

August 29, 2007
AnGes MG, Inc.

Basic Patent of HGF Gene Therapy is Granted in Korea

We, AnGes MG, are pleased to announce that our basic patent which widely covers HGF gene therapy was granted in Korea on August 16 (Patent No. KR-10-0725199).

This patent pertains to “medicaments comprising expression vectors including HGF gene as an active ingredient and are administered intramuscularly for the treatment of arterial diseases.” This patent strongly and widely supports our HGF gene therapy clinical trial projects for various indications, not only peripheral arterial disease and ischemic heart disease for which we are currently developing but also other indications.

The HGF gene involved in this patent has the following meaning, as explained in detail in the patent. It pertains to “the gene capable of expressing HGF” and encompasses genes with the following characteristics so long as the polypeptide expressed has essentially the same efficacy as HGF: (1) genes with a sequence partially deleted or substituted with other bases, (2) genes partially inserted with other base sequences, and (3) genes with a base bound to the 5'-end and/or 3'-end. For this reason, genes with partially modified sequences are encompassed in the HGF gene covered by this patent if they express HGF itself or proteins with essentially the same efficacy (angiogenic effect) as HGF.

Corresponding patents have also been granted in other countries as listed below. We are establishing a strong patent network for our international clinical development of HGF gene therapy.

Japanese Patent No. 3431633

US Patent No. 6248722

European Patent No. 847757

Australian Patent No. 745887

New Zealand Patent No. 315769

Taiwan Patent No. 165197

Patent applications have been also filed in China

Furthermore, to reinforce the effect of this basic patent, we have been filing a series of applications for additional patents covering the use for other particular diseases.

Regarding our HGF gene therapy project, we are currently preparing for filing of new drug application in Japan with the indications of peripheral arterial disease. In the future, we plan to expand its indications to cover some other diseases and to promote its development not only in Japan and the USA that is already underway but also in Europe and Asia (including Korea).