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The SPARK Translational Medicine Symposium is an annual event hosted by Taiwan SPARK, and this year's theme focuses on Starting with the End in Mind. Development and commercialization of novel drugs or medical devices typically requires a long value-creation process – because there are many hurdles to crossing the valley of death, therefore it is helpful and imperative to start from the beginning with the end in mind.

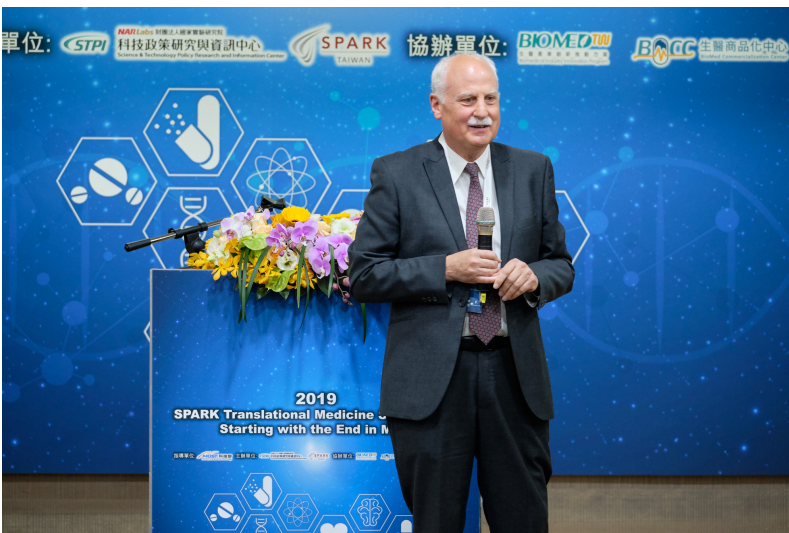


Taiwan SPARK is honored to invite Stanford SPARK advisors to our annual Symposium this year. Dr. Michael Taylor is an advisor from the Stanford SPARK Program and is also the Founder of NonClinical Safety Assessment. Dr. Lyn Frumkin, another advisor from the Stanford SPARK Program in Translational Research, is a physician and a Fulbright Specialist.

In addition, we are honored to invite Professor Michael Wallach from University of Technology Sydney. Dr. Wallach is the member of SPARK Global and the Director of SPARK Oceania.



Dr. Yufeng Jane Tseng, the SPARK Taiwan Director, welcomed more than 200 audiences and addressed the needs to bring regional effort including neighbor countries and Australia's efforts to establish a good biotech supporting ecosystem.



Dr. Michael Wallach started the Symposium with a compelling story on Project Selection & Development in Translational Medicine. Building a passionate and dedicated team is the first step towards choosing a worthy project, and the technology or solution proposed to address an unmet need should be non-obvious. A strategy for R&D with clear milestones should guide the project moving forward.



Dr. Michael Taylor shared his expertise in Nonclinical Safety Evaluation in Pharmaceutical Development. Safety pharmacology studies and toxicology studies are necessary to ensure a novel drug compound is safe and meets the regional or international regulatory standards. The types of studies to be conducted should be designed based on the compound's target and indications. This year to tailor our Taiwanese team's needs in CNS disease and oncology, specific ICH and US FDA guidance have been discussed to provide more reference.



Dr. Lyn Frumkin is an experienced clinical physician and shared Clinical Trial Protocol Development for SPARKEes. Clinical studies are critical as it is the most direct method of investigating the technology or repurposed medicine in human subjects. While SPARKEes may have limited clinical resources, there are still ways to design a successful clinical trial to ensure important biological signals can be objectively measured.

This year's Taiwan SPARK Translational Medicine Symposium helps to connect and initiate more collaboration between Taiwan and Australia; both AusTrade office and Taiwan MOST have plans to organize more activities.

Last but not least, we thank our sponsors for their support in organizing this year's SPARK Symposium: Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), NARLabs Science & Technology Policy Research and Information Center (STPI), SPARK Taiwan, Biomedtw (Biomedical Industry Innovation Program), and The Drug Research Center of National Taiwan University School of Pharmacy.