December 14, 2010

Press Release

Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corporation

Commencement of R&D Partnership with Anaphore for Atrimer™ Technology (Novel Trivalent Proteins)

Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corporation (head office: Osaka; President: Michihiro Tsuchiya) announced today that it has entered into a basic agreement with Anaphore, Inc. (head office: California, U.S.A.; CEO: Katherine Bowdish) regarding R&D partnership to be conducted between the parties, based on Atrimer™ technology possessed by Anaphore, and that the research activities have commenced.

Atrimer™, novel trivalent proteins created by using the next-generation biologics technology developed by Anaphore, is expected to become treatment for many diseases. Under the Agreement, Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma and Tanabe Research Laboratories U.S.A. (Mitsubishi Tanabe’s subsidiary, head office: San Diego, California, U.S.A.; “TRL”) will conduct joint research on Atrimer™ with Anaphore, with the aim of developing superior biologic therapies for autoimmune disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease and psoriasis.

Since TRL is the Company's research center in San Diego, California (U.S.A.), the Company decided in January 2010 to change TRL's research program from small molecule compounds to biologics, considering the optimal use of the facilities in San Diego and the resources available to us in the United States, and potential research collaboration. On the occasion of this R&D partnership, TRL will accelerate biologics-based research programs.

Contact for further information:
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Atrimer™

Anaphore's Atrimer™ is made from tetranectin, a protein of human origin. The three binding domains of tetranectin are said to be capable of binding to any target by changing their sterical structures. Anaphore possesses technology to structure an Atrimer™ library exceeding $10^{11}$ by systematically changing these binding domains. It is said that by using the strong binding ability of three binding domains, Atrimer™ binds to the target protein and exerts agonist or antagonist actions.

Anaphore, Inc.

Anaphore is developing a new class of protein pharmaceuticals to address significant unmet medical needs for patients with serious diseases. The company’s Atrimer™ technology platform originates in tetranectin, a human plasma protein of trivalent structure. Atrimers™ potentially offer biological, manufacturing, and commercial advantages over currently marketed therapies. Atrimer™ protein therapeutics are protected by intellectual property, including multiple patent families. Anaphore’s initial therapeutic focus is immunology and oncology. In collaboration with select partners, Anaphore is committed to realizing the full promise of Atrimers™ against targets in a wide range of therapeutic areas, including rare diseases.


Address: 10931 N. Torrey Pines Road, Suite 101, La Jolla, San Diego, CA
Incorporated: 2008
Representative: Katherine S. Bowdish, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer
Employees: About 30 employees

Tanabe Research Laboratories U.S.A.

Tanabe Research Laboratories U.S.A. (TRL), an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of a Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corporation, is located in San Diego, California, U.S.A, as the overseas research center of the Company. Celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, TRL restarted as a research center specialized in development of biologics drugs for autoimmune disorders.

Address: 4540 Towne Centre Court, San Diego, CA
Incorporated: 1990
Representative: Masaki Yamada, President and CEO
Employees: About 13 employees