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AnGes MG, Inc.

New Medical-Use Patent for HGF Gene Therapy Granted in USA
－ Covering Treatment and Prophylaxis of Auditory Dysfunction －

AnGes MG Inc. announces that a patent for the medicinal use of HGF gene for the treatment and prophylaxis of auditory dysfunction was granted in USA, and the Patent Gazette (US 7,390,482) was issued.

Deafness, the main disease of auditory dysfunction, includes conductive deafness which is a hearing impairment caused by interference with the conduction of sound in the external canal or middle ear due to symptoms such as otitis media or tumor, and neurosensory deafness which is induced by disorders in inner ear, cochlea or auditory nerve. For example, in case of the neurosensory deafness caused by aminoglycoside antibiotics or cisplatin, it is considered that the inner ear hair cells are injured, and the auditory nerve then degenerates, leading to dysfunction in hearing.

The present invention is based on the fact that treatment and prophylaxis benefits of the HGF gene for auditory dysfunction were obtained after an injection of an HVJ envelope vector containing HGF gene (plasmid) was administered to subarachnoid cavity of animal models with neurosensory hearing disorders. This result indicates that HGF has the ability to restore the function of the auditory nerves.

The present patent applications have been filed in Canada, Australia and China in addition to Japan, USA and Europe. USA is the first country in which this invention has been patented.

AnGes MG will continue filing patent applications in succession to obtain approval for the medical use of HGF gene therapy product in areas and diseases beyond those of the cardiovascular domain, thereby expanding and strengthening its product development project. The company will continue to promote its strong patent network for HGF gene therapy product.