

October 3, 2017

Announcement on the Start of Joint Research with Juntendo University

Tokyo, October 3, 2017 – BrightPath Biotherapeutics Co., Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as “the Company”) would like to announce the conclusion of a joint research agreement between the Company’s consolidated subsidiary, Advanced Immunotherapy Co., Ltd. and Juntendo University with the aim of clinical application of rejT (iPS cell-derived rejuvenated CTL^{*1} therapy), research on which has been pursued by the Company’s Group.

By making Advanced Immunotherapy Co., Ltd. a subsidiary of the Company in December 2016, the Company introduced the rejT therapy technology developed by Dr. Hiromitsu Nakauchi, Distinguished Professor at the Institute of Medical Science, The University of Tokyo and Professor at Stanford University, and has conducted joint research with the Institute of Medical Science, The University of Tokyo. Towards clinical application of the technology, the Company is at a stage where construction of R&D infrastructure, including clinical research facilities, should commence.

In July 2016, Juntendo University, utilizing its rich clinical capabilities, opened “The Division of Translational Regenerative Medicine for Intractable Diseases” at the Intractable Disease Research Center to contribute to the progress of medicine through genome and regenerative medicine research. The spacious 200-square-meter cell processing center (CPC)^{*2} provides a Grade A (the highest level of sterility) environment as sterile production facility, providing a major driving force for translational research covering several projects.

The recent conclusion of this joint research agreement will enable the Company to proceed with investigator-led clinical research on EB virus^{*3}-specific rejT therapy for EB virus-associated lymphoma in collaboration with Associate Professor Miki Ando at Juntendo University School of Medicine (also a Part-time Lecturer at the Division of Stem Cell Therapy, The Institute of Medical Science, The University of Tokyo), who has worked on the development of rejT therapy with Professor Nakauchi’s group.

Conclusion of the above joint research agreement will have a minimal impact on the Company’s financial forecasts for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2018.

[Explanation of terms]

- *1 CTL: Cytotoxic T Lymphocytes. CTLs are a type of T cell, or lymphocyte. CTLs can specifically recognize a foreign body presented by an antigen presenting cell, such as a dendritic cell, through the T cell receptor on the cell surface, and can recognize virus-infected cells or cancer cells that present the same foreign body on their surface and kill them by releasing the cytotoxic cytokines perforin and granzyme. CTLs were formerly called killer T cells.
- *2 Cell Processing Center (CPC): A facility for culturing and processing cells. The CPC is equipped with instruments necessary to prepare human cells and tissues used in cell therapies and regenerative medicine as well as systems to monitor manufacturing environment and manufacturing processes. IT is managed and operated in compliance with the building and facility standards for cell culture processing facilities under the Act on the Safety of Regenerative Medicine.
- *3 EB virus: Epstein-Barr virus. The EB virus is a type of herpes virus. Most people have been infected with the EB virus, which can cause tumors in some cases. The EB virus was discovered by Epstein and Barr in 1964 and is the first virus discovered from a human tumor.

BrightPath Biotherapeutics Co., Ltd.

BrightPath Biotherapeutics Co., Ltd. is a drug development venture working on the development of "cancer immunotherapy," that brings innovation to cancer treatment as the "fourth cancer therapy," after surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy. The Company owns a cancer peptide vaccine that is currently being used in clinical trials in Japan and the U.S. The Company is also developing a new T cell therapy in which antigen-specific T cells are induced to differentiate into iPS cells and regenerate, as well as a new drug related to neoantigens (tumor-specific mutation-derived antigens), a highly novel approach at the global level.

Disclaimer

This is a translation of a news release published in Japanese. In the event of any deviations between the two language versions, the original document in Japanese shall take precedence.

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