

Spark Ignite 2025 – National Winners

Spark Ignite is the HSE's national innovation competition, delivered in partnership with **Health Innovation Hub Ireland (HIHI)**. It empowers frontline healthcare staff to develop innovative, commercially viable solutions to real-world challenges in the Irish health service.

Below are the three winning innovations from the 2025 cohort - each demonstrating the power of frontline insight, user-centred design, and scalable impact.

Dr. Declan Sheppard – ULTRASoundCANNULATION

Dr. Declan Sheppard, Consultant Radiologist is developing ULTRASoundCANNULATION - a compact, mobile-compatible ultrasound tool designed to support safer, faster intravenous access. Aimed at improving outcomes in patients with difficult vascular access, this innovation enhances vein visualisation at the bedside, reducing delays and complications. By making image-guided cannulation more accessible, it offers a practical solution for both hospital and community care settings.

Federico Lo Giudice – Flowtube

Federico Lo Giudice, Advanced Nurse Practitioner in Urology, is addressing diagnostic delays in urological care with Flowtube, a handheld device that enables patients to complete urinary flow assessments at home. Designed to measure key flow metrics and transmit data securely to clinicians, Flowtube offers a more accessible and patient-friendly alternative to traditional in-clinic testing. This solution has the potential to reduce outpatient waiting lists, improve diagnostic accuracy, and empower patients to participate more actively in their care.

Killian Dervan – FOCUS Health: Facilitating Outpatient Care & Urgent Support

Killian Dervan, Cardiology Registrar, is transforming post-cardiac event care with FOCUS Health, a digital platform that bridges the gap between hospital discharge and long-term recovery. The system combines a patient-facing app with a clinician dashboard to support remote monitoring, medication adherence, and lifestyle management. Tailored to the Irish healthcare context, FOCUS Health aims to reduce preventable readmissions, improve cardiovascular outcomes, and scale to support a broader range of chronic conditions in the future.