) to ensure there is always somewhere for innovative staff to submit their ideas.

This is a three step, competitive process:

- Complete online application
- Attend design thinking workshops
- Pitch your solution to a panel of judges

**SUBMIT YOUR IDEA NOW!**



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## Sparking Innovation with Ignite

The application window to this year's Spark Ignite Competition has just closed and with over 50 applications, it's set to be one of the best years yet.

Ignite is focused on finding and supporting motivated, passionate individuals and teams who have innovative healthcare solutions, products, or services that can improve health outcomes and enhance healthcare practice.

It differs from Spark Seed wherein the focus is on ideas for healthcare innovations with commercial potential or those that could be adopted right across the health service for broad scale impact.

Successful applicants will benefit from:

- A bespoke healthcare entrepreneurship programme delivered in collaboration with our partners at EIT-Health
- An opportunity to pitch their solution at Spark Summit 2023
- Access to a fund of up to €5000 towards the development of their idea
- Access to a pan-European healthcare mentorship programme
- Access to a pipeline to further supports within the healthcare innovation network

Stay tuned for updates on this year's competition, and be sure to get your ticket to the Spark Summit where we'll unveil the Ignite finalists.

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## Spark Fusion

At Spark, we have traditionally sought wicked problems from hospital, community and public health, and empowered our exceptional workforce to bring their innovative solutions to reality. Additionally, we also understand that many of the factors that determine our health and health outcomes exist outside the walls of our healthcare settings.

Spark Fusion is looking for problems and projects that see a healthcare team, partner with another public sector organisation, to bring about positive health change in our society. Be it a healthy schools project with the Department of Education, a collaboration with a Local Authority, or a Prisoner Health initiative with the Department of Justice - true cross-sectoral collaboration is the aim of the game!

It is only by connecting with other organisations in our community - that we can really start to harness, in a multi-faceted way, the many, diverse determinants of health that affect our population.

If you have an idea, a group or a project that you think would fit nicely with this initiative then please get in touch via [spark@hse.ie](mailto:spark@hse.ie) - quoting Spark Fusion!

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## Our Research Vision

In the rapidly evolving realm of healthcare innovation, research is essential to advance our knowledge and improve the experience of all service users - both staff and patients alike.

The Spark Innovation Programme, through collaboration with the National College of Art and Design and the Healthcare Innovation Practitioners Network, aims to contribute to the evidence-base for novel ways of thinking and working in health.

We recently had the pleasure of welcoming Dr. Mary Galvin, Head of the Department of Applied Social Studies at MTU, who helped us identify and explore research opportunities in our collaborative work. Dr. Galvin emphasized the significance of formulating research questions at the beginning of any innovation activity or project. If you are interested in working with us on consolidating learning and creating new knowledge, don't hesitate to reach out!





# The Innovator's Inventory



To help put a spring in your step this season, our very own Caitriona Heffernan, HSE Innovation Lead, is here with a few innovation-related recommendations. Caitriona has a voracious appetite for all things creative and keeps her finger firmly on the pulse of design-led initiatives, in healthcare and beyond. Enjoy these three gems!

## READ

**Design Is an Essential Medicine**

*Pragya Mishra & Jaspal Sandhu*

## LISTEN

**Built to Innovate | Ben Bensaou**

*The Innovation Show with Aidan McCullen*

## WATCH

**Designing cultures to disrupt**

*Jeanne Liedtka*

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Call for **Pilots 2023** — +  
Seeking Innovative Approaches to  
Health and Wellbeing Challenges

Citizen  
Health &  
Wellbeing



## Advertisement: Smart D8 CALL FOR PILOTS 2023

Smart D8 is an urban demonstrator providing opportunities for indigenous and international innovators to investigate how smart technology and innovative approaches can be used to improve health and wellbeing in an urban population.

Smart D8 is looking to engage and collaborate with private companies, academics, healthcare providers and public organisations who want to demonstrate their innovative solutions with the local community.

They have a new call for pilot projects in three areas:

- **Population Health**
- **Positive and Healthy Ageing**
- **Connected Patients in the Community**

Find out more and participate [HERE](#)

The deadline for submissions is Monday **24 April 2023 at 23:00**

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## RIU Limerick Innovation Day

The Rapid Innovation Unit is a valued member of our growing healthcare innovation community. Join the RIU Team this May 19th for an introduction to 3D printing in healthcare, past and current successful innovation projects, innovation supports, and much more!



Welcomes you to join us for  
**Innovation Day**  
May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Secure your free ticket on Eventbrite by scanning the QR code, or following the link in the post.



We always want to hear from you, so if you have anything to suggest or highlight, please get in touch at [spark@hse.ie](mailto:spark@hse.ie) or reach out on our social media channels where you can keep up to date with our latest news and events.

Best wishes,  
The Spark Innovation Team

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