

**RESEARCHER ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

As of \_\_\_\_\_, 20XX (“Award Date”), the Northeastern University Spark Fund has selected Principal Investigator listed below to receive a total amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (“Funding”) to be distributed to the Principal Investigator’s discretionary fund in support of the research described in the Spark Fund Application attached to this Researcher Acknowledgment as Appendix A (“Application”).

<b>Northeastern Researcher(s)</b>	Principal Investigator Name: Researcher 2 Name: Researcher 3 Name: Researcher 4 Name:
<b>Northeastern Invention, Software, or Disclosure Reference Number(s) related to Application</b>	(E.g., INV/SW-XXXX)
<b>Principal Investigator Discretionary Fund Index Number</b>	
<b>Name(s) of Department Budget Manager(s)</b>	

**1. Progress Reports**

The Principal Investigator will provide the Center for Research Innovation quarterly reports on milestones and research progress in a format provided by the Center for Research Innovation.

**2. Funding Distribution**

The Principal Investigator’s department will receive:

- a. the first fifty percent (50%) of Funding upon signature of this Researcher Acknowledgment by the Principal Investigator, provided that such signature occurs no later than ten (10) calendar days after the Award Date; and,
- b. the remaining fifty percent (50%) of Funding six (6) months after the Award Date provided that the Principal Investigator(s) completed all milestones and progress reports up to this date and identified a business advisor approved by the Spark Fund.

The Spark Fund may withhold or require the return of unspent Funding in cases including but not limited to a change to the Principal Investigator, budget, or research that occurs

without prior written approval from the Spark Fund, an unmet milestone, or progress report, an Unallowable Expenditure as defined below, or low commercial potential for related intellectual property.

### 3. Use of Funding

The Principal Investigator must spend the total Funding in accordance with this Researcher Acknowledgment no later than twelve (12) months after the Award Date.

Any change to the Principal Investigator, budget, or research contained within the Application, use of Funding on the research contained within the Application, or any other activity, if the Principal Investigator(s) received or will receive external funding for such research or activity, or request to spend Funding on an external consultant, service provider, advisor or other non-Northeastern personnel (“**Non-NU Personnel**”) requires the Spark Fund’s prior written approval.

Prior to the transfer of Funding to any Non-NU Personnel, each Northeastern Researcher agrees that such person(s) must sign a separate agreement with Northeastern University covering the transfer of Funding and containing terms reflecting Northeastern University’s sole ownership of all title and interest to intellectual property conceived or reduced to practice or fixed in a tangible medium during the use of Funding or performance of work by such Non-NU Personnel. The Principal Investigator(s) must provide a copy of the separate agreement(s) under this section to the Center for Research Innovation promptly upon signature of such agreement(s).

**Allowable Expenditures** are defined as the following: Salary for non-tenure-track research faculty, postdoctoral researchers, and graduate and undergraduate students; materials, supplies, and equipment totaling two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) or less, and travel expenses excluding conference attendance, necessary for the performance of the research in the Application; costs related to animal care included in the Application; and costs approved by the Spark Fund.

**Unallowable Expenditures** are defined as the following: Overhead or indirect costs; tuition; visa fees; scholarships; sabbatical leave; salary for staff, visiting faculty, visiting researchers, tenured or tenure track faculty including but not limited to the Principal Investigator, and other personnel not named in Allowable Expenditures above; conference attendance and travel; patent expenses; entertainment; equipment totaling more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00); sales, marketing, or other business development; and debts, fines, or penalties.

### 4. Intellectual Property

No external party’s background intellectual property or materials may be used to perform the research related to the Funding.

- a. **Invention or Software Disclosure and Patent Application:** In accordance with the Northeastern Patent and Copyright Policy in effect as of the Award Date, the

Northeastern Researcher(s) and any personnel performing the funded research must submit an invention and/or software disclosure to the Center for Research Innovation for each invention conceived or reduced to practice or software fixed in a tangible medium as a result of or during the performance of the funded research (collectively “**Funded IP**”) and the Center for Research Innovation will file a patent application for such invention.

- b. Reimbursement of Spark Fund:** The Principal Investigator agrees that Licensee, as defined below, shall reimburse Northeastern University an amount equal to three times (3x) the total Funding under this Agreement in the event that:
  - i.** Northeastern Researcher is a founder, board member, investor, advisor, shareholder, officer, or is otherwise involved in an entity that licenses rights to Funded IP ("**Licensee**") and
  - ii.** Licensee initiates a qualified initial public offering raising more than fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000.00) or is acquired for consideration totaling more than fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000.00).

Such payment shall be included within the license agreement(s) covering Funded IP and shall be in addition to any fees or payments agreed upon by the Licensee and Northeastern University under the license agreement(s).

**5. Applicable Policies, Laws, and Regulations**

The Northeastern Researcher(s) and any personnel performing the funded research must abide by all applicable Northeastern University policies and codes found at <https://www.northeastern.edu/policies/>.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

My signature below indicates that I have read, understand, and agree to be bound by the terms of this Researcher Acknowledgment and I will provide a copy of this Researcher Acknowledgment to the Northeastern Researcher(s) and any Non-NU Personnel participating in the funded research, as necessary, to inform them of the Spark Fund obligations and requirements.

<b>Signature of Principal Investigator</b>	
<b>Name</b>	
<b>Date of Signature</b>	

**APPENDIX A**

Spark Fund Application

Submitted Application attached.

SAMPLE ONLY