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AnGes MG, Inc.

**New Medical-Use Patent for HGF Gene Granted in Europe**  
**- Covering Cardiomyopathy -**

AnGes MG Inc. announces that a patent for the medicinal use of HGF gene for cardiomyopathy was granted in Europe, and the Patent Gazette (EP1136083B1) was issued.

The present invention features the introduction of HGF gene into cardiac muscle for the treatment of cardiomyopathy based on fibrosis-reducing effect of HGF in addition to its angiogenic effect.

This technology also allows the introduction of HGF gene into the cardiac muscle with a catheter under echocardiogram (diagnostic ultrasonic imaging apparatus) observation. Thus, the invention provides a new therapeutic method for cardiomyopathy without thoracotomy. This also may be beneficial to provide a new gene administration method in the clinical development of HGF gene therapy for ischemic heart disease currently ongoing in the US.

Cardiomyopathy is a disease of decreased pumping capability of the heart due to cardiac muscle degeneration of unknown cause, which results in palpitation, breathlessness and respiratory difficulty. Currently no effective treatment has been established other than symptomatic treatment for reducing strain on the heart. Cardiomyopathy is a quite serious disease that eventually requires the use of a ventricular assist device (VAD) or heart transplantation. In contrast, the present invention intends to improve the pumping capability of the heart and is expected to demonstrate excellent improving effects and become a therapy replacing heart transplantation, which is quite difficult to perform even in the actual medical scene in Europe.

This patent will strongly support the development project of HGF gene therapy. For additional global development of HGF gene therapy, AnGes MG will make efforts to further establish a strong patent network.