

Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

TransGenic Inc.

YAMANOUCHI AND TRANSGENIC REACH AN AGREEMENT ON EXCLUSIVE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE REGARDING GENE FUNCTIONS OBTAINED USING KNOCKOUT MICE

Tokyo, Japan — January 28, 2002 — Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (president: Toichi Takenaka) has concluded an agreement that grants it exclusive access to information on gene functions obtained from knockout mice* by TransGenic Inc. (president: Tsuyoshi Idei; headquarters: Kumamoto) in order to accelerate the screening of target genes for new drug discovery based on genomic information from mice.

According to the agreement, Yamanouchi will receive, within three years, disclosure of information on inactivated genes from 1,000 strains (kinds) of knockout mice produced by TransGenic, as well as information on morphology and behaviors and pathological and biochemical data from interesting mouse strains. Yamanouchi will independently analyze gene functions based on disclosed information, jointly apply for patents on mice found useful as targets for drug discovery, and obtain rights to exclusively use these patents.

Invested by Tokio Marine & Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., Nippon Life Insurance Co. and governmental investment institutions, TransGenic Inc. is an emerging bioventure company created to produce knockout mice using new technology named “exchangeable gene trap method” developed by Dr. Kenichi Yamamura, professor at the Institute of Molecular Embryology and Genetics (IMEG), Kumamoto University, and to commercialize the analysis of their gene functions. This technology makes it possible to produce knockout mice at random and easily analyze inactivated gene sequences. Individual genes on the genome are systematically inactivated, and their functions are determined by analyzing phenotypes of these mice in great detail. This approach is regarded as an advanced technology in the post-genomics era. Yamanouchi calls it “phenomics analysis” and has been using it for drug discovery together with “proteomics analysis.” Knockout mice can be used for pharmacological evaluation of compounds and also as disease models and are very useful in drug discovery.

Yamanouchi has been enthusiastically engaged in genomics-based drug discovery using three approaches: “gene to disease” based on gene information, “disease to gene” based on information on diseases, and “compound to gene” based on information on compounds. Whichever approach is used, pharmacological evaluation in individual animals is essential to confirm the appropriateness of selected target molecules for new drug discovery. The knockout mice exclusively supplied by TransGenic is expected to be useful to accelerate the pace of drug discovery.

*Knockout mice: mice deprived of specific gene functions

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