December 15, 2020
Company name: Rena Therapeutics Inc.
Representative name: Shuichi Toriya, President and CEO
Contact Person: Shoichi Iwamoto, Board of Directors

Rena Therapeutics and Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited agree to an Additional License Agreement for Heteroduplex Oligonucleotide Technology

Rena Therapeutics Inc. (President & CEO: Shuichi Toriya, headquarter: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, hereinafter referred to as "Rena") announced today that it has executed an additional license agreement with Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited (hereinafter referred to as "Takeda") to utilize heteroduplex oligonucleotide (hereinafter referred to as "HDO") technology for drug discovery.

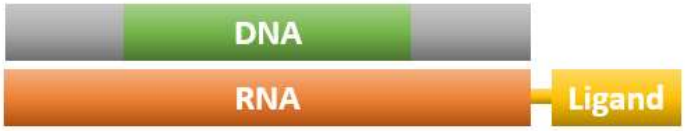
This license agreement extends the non-exclusive license agreement with Takeda, which was announced on December 24, 2018. Upon execution of this license agreement, Rena will receive an upfront payment and is eligible for future milestone payments and royalties based on the progress of development and commercial sales of HDO drugs within this license agreement.

[About Rena]
Rena is a bio-venture company that provides 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 drugs have 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 such as difficulty in delivery to diseased areas, side effects, and blood stability after administration have been recognized. HDO technology is promising as an innovative technology that overcomes these challenges of nucleic acid drugs.

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. It is possible to bind various ligands to the carrier chain, and by adopting such a structure, it is possible to improve delivery and solve the above-mentioned problems.



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