



HMT AND CHUGAI PHARMACEUTICAL COLLABORATE ON BIOMARKER SEARCH IN CONNECTION WITH LIVER AND KIDNEY DISEASES

TOKYO, Sep 14, 2005 - Human Metabolome Technologies, Inc. (hereafter referred to as HMT; Representative Director and President: Yoshihiro Ohtaki; Head Office: Tsuruoka-shi, Yamagata) and Chugai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (hereafter referred to as Chugai Pharmaceutical; Representative Director and President: Osamu Nagayama; Head Office: Chuo-ku, Tokyo) announced that they have signed an agreement to collaborate on the search of biomarkers in connection with liver and kidney diseases.

HMT is a Japanese bioventure established in July 2003 as a spin-out from the Department of Environmental Information and the Institute for Advanced Biosciences at Keio University. HMT's core technologies are based on the work of its founders, Professor Masaru Tomita and Assistant Professor Tomoyoshi Soga.

Based on this agreement, both companies will conduct a search for biomarkers in connection with hepatic (liver) diseases and kidney diseases, by utilizing the remarkable metabolome analysis technologies developed by HMT.

"Metabolomics is one of the cutting edge technologies in life sciences, and HMT has developed a particularly excellent analysis technology in this field. Although the application of metabolomics in drug discovery has just begun, we are expecting the discovery of undiscovered biomarkers by using this robust technology provided by HMT," comments Chugai Pharmaceutical Vice President, General Manager of Research Division Dr. Tatsuo Miyuuchi.

"The advanced technology developed in Yamagata Prefecture is to be applied full-scale to the pharmaceutical industry. HMT regards the development of drug design support technology by using metabolome analysis as an important pillar in its business, and when combined with Chugai Pharmaceutical's drug discovery expertise, we believe in the creation of an innovative drug discovery engine. Through this collaboration, the development of the metabolome analysis technology by HMT will be further advanced and made more substantial," said Professor Masaru Tomita, Director of HMT.

About Chugai

Chugai Pharmaceutical, based in Tokyo, specializes in the prescription pharmaceuticals ranking at 4th position in 2004 in the domestic market.

As a most important member of the Roche Group, since the start of the strategic alliance with Roche in October 2002, Chugai is actively engaged in prescription pharmaceutical R&D activities in Japan and abroad. Specifically, the Company is working to develop innovative products with global applications, focusing on the oncology, renal disease, and bone and joint disease domains.

In Japan, Chugai's research bases in Fuji Gotemba and Kamakura are collaborating to develop new pharmaceuticals and its research facilities in Ukima are conducting industrialization research.

Overseas, Chugai Pharma USA and Chugai Pharma Europe are engaged in clinical development activities in the United States and Europe, respectively.

About Human Metabolome Technologies

Human Metabolome Technologies (HMT) is an advanced research and development metabolomics company. HMT was established in July 2003 by Drs. Masaru Tomita, Director, and Tomoyoshi Soga, Associate Professor, of the Institute for Advanced Biosciences, Keio University. By using the metabolome analysis technology which combines capillary electrophoresis and mass spectrometry (CE-MS) and a software analysis platform originally developed by HMT, thousands of species of metabolites in cells can be simultaneously identified in an extremely rapid and accurate manner. HMT has on-going collaborations with several pharmaceutical and food companies in the search for biomarkers in connection with drug development, diagnosis and food production.

For additional information, visit humanmetabolome.com.

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