

July 18, 2023
Rena Therapeutics Inc.
Shuichi Toriya,
Representative Director and CEO

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

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

This license agreement extends the existing non-exclusive license agreements with Takeda, which were announced on December 24, 2018, December 15, 2020 and August 2, 2022. Upon execution of this license agreement, Rena will receive an upfront payment and is eligible to receive future payments if all milestones are achieved over the course of the agreement, plus royalties on potential net sales of any commercial product resulting from this license agreement.

[About Rena]

Rena is a bio-venture company that provides basic technology for nucleic acid medicine 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 medicines 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 medicines.

HDO is an artificial double stranded nucleic acid composed of an antisense strand (gapmer, mixmer, PMO etc.) that binds to a transcript of a target gene and exhibit RNase H-dependent or RNase H-independent antisense effects, and a carrier strand (RNA) that is complementary to the antisense strand.

Since a ligand (such as receptor ligands, antibodies, lipids, etc.) is bound to the carrier strand, it allows for use of various ligands without affecting the activity of the antisense strand enabling cell-specific delivery. This makes it possible to deliver HDO specifically to certain cells and solve the above-mentioned problems.



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

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

(For inquiries about this announcement)

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