Since launching in 2016, over a quarter of a million people, including 100,000 people with autism, have joined.

### Celebrating 5 Years of SPARK

SPARK is the largest research study of autism ever. By studying genetic, behavioral, and medical information from hundreds of thousands of people, SPARK is accelerating autism research. SPARK Research Match connects thousands of study participants with autism researchers around the world.

### Building Our Research Community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>31 CLINICAL SITES</th>
<th>250,000 PARTICIPANTS JOINED</th>
<th>50,000 PARTICIPANTS’ DNA SEQUENCED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The SPARK clinical site network includes 31 top research centers and academic institutions across the country.</td>
<td>Since launching in 2016, over a quarter of a million people, including 100,000 people with autism, have joined.</td>
<td>DNA from 50,000 participants, including 23,000 people with autism has been sequenced and made available to qualified researchers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Giving Back

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>70,000 REPORTS RETURNED</th>
<th>50 WEBINARS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Just under 70,000 families have received reports from four different screening tools used in SPARK, reflecting their individual behavior and development.</td>
<td>11,749 people, including parents, autistic adults, researchers and service providers tuned into 50 webinars.</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>500 AUTISTIC PEOPLE WITH GENETIC FINDINGS</th>
<th>150 ORIGINAL STORIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPARK has notified more than 500 families and autistic people about a genetic cause for autism.</td>
<td>SPARK has written more than 150 original stories on participants, treatments and therapies, and other topics important to the community. The most popular are about girls, special interests, and LGBTQ identity.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank You!

Due to the participation of hundreds of thousands of families, SPARK is transforming the way autism research is done. SPARK will continue for decades to come and learn from participants as they grow and develop.

“I can’t imagine a reason not to participate in the SPARK study. There’s so much to be learned and nothing at all to lose.”

LyNN - SPARK PARTICIPANT FROM WASHINGTON

“We do it because it’s so important to contribute to the understanding of autism. Even if we’re not going to benefit from it, it’s really important for other families in the future, for diagnosis or treatment. We’ve benefited from knowledge that was gained in the past, which other families contributed to. So this is what we have to do, for the future.”

Jennifer - SPARK PARTICIPANT FROM NEW YORK CITY

“It was amazing to see that so many people with autism are joining this study and possibly finding out why they have autism.”

ADAM - SPARK PARTICIPANT FROM TEXAS

“One day, we will learn the results of the SPARK study, though it will take time for the full impact of these results to unfold. I am hopeful that the picture these results paint will show that autism is not a puzzle to be solved but a story to be told.”

Amy - SPARK PARTICIPANT FROM NEW JERSEY

Accelerating Research

100 RESEARCH MATCH STUDIES

33,676 families have been part of nearly 100 studies through SPARK Research Match, ranging from the study of the neurobiology of atypical language development, to a clinical trial for a specific genetic cause of autism, to repetitive thinking patterns in autistic adults.

32 SCIENTIFIC PAPERS

There have been 32 scientific papers published using SPARK data, covering a range of topics from motor impairments, to mental health, to rare genetic risk variants.

3 GENETIC PAPERS

There have been three scientific papers published using SPARK data on common and rare genetic variants associated with autism.

150 GENES

SPARK data has helped researchers discover new autism risk genes. There are now more than 150 genes known to play a role in autism and other neurodevelopmental conditions. Dozens of these genes have been discovered in the past 5 years.

10 RESEARCH MATCH PAPERS

There have been 10 scientific papers published using SPARK Research Match on topics from special interests, to depression in autistic adults, to the impact of COVID-19 on the autism community.

179 SCIENTISTS USED SPARK DATA

179 scientists have used SPARK data to further autism research.

SPARKforAutism.org/5Years