

To whom it may concern

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**Saga University Presents Joint Research Results at The 127th Annual Meeting of the
Japanese Society of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
- Potential Indication Expansion of ICEF15 -**

We are pleased to announce that the first findings from our joint research with the Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery at the Saga University Faculty of Medicine (located in Saga City, Saga Prefecture, Japan, Professor Yoichiro Sugiyama) were presented at “The 127th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.”

This joint research is being conducted to explore the potential of dysphagia (a condition in which difficulties arise when swallowing food or drink) as a new indication for autologous skeletal muscle-derived cells (aSMDC), which the Innovacell group is currently developing for urge fecal incontinence (development code: ICEF15). In this presentation, the Saga University’s team reported on the improvement in swallowing function observed when autologous cultured myoblasts were transplanted into the thyropharyngeal muscle using a mouse model of dysphagia created by transection of the pharyngeal branch of the vagus nerve. The presentation title and presenters are as follows:

Conference Name	: The 127th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
Dates	: May 20–23, 2026
Title	: “Evaluation of the Effects of Cultured Myoblast Transplantation in Mouse Pharyngeal Contractile Muscles”
Presenters	: Akimichi Minesaki, Tomoya Ishida, Yoichiro Sugiyama, Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, Saga University

Please note that these joint research findings represent the results of basic and exploratory research relating to a regenerative medicine product candidate currently under development and do not demonstrate the efficacy or safety of such candidate in humans. Furthermore, ICEF15 is currently in clinical development and has not obtained regulatory approval for any indication.

Through collaboration with academia, the Innovacell group will continue to advance the research and development of innovative regenerative medicine products, with the aim of creating new treatment options in disease areas with high unmet medical needs.

■ **About Innovacell Inc.** (<https://innovacell.com/?lang=en>)

The predecessor of Innovacell Inc. was a cell therapy start-up company spun out from the Medical University of Innsbruck (Austria). Innovacell Inc. was established in Japan in 2021 as the parent company of said Austrian company (currently Innovacell GmbH).

Innovacell group aims to improve patient health and QOL through the development and commercialization of cell therapies and regenerative medicine. It is currently focused on developing and commercializing regenerative medicine products for the treatment of urge and passive fecal incontinence as well as stress urinary incontinence.

ICEF15, the most advanced of the Group's pipeline products, aims to treat urge fecal incontinence by regenerating muscle tissue via the local administration of a patient's own skeletal myoblasts. ICEF15 is currently undergoing a multi-regional Phase III clinical trial in 11 European countries and Japan.

To date, Innovacell GmbH has completed multiple clinical trials in Europe, including Phase IIb trials for ICEF15 (urge fecal incontinence) and ICES13 (stress urinary incontinence).

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