

Spark News

Autumn 2022

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Dear Colleagues,

The Spark Innovation Programme is busier than ever and continues to grow from strength to strength thanks to your ongoing participation and engagement, collaboration with our ever-expanding innovation network, along with the addition of a few new faces.

As we reflect on the success of our Summit during the summer, we are steadfast in our efforts to empower and enable frontline workers who wish to address those unmet needs and tackle the unresolved challenges they encounter in their workday.

As well as driving frontline innovation, we want to continue to help embed design principles in healthcare, to ensure both the functional and emotional needs of our service users and staff are met. Increasingly, we recognise the important role of a cross-discipline approach in encouraging big ideas and developing smart solutions.

We hope you enjoy this edition of Spark News – we have some very exciting updates to tell you about!

P.S. To learn more about what we get up to, why not have a look at this video: [HERE](#)

Spark Summit 2022: Giving Voice to Change



Anne Murray, pictured, right, with Bernadette Higgins

The Spark Summit 2022, which took place on June 16th in Dublin, was an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate healthcare innovators. Among them were Spark Ignite winners, Bernadette Higgins (ADON) and Anne Murray (CNM2), from the Mid-West Public Health Department, with their project, “Wee Catch It” – a solution to the challenges of collecting a clean catch urine sample in patients with incontinence.

“As nurses, patients are at the centre of all we do. We want to be able to deliver the best patient experience we can in an efficient, simple, comfortable, safe and cost-effective way. “Wee Catch It” does all this. The idea is that it will improve the process for the healthcare worker; provide education; promote appropriate and timely treatment; and reduce the risk of harm to patients and the wider population.”



Check out our summit video for more of the action! **Spark Summit 2022**
SAVE THE DATE! We are already excited for next year's Spark Summit which will be held on June 15th 2023 in the Clayton Hotel, Dublin 2.

The Summit also featured a number of inspiring keynote speakers. Norma Caples, ANP in Heart Failure at University Hospital Waterford, spoke of her experience in developing a mobile application that has improved heart failure management.

Chief Clinical Officer, Dr Colm Henry, acknowledged the role of innovation in meeting many of the healthcare challenges brought into sharp focus during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Trevor Vaughn, Assistant Professor in Design at Maynooth University, gave an emotional account of his efforts in developing an AI-generated voice simulation software championed by veteran broadcaster, Charlie Bird.

3 Design Internships

Following on from their success at the Design On The Frontline competition earlier this year, three talented design graduates were awarded internships hosted by Spark, the Healthcare Innovation Practitioners Network and Actionable Design Consultancy.

The dynamic trio have had an amazing opportunity to develop their skills and gain experience within the healthcare setting. As we unfortunately say goodbye to them this month, it has been a pleasure to work with Asia, Gareth and Alexander. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours and hope to see them back in the Irish healthcare design landscape soon!



Design Interns: Asia Cheung, Gareth Byrne, Alexander Fives



Welcome Cathal, Our New Fellow

Fáilte to Dr Cathal Mac Dhaibhéid, who joins Rachel, Amy and Dermot as our fourth National Fellow for Innovation on the Spark Innovation Programme.

Cathal graduated from UCD School of Medicine in 2016. After completing core surgical training at RCSI, he went on to pursue an MSc in Medical Device Design. During his postgraduate education, he worked as a student consultant for industry leaders such as Stryker, Boston Scientific and Hollister, and completed his thesis project with Irish medtech start-up, iBrux.

Cathal has also conducted research on the benefits of 3D printing and virtual planning in surgery. He firmly believes solutions to many of the unique challenges we face in medicine exist at the intersection between design and health. We will undoubtedly benefit from Cathal's knowledge and experience throughout the course of the year.



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Seirbhísí
 Altranais & Cnáimhseachais

Office of the Nursing &
 Midwifery Services Director





4 Community Innovation Fund

In June 2022, we were delighted to introduce the Community Innovation Fund, an initiative designed to promote innovation in community teams and services. Healthcare professionals from both community and acute services were invited to apply for support for novel initiatives that have the potential to improve the way care is delivered in our communities. We were blown away by the response, with applications relating to Care Of The Elderly, Scheduled Care, Disability, Mental Health, Chronic Disease and Integrated Care Pathways. This made for an extremely competitive selection process. Teams that have been successful in their application will be contacted by Spark shortly.

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Spark*seed

The Spark Seed initiative is about enabling you to sow the seed of innovation and cultivate a solution to a challenge in your clinical area.

Spark Seed provides training, micro funding and support to fledgling innovators to help you develop your project.

The window for applications will re-open in January 2023. Get brainstorming!

6 Design + Innovation Bootcamp

September 2022 saw the launch of our 4 Day Design + Innovation Bootcamp with a focus on trauma management and orthopaedic surgery. We identified this field as a fertile ground for innovative thinking and entrepreneurial spirit.

Organized in collaboration with RCSI and the Pillar Centre, Mater University Hospital, Day 1 and 2 of the Bootcamp was attended by a diverse group – from SHOs to ANPs, radiographers to business managers.

Attendees learned valuable Design Thinking methodologies while engaging in multidisciplinary challenges. Day 3 of the bootcamp takes place on 26th October in Dogpatch Labs. The bootcamp will come to a close on 16th November in the Pillar Centre. The event is fully booked, however do keep an eye out for our future Design + Innovation Bootcamps.



ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE
+ MACHINE
LEARNING IN
HEALTHCARE

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Artificial Intelligence Forum

Artificial Intelligence has the potential to revolutionise the health industry. At Spark, we believe cross-discipline innovation can not only improve health outcomes, but also create business success.

We invite interested healthcare workers to join start-ups, corporates, researchers and institutions at our upcoming AI in Healthcare Forum and forge exciting and innovative partnerships.

The event will be held on Friday November 25th in the Dogpatch Labs, CHQ Building, Dublin.

Express your interest here → [AI Forum](#)

FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2022
DOGPATCH LABS, DUBLIN

NDTP

Office of the
Nursing & Midwifery
Services DirectorHealth
Social Care
Professions

Deloitte.

HSE

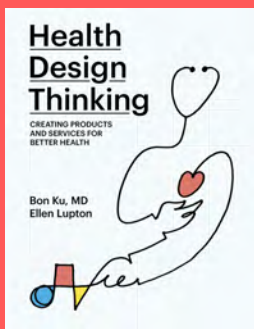
The Health Service
Executive

HSE

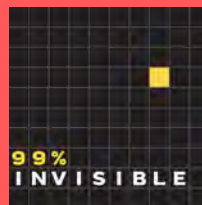
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In this new addition to our newsletter, Spark team members will make innovation-related recommendations to help inspire you!

To kick us off, over to our newest member, Cathal:

**READ**
Health Design Thinking

"An invaluable introduction to Design Thinking and a practical guide to applying the principles of human-centered design to real-world health challenges."

**LISTEN**
99% Invisible | Sounds
and Health: Hospitals

"A gem from one of my favourite podcasts - alarming news about hospital soundscapes."

**WATCH**
TED | How to avoid death By
PowerPoint

"An oldie but a goodie. Really useful for presentations. Six is the magic number!"

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

If you're interested in a position in the Spark Innovation Programme, applications for National Fellow roles will open in December 2022 – more details to follow soon!

Best wishes,
The Spark Innovation Team