

January 11, 2005

Opening of a Contributed Chair at Kyoto University, Graduate School of Medicine and Faculty of Medicine

We wish to inform you that Ono Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (HQ: Osaka, Japan; President: Kimiichiro Matsumoto) will open a contributed chair in "Immunogenomic medicine" at Kyoto University, Graduate School of Medicine and Faculty of Medicine (Administrative Office: Kyoto, Japan; Head of Department, Shuh Narumiya, Professor) from April 1, 2005.

The human body has its own personal immunoprotective system called antibodies, which can take appropriate action against the invasion of various antigens (pathogens). The high adaptability of antibodies is based on the mechanism that the gene structure generating an antibody is rearranged in response to various stimuli. This is regarded as the origin for physiological phenomena called immunological response. Research on genes relating to immunology may provide important treatments for severe immune diseases that have not yet been overcome and raises large expectations for such treatment.

On the other hand, a number of genomes including that of the human have been decoded lately. It has been clarified that the abnormality of gene sequences, structures and their expression pattern relate to a number of diseases. Based on such vast information, many "target genes" leading to an essentially new treatment have been discovered.

The contributed chair will address "basic research on the mechanisms of genetic rearrangement generating the diversity in the immune system and its control" and "research of new treatments for various diseases with immune control factors" by using the global networks of genomic information.

The company has agreed with the aim of the opening of a contributed chair with a commitment of JPY 250 million in total to support the research. We expect the research to produce desirable results that will make a huge contribution to the future development of medicine.

(Outline of the contributed chair)

Name: Immunogenomic medicine

Duration: 5 years

Total amount to be contributed: JPY 250 million

Instructor in charge: Dr. Tasuku Honjo (Professor, Molecular medicine, Molecular Biology/Department of Medical Chemistry, Kyoto University, Graduate School of Medicine and Faculty of Medicine)

Public Relations
Ono Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.
TEL: 06-6263-5670
FAX: 06-6263-2950