

Santen Announces Selection and Launch of its Gene Therapy Drug Research and Development Project for Inherited Ocular Disease Treatment for the Cyclic Innovation for Clinical Empowerment (CiCLE) Program

March 6, 2019 - Santen Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Chairman and CEO: Akira Kurokawa; Head Office: Osaka; hereinafter, "Santen") announced today its launch of a research and development project for gene therapy drugs for treatment of inherited ocular diseases. This R&D project has been selected for the Cyclic Innovation for Clinical Empowerment (CiCLE) program of the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED).

There has been a strong desire for a reliable treatment for inherited ocular diseases. This R&D project aims to develop Japan-made gene therapy drugs for inherited ocular diseases through collaboration between industry, academia, and government, in order to relieve patients from visual impairments. We will carry out nonclinical studies using technologies of RIKEN National Science Institute (Headquarters: Wako City, Saitama Prefecture; President: Hiroshi Matsumoto) for differentiating iPS cells and inducing them to form retinal organoids, and conduct the clinical trial of identified gene therapy drugs at the Kobe City Hospital Organization's Kobe City Eye Hospital (located in Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture; President: Nobuo Hashimoto; Director: Yasuo Kurimoto).

About CiCLE

Promoting the establishment of infrastructure to respond to medical needs, the creation of an environment for open innovation and venture development based on industry-academia-government collaboration.

About RIKEN

RIKEN is Japan's largest comprehensive research institution renowned for high-quality research in a diverse range of scientific disciplines.

Founded in 1917 as a private research foundation in Tokyo, RIKEN has grown rapidly in size and scope, today encompassing a network of world-class research centers and institutes across Japan.

<http://www.riken.jp/en/>

About Kobe City Eye Hospital

Kobe City Eye hospital is established as the core hospital of Japan's first facility [the Kobe Eye Center] in Dec. 2017, which is comprehensively taking care of basic research, clinical application, treatment and low vision care in ophthalmic field.

We aim to serve as a one stop information center of overall ophthalmology as the advanced and special hospital, which we offer high quality medication in standard medical care and the latest and advanced medical service, and as the clinical base, which we promote clinical development (trials and research). <http://kobe.eye.center.kcho.jp/>

About Santen

As a specialized company dedicated to ophthalmology, Santen carries out research, development, marketing, and sales of pharmaceuticals, over-the-counter products, and medical devices. Santen is the market leader for prescription ophthalmic pharmaceuticals in Japan and its products now reach patients in over 60 countries. With scientific knowledge and organizational capabilities nurtured over a nearly 130-year history, Santen provides products and services to contribute to the well-being of patients, their loved ones and consequently to society. For more information, please visit Santen's website (www.santen.com).