

## **World's First Use of Environmentally Friendly Biomass-based Plastic for Blister Packages, the Primary Packaging for Drugs**

**TOKYO, October 11, 2021** - Astellas Pharma Inc. (TSE: 4503, President and CEO: Kenji Yasukawa, Ph.D., "Astellas") begin using biomass-based plastics made from plant-derived materials in blister packages as the primary packaging for pharmaceutical products. This is the world's first use of biomass plastic for blister packages for drugs.

The blister package is made of biomass-based plastic, polyethylene derived from sugarcane, as 50% of its raw material. It is an environmentally friendly packaging that agree with the concept of "carbon neutrality," which is the idea of balancing greenhouse gas emissions and absorption.



General plastic blister package

Blister packages as tablet packaging containers are required to have high tablet protection and usability. For example, strength that can withstand impact and sealability that will keep outside air from entering, while maintaining enough softness so that the tablets can be easily taken out. The visibility of the packaged tablets and the ease in which it can be separated is also required. Astellas, by fully using its packaging technology cultivated over many years, has actualized the production of the biomass-based plastic sheets that can be mass-produced while achieving tablet protection function and usability.

In FY2021, Astellas will start using the biomass-based plastic blister package for the "Irribow<sup>®</sup> Tablet 5 $\mu$ g" (generic name: ramosetron hydrochloride, indication: diarrhea-predominant irritable bowel syndrome) in Japan. In the future, Astellas will continue to switch from the conventional petroleum-derived plastic blister package to the biomass-based plastic blister package for other products as well, and it will also seek new packaging materials that are superior in terms of sustainability.

Astellas has set "Deepen our Engagement in Sustainability" as one of its strategic goals in its Corporate Strategic Plan 2021<sup>\*1</sup>. The adoption of biomass-based plastics in blister packages is one of the efforts toward this end. Astellas also believe that this

will contribute to Goal 13 of the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts". Astellas continues to further promote sustainability activities and expand information disclosure under its basic policy, which is to improve the sustainability of both the global society and Astellas while keeping ESG [environmental (E), social (S), governance (G)] in mind<sup>\*2</sup>.

\*1: Astellas Corporate website "Corporate Strategic Plan 2021". Available at: <https://www.astellas.com/jp/en/about/csp2021>

\*2: Astellas Corporate website "Sustainability Approach". Available at: <https://www.astellas.com/jp/en/sustainability/sustainability-approach>

#### **About Astellas**

Astellas Pharma Inc. is a pharmaceutical company conducting business in more than 70 countries around the world. We are promoting the Focus Area Approach that is designed to identify opportunities for the continuous creation of new drugs to address diseases with high unmet medical needs by focusing on Biology and Modality. Furthermore, we are also looking beyond our foundational Rx focus to create Rx+<sup>®</sup> healthcare solutions that combine our expertise and knowledge with cutting-edge technology in different fields of external partners. Through these efforts, Astellas stands on the forefront of healthcare change to turn innovative science into value for patients. For more information, please visit our website at <https://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.

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