

November 8, 2023

## **Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corporation Entered into License Agreement with Kynexis for Neuropsychiatric Drug Candidate “MT-5356”**

Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corporation (Head Office: Chuo-ku, Osaka; Representative Director: Akihiro Tsujimura; hereinafter, “MTPC”), a member of the Mitsubishi Chemical Group, announced today that it entered into license agreement for MT-5356 with Kynexis B.V. (Head Office: Naarden, Netherlands; CEO: Kees Been, hereinafter, “Kynexis”).

MT-5356 is an inhibitor of Kynurenine aminotransferase 2 (KAT-II) discovered by MTPC. KAT-II is an enzyme in the tryptophan metabolic system, it produces kynurenic acid from kynurenine, and kynurenic acid has been suggested to be related to cognitive function associated with schizophrenia. By inhibiting KAT-II, MT-5356 is expected to reduce the concentration of kynurenic acid in the brain and improve cognitive impairment in schizophrenia (Cognitive Impairment Associated with Schizophrenia: CIAS).

Schizophrenia affects more than 20 million people worldwide, and it is estimated that the majority of people have varying degrees of cognitive impairment associated with schizophrenia. Cognitive impairment poses a significant burden to patients with schizophrenia and their families, and there is a significant unmet need for improvement. There is no targeted drug for the treatment of CIAS in KAT-II, which could be a first-in-class drug if approved.

Under the terms of the agreement, MTPC grants Kynexis exclusive license to develop and commercialize worldwide and to conduct the research activities required for them. Based on the agreement, MTPC received a one-time upfront payment. MTPC is also entitled to receive milestone payments and royalties on the progress of development in the future.

MTPC Group will continue to contribute to creating hope for all facing illness using its drug discovery capabilities.

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Reference) Kynexis Release [“Kynexis Launched to Advance Precision Therapeutics for Brain Diseases”](#)

## ■ About Kynexis

Kynexis is advancing precision therapeutics for brain diseases by taking a biomarker-based approach to advance a potential first-in-class treatment for cognitive impairment associated with schizophrenia (CIAS). By harnessing large data to identify and stratify patients based on the underlying causal human biology of the disease, Kynexis is targeting KAT-II, a key enzyme in the kynurenine pathway. The company's lead candidate, KYN-5356, is a first-in-class small molecule that is potent and highly selective for KAT-II.

For more information, visit [www.kynexistx.com](http://www.kynexistx.com)