

## **ARTham Therapeutics, Inc. Enters into Share Transfer Agreement with Kaken Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.**

### **- First Successful M&A\* of a Biotech Venture Born at Shonan iPark**

---

Shonan Health Innovation Park ("Shonan iPark") is pleased to announce that ARTham Therapeutics, Inc. (Headquarters: Yokohama, Japan; CEO: Hiroshi Nagabukuro; hereinafter "ARTham Therapeutics") has entered into a share transfer agreement with Kaken Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo; President: Hiroyuki Horiuchi; hereinafter "Kaken Pharmaceutical"). This marks the first successful M&A case\* of a bioventure born at Shonan iPark.

ARTham Therapeutics was established in July 2018 at Shonan iPark by Dr. Hiroshi Nagabukuro, a former employee of Takeda Pharmaceutical Company ("Takeda"), through the Entrepreneurship Venture Program ("EVP"), which supports the establishment of venture companies by Takeda. ARTham Therapeutics operated out of Shonan iPark until December 2019, and now the company is an "alumni" of Shonan iPark.

Nine venture companies, including ARTham Therapeutics, established through the EVP have resided at Shonan iPark since the park's opening in 2018. These EVP-born companies have been the driving force to kick-start the ecosystem. Today, including seven EVP-born companies, Shonan iPark has more than 2,200 individuals from over 120 pharmaceutical, next-gen medicine, academia, AI, venture capital, and government-related organizations, which together form a collaborative life science innovation ecosystem.

### **Comments by Dr. Hiroshi Nagabukuro – CEO of ARTham Therapeutics**

We are very pleased to be collaborating with Kaken Pharmaceutical, which has been providing innovative medicines in the dermatology and orthopedics therapeutic areas, for the development of ART-001 and ART-648. Both compounds were discovered through drug repositioning activities at Takeda's Shonan Research Center, the predecessor of Shonan iPark, and are currently under Phase 2 clinical trials in orphan indications in Japan. Once their efficacy and safety of the drugs are proven in these studies, Kaken Pharmaceutical will be responsible for late-stage development, manufacturing, and marketing of the drugs. We will continue to collaborate with the companies located at Shonan iPark. I would like to express our sincere respect to Shonan iPark's leaders for establishing a truly "one-stop" place for providing all the functions that drug discovery needs.

### **Comments by Dr. Toshio Fujimoto – General Manager of Shonan iPark**

The news of ARTham Therapeutics is a great success story from a startup that has graduated from the Shonan iPark ecosystem, and we are very pleased to see a seasoned entrepreneur emerge from Shonan iPark. While M&As are an approach commonly taken in Europe and the United States, there are still few examples in Japan. I hope that this story will serve as a catalyst to stimulate M&As of bioventure companies in Japan.

\*Among publicized deals at Shonan iPark

### **About ARTham Therapeutics Inc.**

ARTham Therapeutics Inc., is a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company that delivers 'medicines that matter' for patients. The goal is to create innovative medicines that are disease modifying and satisfy significant unmet medical needs. To deliver on cost and time efficiency, ARTham runs a "virtual R&D operating model" that seeks innovation through the best academic and business partners.

Company name: ARTham Therapeutics Inc.

Location: 24-8 Yamashita-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama, Kanagawa, Japan

Representative: Hiroshi Nagabukuro

Date of establishment: July 1, 2018

Business description: Research and development of pharmaceuticals

Website: <https://www.arthamther.com/en/>

### **About Shonan Health Innovation Park (Shonan iPark)**

Shonan iPark is Japan's global hub for life science innovation and collaboration founded in April 2018. It convenes private and public sector organizations and academic institutions that range in business type and size, aiming to be a space where health innovation can be accelerated. As of November 2021, iPark has more than 2,200 individuals from more than 120 pharmaceutical, next-gen medicine, academia, AI, venture capital, and government-related organizations, which together form a collaborative life science innovation ecosystem.

<https://www.shonan-health-innovation-park.com/en>