

Press Release

19 July 2005

Nippon Boehringer Ingelheim and Astellas Pharma have jointly hosted an international symposium entitled “A New Dawn in Cardiovascular Protection”

- Disseminate from Japan to the world the importance of controlling cardiovascular events -

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Corporate Communications Dept.

Nippon Boehringer Ingelheim Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Kawanishi, Hyogo; President: Akio Ohsawa) and Astellas Pharma Inc. (Headquarters: Chuo-ku, Tokyo; President and CEO: Toichi Takenaka), which collaboratively co-promote

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MICARDIS[®], an angiotensin II receptor antagonist, are actively working on projects to lead to better control of cardiovascular disease and related events. These are to be realised through academic research on cardiovascular diseases and large-scale clinical studies of MICARDIS[®]. As part of this approach, the companies jointly organised an international symposium entitled “A New Dawn in Cardiovascular Protection” on the 17th (Sunday) and 18th (Monday) of July, inviting globally recognised opinion leaders from all over the world. A total of approximately 700 specialists from 16 countries worldwide, mainly Asia, participated in the symposium. Presented were the latest findings and results from cutting-edge academic research related to controlling cardiovascular disease, and furthermore, active debate took place in a panel discussion, including a review of the present situation in Japan,

Professors invited as chairpersons or lecturers to this symposium, including Prof. Fujita*¹, Prof. Mancina*², and Prof. Dzau*³ are experts in cardiac disease, renal disease, diabetes etc., and are globally recognised as leading researchers in the circulatory system field. The main theme for the 17th was “Prevention of outcomes along the cardiovascular continuum,” and for the 18th, “The hypertensive metabolic patient and implications of the cardiorenal connection.” The symposium comprised a total of four sessions (two sessions per day), and possibilities for cardiovascular protection were actively discussed from various viewpoints.

A New Dawn in Cardiovascular Protection

17 July: Prevention of outcomes along the cardiovascular continuum

- Session 1
 - Total cardiovascular risk: a new treatment concept
 - Targeting the pathophysiological initiators of the CV continuum: opportunities and challenges
 - Early lifestyle intervention and prevention of myocardial infarction
- Session 2
 - Circadian rhythm of blood pressure and the relation to cardiovascular events
 - Prospects for the prevention of stroke
 - Hypertension treatment and implications of recent cardiovascular outcome trials
- Keynote
 - An outlook to the ISH 2006: Global challenge for overcoming high blood pressure

18 July: The hypertensive metabolic patient and implications of the cardiorenal connection

- Session 3
 - Risk constellations in metabolic patients: epidemiology, diagnosis and treatment patterns
 - The aetiology of the metabolic syndrome
 - The diabetic obese patient: from research targets to treatment options
- Session 4
 - New treatment strategy for hypertensive patients with insulin resistance
 - The heart and the kidney: fatal twins?
 - Prevention of loss of renal function over time in patients with diabetic nephropathy

Cardiovascular disease is the number one cause of death, killing 17 million people annually in the world. Treatment and preventive measures are thus extremely important. Reducing the mortality rate is one of the most important issues for the 21st century in the circulatory system field. As research on cardiovascular diseases is progressing, it has become clear that risk of cardiovascular event occurrence is higher early in the morning, and that metabolic syndrome raises the risk by several folds. In controlling cardiovascular events, therapeutic agents for hypertension, hyperlipidemia, diabetes, and others are used to treat such risk factors. Recently, several research results from clinical studies on organ protective effects in addition to antihypertensive effects of angiotensin II receptor antagonists (used for the treatment of hypertension) have been reported, and in time are expected to lead to control of cardiovascular events.

Micardis® is manufactured by Nippon Boehringer Ingelheim Co., Ltd. and distributed in co-promotion with Astellas Pharma Inc. Micardis® is a once-daily administrative anti-hypertensive and has longer blood half-life (approximately 24 hours) than other angiotensin II receptor antagonists (commonly called “sartan”). With 24 hours of effect, it provides sustained blood pressure control even in the early morning hours when the cardiovascular risks are increased. Micardis® is the only available sartan-class drug which excretes almost completely into the bile and is easily administered to patients with renal diseases.

Currently, Micardis® is commercially available in over 70 countries worldwide, including the United States and many European countries, with sales on the rise. Post-marketing surveillance studies have been extensively conducted, and over 53,000 subjects are enrolled in ongoing clinical studies. The ONTARGET™ trial programme, the largest-ever programme for sartan, as well as the PROfESS® trial programme and the PROTECTION™ trial programme have evaluated the efficacy of Micardis® for decreasing the mortality and morbidity of cardiovascular diseases and preventing stroke and the effects of this compound on organ damages on a global basis. In the PROTECTION™ trial programme, the results of the DETAIL study, one of the major studies to evaluate the renal protective effect, were published in the New England Journal of Medicine in 2004. In the future, major studies of Micardis® will be concluded sequentially, accumulating evidence on efficacy and safety.

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Company Profiles

Nippon Boehringer Ingelheim Co., Ltd. (www.boehringer-ingelheim.co.jp)

Establishment:	June 1961
Head Office:	3-10-1, Kawanishi-shi, Hyogo, Japan
President:	Akio Ohsawa
Net Sales:	About 85.1 billion yen (as of December 2004)
Number of Employees:	1,699 (as of 1 st January 2005)
Major Business:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research & development, import, manufacturing, and marketing of pharmaceuticals• Import/export and marketing of pharmaceutical active ingredients and intermediates

Boehringer Ingelheim GmbH (www.boehringer-ingelheim.com)

Establishment:	1885
Head Office:	Ingelheim, Germany
Representative:	Dr. Alessandro Banchi (Chairman of the Board)
Consolidated Net Sales:	EUR 8.157 billion (as of December 2004) / about 1,100 billion yen
Consolidated Number of Employees:	About 36,000
Major Business:	Research & Development, manufacturing, and marketing of prescription medicine, consumer healthcare products, animal health product, bio-pharmaceuticals, and chemicals
Operation Sites:	About 150 sites around the world

Astellas Pharma Inc. (www.astellas.com)

Establishment:	April 2005
Head Office:	3-11, Nihonbashi-Honcho 2-chome, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan
President:	Toichi Takenaka, Ph.D.
Consolidated Net Sales:	862.1 billion yen (as of March 2004)
Consolidated Number of Employees:	About 15,500 (as of March 2005)
Major Business:	Manufacture and Marketing of Pharmaceuticals, Quasi Drugs, Food, and Medical Devices.