

## **Astellas and Sanwa Launch**

### **“ARGAMATE<sup>®</sup> 89.29% Granule 5.6g” - Hyperkalemia Treatment**

Tokyo & Nagoya, January 10, 2013 - Astellas Pharma Inc. (“Astellas”; Tokyo: 4503; President and CEO: Yoshihiko Hatanaka) and Sanwa Kagaku Kenkyusho Co., Ltd. (“SKK”; Nagoya; President: Kazuo Yamamoto) announced today the launch of a hyperkalemia treatment “ARGAMATE<sup>®</sup> 89.29% Granule 5.6g” (“ARGAMATE<sup>®</sup> Granule”; generic name: calcium polystyrene sulfonate) in Japan on January 11, 2013.

ARGAMATE<sup>®</sup> Granule helps to evacuate the excessive potassium in the gastrointestinal tract by exchanging potassium ions in the intestine with the drug’s calcium ions, and is used to treat hyperkalemia caused by acute or chronic renal failure.

Hyperkalemia medications are often difficult to take because of their rough sensation and other properties of the ingredient. SKK developed “ARGAMATE<sup>®</sup> 20% Jelly 25g” by formulation innovation to meet patients’ needs for improved swallowing, and it has become a main medication for the treatment of hyperkalemia.

ARGAMATE<sup>®</sup> Granule is a product with different formulation of ARGAMATE<sup>®</sup>, having greatly improved ease of swallowing, and it is anticipated that ARGAMATE<sup>®</sup> Granule will also provide an additional therapeutic option to patients with hyperkalemia.

The main characteristics of ARGAMATE<sup>®</sup> Granule are as follows:

- 1) It is not necessary to be suspended beforehand and ARGAMATE<sup>®</sup> Granule can be easily taken with a small amount of water.
- 2) Granules are processed to have a smooth surface and a reduced rough and burning sensation.
- 3) ARGAMATE<sup>®</sup> Granule is a granular preparation of cation exchanger resin of calcium salt.

Astellas and SKK established a strategic alliance in February 2012 in the pharmaceutical market for kidney diseases in Japan. Under the alliance, SKK will supply ARGAMATE<sup>®</sup> Granule to Astellas and Astellas will distribute it, while both companies will conduct co-promotion activities.

Through the strategic alliance Astellas and SKK expect to further contribute to patients with kidney diseases by providing various medical treatments for this pharmaceutical market in Japan.

**Contacts for inquiries or additional information**

**Astellas Pharma Inc.**

**Corporate Communications**

**Tel: +81-3-3244-3201**

**Sanwa Kagaku Kenkyusho Co., Ltd.**

**CSR Public Relations, Corporate Management**

**Tel: +81-52-951-8130**

[Reference]

#### About ARGAMATE<sup>®</sup> Granule

<b>Product Name</b>	ARGAMATE <sup>®</sup> 89.29% Granule 5.6g
<b>Indication</b>	Hyperkalemia due to acute or chronic kidney disease
<b>Dosage and Administration</b>	Usually for adults, 16.80-33.60g (15-30g of calcium polystyrene sulfonate) daily is orally given, in 2-3 divided doses with 30-50mL of water each dose. The dosage may be adjusted according to the symptoms.
<b>Packaging</b>	5.6g × 84 bags
<b>NHI Price</b>	15.30 yen/g
<b>Date of Approval</b>	August 15, 2012
<b>Date of NHI Price Listing</b>	December 14, 2012
<b>Date of Launch</b>	January 11, 2013
<b>Approval Holder</b>	Sanwa Kagaku Kenkyusho Co., Ltd.
<b>Distributor</b>	Astellas Pharma Inc.

#### About Sanwa Kagaku Kenkyusho Co., Ltd.

<b>Company Name</b>	SANWA KAGAKU KENKYUSHO CO., LTD.
<b>President &amp; CEO</b>	Kazuo Yamamoto
<b>Capital</b>	2,101,088,000 yen
<b>Revenue</b>	66,165,000,000yen (Financial Year 2011 Ending March 31, 2012)
<b>Shareholder Composition</b>	100% owned by Suzuken Co., Ltd.
<b>Business Activities</b>	R&D, manufacturing and marketing of pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, medical and nursing care nutritionals and healthcare products. Contract manufacturing of pharmaceuticals.
<b>No. of Employees</b>	1,488 (as of March 2012)
<b>Head Office</b>	35 Higashisotobori-cho, Higashi-ku, Nagoya 461-8631, Japan
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://www.skk-net.com/">http://www.skk-net.com/</a>