



## **SPARK Research Mentorship Program at Mayo Clinic in Florida Science Program for the Advancement of Research Knowledge**

The mission of SPARK Research Mentorship Program at Mayo Clinic in Florida is to provide high school students in Duval and St. Johns Counties mentored research experiences in world class laboratories at Mayo Clinic in Florida which will help them develop a basic understanding of scientific research and produce a highly-competitive science fair project.

Juniors and seniors enrolled in Duval and St. Johns County schools who are interested in biomedical science, will be provided an opportunity to design and carry out research projects within world class research laboratories in the Discovery Translation Labs at Mayo Clinic in Florida for the purpose of entering science fair competitions.

It is expected that a minimum of 20 lab hours per week will be required during the summer break for a successful project to be completed for deadlines of the Science Fair. Should additional time be needed after school resumes, a flexible schedule will be determined and agreed upon between the student and faculty mentor.

### **Discovery Translation Labs:**

In Florida, teams of scientists and physicians conduct research with the goal of improving patient care. Their focus is finding new and better ways to predict, prevent, diagnose and optimally treat complex brain conditions, cancer and several other conditions. Guided by unmet patient needs, researchers work collaboratively in laboratories, on clinical trials, and epidemiological studies to turn promising discoveries into effective treatments.

### **How to Apply:**

Students should go to the SPARK website in January 2019 for information on criteria, how to apply, and application forms, then contact their current science teacher to complete the recommendation form.