Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma News Release

July 19th, 2018

Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Receives The 43rd (FY2018) Inoue Harushige Prize

- A challenge for the new drug against amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), research and development of edaravone.-

Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corporation (hereinafter "MTPC"; Head Office: Chuo-ku, Osaka; President & Representative Director: Masayuki Mitsuka) today announced that MTPC received the 43rd (FY2018) Inoue Harushige Prize with Dr. Hiide Yoshino, Director of Yoshino Neurology Clinic, for its research and development of edaravone as a novel treatment for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS[*1]), and was commended in the awarding ceremony that took place on July 18, 2018.

Masayuki Mitsuka, President & Representative Director, Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma, Dr. Hiide Yoshino, Director of Yoshino Neurology Clinic and Mr. Michinari Hamaguchi, Chairperson of Inoue Harushige Prize Committee, from left

Radicava®

The Inoue Harushige Prize commends researchers and companies for their outstanding contributions to the advancement of Japan's scientific technologies, economy, and welfare, enabled by the technologies the companies have developed and commercialized using unique research achievements made at universities and research institutions.

Edaravone (US product name: Radicava®), launched in Japan in 2001 as the world's first commercial free radical scavenger, is an agent for ischemic stroke treatment pharmaceutical had discovered by MTPC. Edaravone has a neuroprotective action that eliminates oxidative stress, a factor that damages cells in such events as cerebral infarction.

The commendation acknowledges the high value of the discovery of a treatment agent for ALS that has demonstrated for the first time in the world a statistically significant reduction in the progression of disability based on the rating of activities of daily living and quality of life (QOL)[*2], in a preceding clinical trial on edaravone as a treatment for ALS by Dr. Yoshino (then with Kohnodai Hospital, National Center of Neurology and Psychiatry), and a clinical trial conducted jointly by MTPC and Dr. Yoshino as a Medical expert; the commendation also highly recognizes the success of this drug repositioning, which turned edaravone, whose sale had been limited to the domestic market, to US and Korea, which continued to expand its value EU.

We expect that this commendation of the Inoue Harushige Prize will greatly encourage our research and development of treatment for intractable diseases as well as promote and advance discovery of drugs for intractable diseases.
MTPC will strive to deliver edaravone as a treatment for ALS to patients fighting against ALS as well as their families and carers both in Japan and abroad.

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*1
ALS is a neurodegenerative disorder of unknown etiology, characterized by selective degeneration/ loss of motor neuron and systemic and progressive muscular weakness and atrophy, occurring, for example, in the extremity muscles, facial muscles, and respiratory muscles. It is difficult to distinguish ALS from other diseases merely by its initial symptoms, and it may take 12-14 months before the diagnosis of ALS is determined (Kano O et al., BMC Neurology 13: 19, 2013). Development of ALS is not associated with race or ethnic background, and its incidence is said to be 2 in 100,000. While various factors are believed to trigger the onset of ALS, the mechanism has not been clarified. Possible causes of ALS include neuronal damage due to genetic abnormality, oxidative stress or excess levels of glutamic acid, and basic studies on ALC, including genetic research, have been advancing rapidly.

*2
The Writing Group on behalf of the Edaravone (MCI-186) ALS 19 Study Group. Safety and efficacy of edaravone in well-defined patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis: a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. Lancet Neurol. 2017;16:505-12.