

To all persons concerned

April 26, 2019
Ohara Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

**Announcement of the signing of a joint R & D agreement and
commencement of development activities regarding
“Research and development of innovative antifibrotic drugs
to improve the life prognosis of cirrhosis”**

Ohara Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Koka-shi, Shiga Japan; CEO: Seiji Ohara; hereinafter, referred to as “Ohara”) announced the commencement of research and development activities for the its drug candidate OP-724 for the treatment of cirrhosis caused by hepatitis C and B. This research and development project was adopted as a practical realization development type in the general-type of the (3rd) “Cyclic Innovation for Clinical Empowerment (hereinafter, referred to as “CiCLE”)” in year 2018 (Heisei 30), sponsored by the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (hereinafter, referred to as “AMED”). At present, we will conclude a joint research and development commission contract agreement between our company and each research execution organization, and will proceed under industry-government-academia collaboration.

The two key goals of this activities are as listed below, with the ultimate goal of obtaining regulatory approval for the use of OP-724 as a treatment for cirrhosis.

- Confirmation of the treatment concept based on the antifibrotic action of OP-724
- Practical application of non-invasive fibrotic markers that lead to clinical endpoints of liver cirrhosis

Going forward, Ohara will lead the implementation of non-clinical and clinical studies, with the support of the following research institutions who will collaborate to conduct basic research and clinical research to search for non-invasive markers of liver fibrosis.

- Metropolitan Cancer and Infectious Diseases Center Komagome Hospital
- Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Medical Science
- National Center for Global Health and Medicine
- National University Corporation Kyushu University
- National University Corporation Kanazawa University

【About OP-724】

OP-724 is a CBP/beta-catenin antagonist that inhibits the activation of the Wnt/beta-catenin signaling pathway (PRISM BioLab Co., Ltd. development code: PRI-724). OP-724 was originally developed as an anticancer drug, but a study at the Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Medical Science using a liver cirrhosis mouse model independently developed by the institute confirmed that OP-724 has antifibrotic effects showed improvement in liver histology. The study was conducted with the support of the Acceleration of Transformative Research for Medical Innovation (ACT-M) Basic Scheme sponsored by the AMED. An investigator-initiated phase I clinical trial was completed in patients with liver cirrhosis in Japan. The study was conducted at the Tokyo Metropolitan Cancer and Infectious Diseases Center Komagome Hospital. Currently, an investigator-initiated clinical trial is underway which is centered on the Tokyo Metropolitan Cancer and Infectious Diseases Center Komagome Hospital, with development support provided by the Kyushu University Center, as Seeds C in the AMED Bridging Research Accelerating Network Program.

We obtained development rights to OP-724 from PRISM BioLab Co., Ltd. on May 24th of this year and are now continuing the development efforts originally led by PRISM BioLab Co., Ltd.

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