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AnGes MG, Inc.

New Medical Use Patent for HGF Granted in Japan for Lymphedema

AnGes MG, Inc. (“AnGes”) is pleased to announce that a medical use patent has been granted in Japan for HGF plasmid drug which promotes lymphangiogenesis, and the Patent Gazette (JP5036057) has been issued.

The patented invention features therapeutic agents which contain HGF plasmid as an active ingredient and promote lymphangiogenesis, and is administered directly into the affected or peripheral area by intramuscular injection. This patent, along with the previously granted patent JP4111993 for therapeutic agents that prevent or treat lymphedema, protects the new treatment of lymphedema using HGF plasmid from various aspects.

Lymphedema is an intractable disease in which impaired lymphatic system causes severe swelling and fluid retention in limbs by preventing lymphatic fluid from returning to lymph vessels. There are two types of lymphedema: 1) “primary lymphedema” which the pathogenesis is unknown, and 2) “secondary lymphedema” which occurs due to aftereffects of lymph node dissection in e.g. cancer surgery. The existing treatment for lymphedema is mainly focused on complex decongestive therapy by massaging the affected limbs and using compression garments. However, this treatment is symptomatic and should be continued throughout the life. Furthermore, there has been an increase in lymphedema cases among elderly patients in recent years who are unable to perform physical treatment on their own. For these reasons, a development of a new treatment for lymphedema is highly desired.

AnGes has been developing HGF plasmid “Collatege[®]” for the treatment of Critical Limb Ischemia and now started the research development of lymphedema treatment utilizing Collatege[®]’s action to promote lymph vessel formation. The confirmation was received from the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) on July 18, 2012 that clinical trial plan of Collategene[®] in lymphedema complies with the guideline for confirmation application, and AnGes’ s IND application for Collategene[®] as a treatment for lymphedema was accepted by Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA) on July 30. AnGes is now taking necessary procedures to initiate the clinical trial.

The grant of this patent enables AnGes to further strengthen the new treatment approach for Lymphedema using HGF plasmid, and strongly supports the development project for a long-term. AnGes strives to obtain medical use patents for other applications of HGF plasmid in order to further strengthen its patent network.

This trend will have no effect on the business performance for the fiscal year of 2012.

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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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