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AnGes MG, Inc.

**New Medical Use Patent for HGF Granted in Japan**  
**- Covering the Treatment of Lymphedema -**

AnGes MG Inc. announces that a patent for the medicinal use of the HGF gene and HGF protein for lymphedema was granted in Japan, and the Official Gazette (JP4111993) was issued.

The present invention features therapeutic agents for lymphedema that possess HGF gene or HGF protein as the active ingredient and provides new therapies for lymphedema in which lymphangiogenesis is promoted by the administration of HGF gene or HGF protein.

AnGes MG is currently developing the HGF gene therapy product, and as for peripheral arterial disease (PAD), new drug application was filed in the name of "Collategene ®" in Japan in March 2008. Additionally, AnGes MG aims to further explore more new applicable diseases for its HGF gene therapy product. The grant of the present invention means that AnGes MG has obtained the right for exclusively using the HGF gene or HGF protein as a therapeutic agent for lymphedema which is a new indication.

The lymphatic system functions to return the tissue fluid leaked out of the capillaries via the lymph vessels. In lymphedema, the mechanisms of the transportation and recovery of the lymphatic functions are disturbed, and retention of plasma proteins and water in the tissue fluid is often seen in the limbs. Lymphedema is classified into primary lymphedema for which its causes are congenital or unknown, or secondary lymphedema with definite causes of lymph flow disorders. Since the number of investigation for the incidence of patients with lymphedema is small in Japan, the definite value is unknown; however, the incidence of lymphedema for five years after breast cancer operation, which is secondary lymphedema, was reported to be about 30%. Many breast cancer and cervix carcinoma post-operation patients are said to suffer from lymphedema.

Therapies for lymphedema include massages to alleviate edema and compression therapies using bandages (supporters) to maintain improved conditions produced by treatments such as massages. However, only symptomatic therapies are available for the treatment of lymphedema at present. Thus, with this patent invention, fundamental treatments for lymphedema are expected to be developed based on the formation of new lymph vessels by the administration of HGF gene or protein.

This invention is patent pending in the USA and Europe but has already been patented first in Japan.

AnGes MG will continue submitting applications one after another for approval on medical use of HGF gene therapy product in other diseases to expand and strengthen its product development project, and shall further promote its strong patent network of HGF gene therapy product.