

Company News

April 17, 2000

Ono and Lilly Agree to Collaborate on the Worldwide Development and Marketing of a Novel Therapeutic Drug for Acute Lung Injury

Ono Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Ono) announced that the company has signed a letter of intent with Eli Lilly and Company (Eli Lilly, Indiana), a worldwide major pharmaceutical company, to develop, manufacture and market sivelestat (Elaspol^(R)), a novel therapeutic drug for the treatment of acute lung injury that has been developed by Ono.

Eli Lilly will receive an exclusive worldwide license to develop and market sivelestat excluding Japan, S. Korea and Taiwan. In exchange, Ono will receive an upfront signing fee, milestone payments and royalties resulting from product sales. Ono will be solely responsible for worldwide manufacturing and Lilly will be solely responsible for worldwide development and marketing, excluding the three countries previously listed. After signing a definitive agreement, Eli Lilly will start clinical phase II trial in overseas.

Sivelestat is an injectable, neutrophil elastase inhibitor discovered and developed by Ono. Elastase is a protein-degrading enzyme released from neutrophil and is considered to be involved in tissue damage and organ failure in acute inflammatory condition such as acute lung injury. Japanese clinical studies conducted by Ono suggest that sivelestat relieves life-threatening conditions in patients with acute lung injury and help those patients discharge earlier from painful respirators and intensive care unit.