

November 22, 2019

Rena Therapeutics Inc.

Notice of participation in Nippon Shokubai Group

Rena Therapeutics Inc. (President & CEO: Shuichi Toriya, headquarter: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, hereinafter referred to as “Rena”) announces that it has joined the Nippon Shokubai Group (President & CEO: Yujiro Goto, headquarter: Chuo-ku, Osaka, hereinafter referred to as “Nippon Shokubai”).



1. Accelerate growth of both companies' businesses by creating synergies
2. Strengthen management capabilities through personnel exchanges

[Overview of transaction]

Nippon Shokubai acquired a total of 301,250 shares of Rena from INCJ, Ltd. and individual shareholders. As a result, Nippon Shokubai's shareholding ratio has increased to 91.3% from 26.7% and Nippon Shokubai acquired the ownership of Rena.

[Realization by participation in Nippon Shokubai Group]

1. Accelerate growth of both companies' businesses by creating synergies  
Nippon Shokubai is establishing the Health and Medical Business with a focus on middle-molecular-weight compound drug (such as nucleic acid drug and peptide drug) and Drug Delivery System (DDS). Rena is going to develop the DDS technology for nucleic acid drug through this affiliation. By receiving active business support from Nippon Shokubai, Rena promotes core technology, Hetero Duplex Oligonucleotide (HDO) technology to be practical. Nippon Shokubai will expand their contracted API manufacturing business by manufacturing HDO structured API.

2. Strengthen management capabilities through personnel exchanges

Rena business capabilities will be strengthened by accepting human resources not only in management but also in R & D departments and business development departments.

Rena is committed to establish HDO technology and create new nucleic acid drug by receiving business support from Nippon Shokubai to provide new nucleic acid drug even one day earlier to patients.

[Personnel transfers]

	Current	New
Shuichi Toriya	Outside director	President & CEO
Shoichi Iwamoto	Administration manager	Director
Shingo Horimoto	-	Outside director
Jun Sasaki	President & CEO	Director (resign on November 30, 2019)

[About Rena]

Rena is a bio-venture company authorized by Tokyo Medical and Dental University (TMDU) in order to provide basic technology for nucleic acid drug using HDO technology as Rena's core technology. The HDO technology was invented by Professor Takanori Yokota of TMDU, Professor Satoshi Obika of Osaka University and others.

Nucleic acid drug has been expected to have advantages to be able to approach to diseases in which they are difficult to apply by therapies using low-molecular-weight compounds, antibodies, etc. However, issues of such difficulties of delivering to the disease sites, side effects and instability in blood after administration has been recognized. HDO technology is strongly expected to overcome these issues.

Evaluated the high possibility of HDO technology, Rena executed non-exclusive license agreements of HDO technology with Ionis Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a world leader in oligonucleotide drug development, and Takeda Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

HDO has a structure combining an antisense strand (= active chain) (double stranded upper part) functioning as an active body and a carrier chain (lower part) containing a ligand for carrying an antisense strand to a disease site.



There are Antisense Oligonucleotide (hereinafter referred to as ASO) and siRNA (small interfering RNA) as nucleic acid drug that control and treat specific genes, but HDO technology is the third nucleic acid drug platform with a new molecular structure and mechanism of action different from these ASO and siRNA nucleic acid drug platforms.

Rena will establish the third nucleic acid drug platform technology and aim to contribute to the creation of new nucleic acid drug for unmet medical needs including intractable diseases such as cancer, neurodegenerative diseases and genetic diseases.

(For inquiries about this announcement)

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End of announcement