

## TEAM SCHEPERJANS

### Microbiome based diagnostics and therapy for Parkinson's disease

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**Parkinson's disease** is the second most common neurodegenerative disease in the world, affecting one in 100 people over age 60. The cause of the disease remains a mystery, and since there is currently no test for it, finding the correct diagnosis can take years.

8 out of 10 Parkinson's patients suffer from constipation, which can start years before motor symptoms begin. Current evidence suggests that the origin of the disease may lie in the gut.

Team Scheperjans is working on harnessing the power of the **gut microbiome** to provide better diagnostics for the disease, as well as to improve the quality of life of Parkinson's patients through microbiome based treatments.



#### Filip Scheperjans, MD, PhD

Neurologist and clinical researcher,  
Department of Neurology,  
Helsinki University Hospital

Founder and CEO, NeuroInnovation Oy, Helsinki, Finland

Filip studied medicine at the University of Düsseldorf (Germany) and gained international experience as a visiting student in London, New York and Helsinki. Now living in Finland he works as neurologist and clinical researcher at the Helsinki University Hospital. His main research focus is the role of microbiota in Parkinson's disease and his group was the first to demonstrate microbial community structure alterations related to the disease. He has a patent pending related to use of the gut microbiome in diagnostics and treatment of Parkinson's disease.

**SPARK VALUE:** : We hope to expand our collaborative network, learn more about shaping an idea into a product, and how to approach the regulatory and clinical aspects related to commercialization