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AnGes MG, Inc.

New Medical Use Patent for HGF Gene Granted in USA
- Targeting Parkinson's Disease -

AnGes MG, Inc. announces that a patent for HGF gene targeting nerve degenerative diseases such as Parkinson's disease was granted in the United States and that the Patent Gazette was issued (US7,763,591).

Among neurodegenerative diseases, Parkinson's disease is the next common disease following Alzheimer's disease. In the United States, the total number of patients with Parkinson's disease is estimated to be about one million, and the incidence rate is estimated to be about 1% among people 60 years or older and about 4 to 5% among people 85 years or older; it is also considered that the number of patients with the disease in the United States is several-folds higher than that in Japan. Therefore, this disease should be considered not so much as a rare disease but as a disease that is close and familiar to us.

In many patients, this disease occurs in their 50s to 60s, and typical symptoms are tremor, muscle rigidity, slow movement, and postural reflex impairment (falling easily). As the morbidity rate increases with aging, a further increase toward an aging society is foreseen. However, since mainly symptomatic therapy has been provided up to the present, other radical treatment methods are in high demand.

The present invention related to therapeutic drugs for Parkinson's diseases is expected to enable radical treatment; drugs which repair degenerated nerve cells and improve their function based on the growth promoting action and cell death suppressive action, etc. on nerve cells, that HGF possesses.

The incidence rates overseas are considered to be at almost similar levels and therefore this invention has already been patented in Australia and Japan, and currently patent pending in Europe, Canada, etc.

AnGes MG will further actively work to obtain patent rights for diseases as new indications for HGF gene in line with its ongoing development project for peripheral arterial occlusive disease, based on its comprehensive strategies centering around HGF gene.

Meanwhile, this trend will have no effect on AnGes MG's business performance for the current fiscal year.