

August 9, 2010
AnGes MG, Inc.

alphaGEN and AnGes MG Reaches Basic Agreement on Joint Research
Aiming to Develop New Nucleic Acid Medicine “siRNA”

AnGes MG, Inc. is pleased to announce that the company has reached a basic agreement on joint research with alphaGEN Co., Ltd. with the aim of creating drugs based on the new nucleic acid medicine “siRNA” by making use of the siRNA technology for which alphaGEN has been conducting research and accumulating data for many years.

AnGes MG has been promoting the development and practical application of gene medicine especially gene therapy products and nucleic acid medicines in Japan, the United States, and Europe. Regarding the nucleic acid medicine NF- κ B decoy oligo, a domestic phase II clinical study was completed for atopic dermatitis as the target indication, and the feasibility of its global developments including developments in the US and Europe are also under consideration. Additionally, a new generation drug-coated PTA balloon catheter is being developed by using NF- κ B decoy oligo for the purpose of preventing vascular restenosis.

siRNA-related technologies have been highlighted as important core technologies for basic researches and drug discoveries. These technologies are useful methods for elucidating gene functions and analyzing biological functions at the genetic level. Additionally, siRNA specifically suppresses gene expression. In this context, it turned out that siRNA itself can be a promising target for drug discoveries. Under these circumstances, alphaGEN has created effective methods of finding gene-specific sequences for siRNA, and also has accumulated a wealth of empirical rules, aiming at siRNA drug discoveries. Particularly, chimera siRNA which consists of RNA and DNA is expected to become a useful core technology for drug discoveries.

Taking into account today’s rapid advance of R&D in the area of nucleic acid medicines,

AnGes MG highly evaluates the achievements and empirical rules of alphaGEN. Via this strategically basic joint research agreement, AnGes MG intends to create innovative new drugs in the area of cardiology, oncology and infectious diseases, by uncovering and evolving seeds of new siRNA drugs in addition to its nucleic acid medicine NF-κB decoy oligo which the company has been nurturing.

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

[Reference]

- Company Profile -

Company name: alphaGEN Co., Ltd.
Head office: 3-29 Kioicho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
Representative: Akimitsu Hirai, Chairman and CEO
Established: 27 February 2004
Capital: 10 million yen
Scope of business: Research & Development for drug discoveries

- Glossary -

siRNA (RNAi)

RNA interference (RNAi) is a phenomenon that when double-stranded RNA is inserted in a cell, a cellular transcription product (mRNA) homologous to its sequence is decomposed, thereby suppressing gene expression. It has been particularly found that low-molecular double-stranded RNA made up of 21 to 23 base pair (small interfering RNA: siRNA) also suppresses gene expression in a sequence-specific manner within mammal cells. Further, recent researches have shown that synthesized siRNA causes RNA interference in human cells. There are expectations for the application of RNA interference using siRNA to the area of drugs as a method of knocking down genes.