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Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma enters into a licensing agreement with Viela Bio for inebilizumab, a treatment agent for neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder, in Japan and other Asian regions

Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corporation (MTPC) (Head Office: Chuo-ku, Osaka; President & Representative Director, CEO: Masayuki Mitsuka), announced today a licensing agreement with Viela Bio, Inc. (Head Office: Maryland, U.S.), regarding the in-licensing of inebilizumab (generic name), a treatment agent for neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder (NMOSD) that is currently under development by Viela Bio.

Under this agreement, MTPC will pay to Viela Bio an upfront licensing fee of \$30 million, as well as additional payments contingent on development and commercial milestones. MTPC will also pay royalties on product sales after the product is launched.

Inebilizumab is a humanized anti-CD19 monoclonal antibody that binds with high affinity to CD19, a protein expressed on a broad range of B cells, including antibody-secreting plasmablasts and some plasma cells. These cells are then rapidly depleted from circulation. Inebilizumab is an investigational new drug for which there is no marketing authorization.

NMOSD is a rare, life-threatening autoimmune disease of the central nervous system in which the body's immune system attacks healthy cells, most commonly in the optic nerves and spinal cord, resulting in severe damage. NMOSD may cause severe muscle weakness and paralysis, loss of vision, respiratory failure, problems with bowel and bladder function and neuropathic pain.¹ There is currently no cure or approved treatment for NMOSD.

Through this agreement, MTPC will acquire exclusive development and sales rights for this drug in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

MTPC has identified central nervous system diseases as one of its priority disease areas, and moving forward the Company will aggressively work to develop new drugs that address unmet medical needs.

[1] National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, National Institutes of Health

<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/Disorders/All-Disorders/Neuromyelitis-Optica-Information-Page>

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About Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma

Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma, which was founded in 1678, has its headquarters in Doshomachi, Osaka, which is the birthplace of Japan's pharmaceutical industry. With business centered on ethical pharmaceuticals, Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma is a well-established company and has the longest history of any listed pharmaceutical company in Japan.* In accordance with the corporate philosophy of "contributing to the healthier lives of people around the world through the creation of pharmaceuticals," the Company formulated the key concept of Open Up the Future under the Medium-Term Management Plan 16-20. Through the discovery of drugs that address unmet medical needs, centered on its priority disease areas — immuno-inflammation, diabetes and kidney, central nervous system, and vaccines — Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma will strive to contribute to the health of patients around the world. For more information, go to <https://www.mt-pharma.co.jp/e/>

* Research by TOKYO SHOKO RESEARCH, LTD.

About Viela Bio

Viela Bio, headquartered in Gaithersburg, Maryland, is a clinical-stage biotechnology company pioneering treatments for autoimmune and severe inflammatory diseases. For more information, please visit www.vielabio.com