



Press Release

Kyoto University and Astellas Inaugurate “Alliance Station” with Aim of Realizing Advanced Medical Treatments

Kyoto and Tokyo, June 5, 2017 - Kyoto University (President: Juichi Yamagiwa) and Astellas Pharma Inc. (President and CEO: Yoshihiko Hatanaka, “Astellas”) today announced the inauguration of Alliance Station (A-Station), a new open innovation scheme at Kyoto University, and the establishment of Alliance Laboratory for Advanced Medical Research as a framework for the implementation of its activities in Graduate School of Medicine Kyoto University.

There are still many unmet medical needs in the world including those of intractable diseases and rare diseases. Due to their complexity and rarity, mechanisms of these diseases are more difficult to be clarified, and drug discovery for these diseases requires an understanding of disease pathologies in humans. Thus, researches using blood and other clinical samples to identify molecules and cells critically associated with patients’ diseases, and those determining patient stratification are being highly demanded. In order to exploit findings of these studies and deliver innovative drugs to patients as soon as possible, efficient and in-depth research collaborations between academia and pharmaceutical company are needed in situations close to the clinical setting and diseases.

A-Station has been established to further accelerate drug discovery research through evolution of the open innovation system established by Kyoto University and Astellas in the AK project^{*1} where clinical and basic research of the university and drug discovery research of the company are closely linked in a timely manner. A-Station is a new platform for collaboration between industry and academia and under this scheme, Kyoto University and Astellas will conduct joint research projects in all therapeutic areas in a prompt and flexible manner.

Kyoto University and Astellas will accelerate search for drug seeds and launch of drugs that could address unmet medical needs as well as inventing new technologies for predicting clinical validation.

*1 AK Project: Collaborative research conducted by Kyoto University and Astellas from July 2007 to March 2017 in “Center for Innovation in Immunoregulative Technologies and Therapeutics” as a “Creation of Innovation Centers for Advanced Interdisciplinarily Research Areas Program” funded by the the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

###

About Kyoto University

The philosophy of Kyoto University has been to contribute to peaceful coexistence across the global community through the resolution of multiple issues, while maintaining and further developing the free academic environment it has built up since its foundation. The objective of Medical Innovation Center, a unit of Advanced Medical Platform Joint Research Laboratory, is to create a global level research center that elucidates the fundamental principles of biological phenomena, causes of diseases and pathological mechanisms, and transforms the results of such research into advanced medical treatments and disease prevention strategies.

About Astellas

Astellas Pharma Inc., based in Tokyo, Japan, is a company dedicated to improving the health of people around the world through the provision of innovative and reliable pharmaceutical products. We focus on Urology, Oncology, Immunology, Nephrology and Neuroscience as prioritized therapeutic areas while advancing new therapeutic areas and discovery research leveraging new technologies/modalities. We are also creating new value by combining internal capabilities and external expertise in the medical/healthcare business. Astellas is on the forefront of healthcare change to turn innovative science into value for patients. For more information, please visit our website at www.astellas.com/en.

Cautionary Notes

In this press release, statements made with respect to current plans, estimates, strategies and beliefs and other statements that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements about the future performance of Astellas. These statements are based on management’s current assumptions and beliefs in light of the information currently available to it and involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties. A number of factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those discussed in the forward-looking statements. Such factors include, but are not limited to: (i) changes in general economic conditions and in laws and regulations, relating to pharmaceutical markets, (ii) currency exchange rate fluctuations, (iii) delays in new product launches, (iv) the inability of Astellas to market existing and new products effectively, (v) the inability of Astellas to continue to effectively research and develop products accepted by customers in highly competitive markets, and (vi) infringements of Astellas’ intellectual property rights by third parties.

Information about pharmaceutical products (including products currently in development) which is included in this press release is not intended to constitute an advertisement or medical advice.

Contacts for inquiries or additional information:

Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine
Medical Innovation Center Administrative Office
Masaaki Kato
Tel: +81-75-366-7483
Email: office-mic@mic.med.kyoto-u.ac.jp

Astellas Pharma Inc.
Corporate Communications
TEL: +81-3-3244-3201 FAX: +81-3-5201-7473