Press Release

August 27th, 2020

Shonan iPark announces 5 awardees of World Without Disease Call-for-Proposal Initiative in collaboration with Johnson & Johnson Innovation, Janssen Research & Development, LLC and Takeda Pharmaceutical Company, Ltd.

TOKYO, Japan, August 27, 2020 – Shonan Health Innovation Park (Shonan iPark) announced today the selection of 5 awardees out of 12 finalists at an online announcement ceremony for the World Without Disease Call-for-Proposal hosted in collaboration with Johnson & Johnson Innovation[1]; Janssen Research & Development, LLC, one of the Janssen Pharmaceutical companies of Johnson & Johnson; and Takeda Pharmaceutical Company, Ltd. The awardees will conduct research in the five areas of lung cancer, myopia, healthy aging, infant/child health, and neuroscience.

Awardees:

Lung Cancer

- **National Cancer Center –** A team led by Susumu Kobayashi, Chief, Division of Translational Genomics, Exploratory Oncology Research & Clinical Trial Center, National Cancer Center, is identifying and validating circulating miRNAs as a biomarker for detection of early-stage lung cancer and lung tumorigenesis

Myopia

- **University of Tsukuba –** A team led by Takahiro Hiraoka, Associate Professor, Department of Ophthalmology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Tsukuba, is developing a prediction algorithm for myopia progression across teenagers and young adults using artificial intelligence.

Infant/Child Health

- **The University of Tokyo –** A team led by Takahisa Murata, Associate Professor, The University of Tokyo, is developing and validating an at-home biosensor for PDGM, a metabolite of PGD2 secreted from mast cells in the intestine, which is a predictable biomarker for childhood food allergies.

1 Division of Johnson & Johnson (China) Investment Ltd.

2 The amount and duration of grant funding per team/individual will vary based on approved budget and performance against milestones.

Neuroscience

- **Nexuspiral Inc. –** Led by CEO Naoyuki Masuda, Nexuspiral Inc. is developing a novel genome design technology that utilizes single-strand oligonucleotides to repair the mutation of the genes responsible for rare genetic diseases.

- **ExTherea Inc. –** Led by CEO Aya Imafuku, ExTherea Inc. is developing an oral keratinocyte-derived exosomes intranasal therapy that aims to prevent the progression of neurodegenerative diseases.

The Call-for-Proposal was launched in October 2019 as a collaborative effort between the above-mentioned companies to identify and nurture innovative ideas and technologies towards commercialization. Each awardee will receive up to three years of research grant funding of up to JPY10,000,000 (approximately US$94,300) per year[2]; mentorship from Johnson & Johnson Innovation, Janssen R&D and Takeda Pharmaceutical Company; and an opportunity to make use of Shonan iPark's offerings, including research facilities, communities, and services such as science mentorships, seminars and events.

From January 6 to May 15, 2020, we called for innovative science and technology research plans that have the potential to disrupt and advance healthcare across the above five strategic areas of interest. As a result, a total of 79 proposals were received from 70 teams/individuals and 12 proposals were selected as finalists to move towards the final selection round.

Over the past three months, all 12 finalists continued to improve their research proposals supported by a mentoring program provided by subject matter experts from Johnson & Johnson Innovation, Janssen R&D and Takeda Pharmaceutical Company, Ltd.

"The quality of applicants and subsequent tough selection process confirms that Japanese science is at world-class levels," commented Toshio Fujimoto, MD, MBA, General Manager, Shonan iPark. "We seek to continue offering support at Shonan iPark so that advanced sciences are matched with companies for successful delivery to patients worldwide."

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