INVESTMENT CASE STUDY: SPARK THERAPEUTICS

THE CHALLENGE
A PERCEIVED INEVITABILITY OF GENETIC DISEASES
Rare genetic diseases - including blindness, hemophilia, lysosomal storage disorders and neurodegenerative diseases - have impacted generations and millions of people's lives around the world, with zero or only palliative therapies.

THE OPPORTUNITY
TAILORED, INVESTIGATIONAL THERAPIES FOR PATIENTS
Greater understanding of the human genome and genetic abnormalities have allowed scientists to tailor investigational therapies to patients suffering from very specific genetic diseases. By aiming to reawaken healthy biologic processes through the potential one-time administration of gene therapies, a transformation can be sparked. This approach holds great promise in developing effective treatments to a host of inherited diseases, providing long-lasting effects, and dramatically and positively changing the lives of patients.

A SOLUTION
SPARK THERAPEUTICS WAS FOUNDED IN 2013 WITH A $50MM COMMITMENT FROM CHOP

SPARK THERAPEUTICS

CHOP researchers pioneer gene therapy treatments for over two decades
CHOP commits $50MM in 2013 to launch Spark as biotech startup
Spark goes public with $161MM IPO in 2015, Philadelphia's largest in history
FDA approves first ever gene therapy for a genetic disease - Spark's Luxturna - in 2017
In February 2019, Roche makes offer to acquire Spark for $4.8B

THE INVESTMENTS
SPARK HAS SECURED MORE THAN $1B IN FINANCING
Following a Series A round with Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania (CHOP), Spark Therapeutics attracted capital from six firms outside of Greater Philadelphia (including New York and San Francisco) for a Series B round before their initial public offering on Nasdaq. The current market cap, as of April 25, 2019, is ~$4.8B.

THE INTENDED IMPACT
SHORT- AND LONG-TERM POSITIVE IMPACT FOR A DIVERSE RANGE OF STAKEHOLDERS

The ultimate intended impact of Spark Therapeutics work is a world in which no life is impacted by genetic disease.

PATIENTS & FAMILIES
Life-altering transformation for people and families affected by genetic disease

MEDICAL COMMUNITY
Clinical, technological, and medical innovation to advance the field of biology

LOCAL BIOTECH SECTOR
Growth for the city's biotech sector, encouraging increased local investment and innovation

GREATER PHILADELPHIA
Ability to retain and attract talent, add jobs, attract outside capital, and benefit from innovations

UN SDGs
Solutions that address the UN SDGs, such as goal #3 - Good Health and Well Being

This profile was created as part of a content series for The Greater Philadelphia Impact Capital Pledge, an ImpactPHL initiative that aims to capture and catalyze impactful and mission-aligned investments from/for our local region.

The Pledge: impactphl.org/pledge
Spark Therapeutics: sparktx.com