

AnGes to Develop Equine Polyclonal Antibody Therapy for Ebola Virus Using DNA Vaccine Technology in Japan

AnGes MG, Inc. ("AnGes") announced that it will start development of an equine polyclonal antibody therapy for the Ebola virus in Japan, utilizing gene therapy technology.

Polyclonal antibody therapy is a pharmaceutical product that contains an antibody (neutralizing antibody) obstructing the increase of pathogens.

AnGes plans to immunize horses with a DNA vaccine encoding the Ebola virus glycoprotein antigen. Antibodies from the immunized horses will be isolated and purified, then developed to treat the Ebola virus in humans.

DNA vaccine technology enables AnGes to produce the polyclonal antibodies quickly and safely, as there will be no need to handle the highly pathogenic virus. AnGes believes the equine polyclonal antibody therapy will be a suitable treatment for the Ebola virus, which requires emergency measures.

AnGes has signed an agreement with Vical Incorporated (San Diego CA, President & CEO: Vijay B. Samant) regarding Vical's DNA vaccine technology, for the rights to exclusively develop and commercialize the equine polyclonal antibody therapy in Japan. The DNA vaccine will be provided by Vical. AnGes will start the initial study in the first quarter of 2015.

"Therapeutic approaches utilizing equine polyclonal antibodies have been used for the treatment of diseases such as tetanus and diphtheria, and it has been reported that plasma from recovered Ebola patients was experimentally used to treat existing Ebola patients. We believe the polyclonal antibody therapy is highly anticipated as a treatment for the Ebola virus." said Ei Yamada, Ph.D., President and CEO of AnGes. "The equine polyclonal antibody therapy may be used in emergency measures in Japan such as treatment for patients afflicted with the Ebola virus, and reserves for medical workers who are exposed to high risk of infection. We will start with an initial study, and the details of the development plan will be announced once finalized."

This event will have minor effect on AnGes' business performance for the fiscal term ending in December 2015. The forecast for 2015 will be announced in the "Consolidated Financial Report for the Year Ended December 31, 2014" in February.

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Disclaimer: This is a translation of the news release posted in Japanese. In case of any deviations between the two language versions, the original document in Japanese shall take precedence.

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