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**ONO establishes an innovative research network called “Orientem Innovation”
together with Tohoku University & The University of Tokyo**

Ono Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Osaka, Japan, “ONO”) announced today that ONO, Tohoku University (Sendai, Japan) and The University of Tokyo (Tokyo, Japan) established a research collaboration network named “Orientem Innovation” to materialize open innovation in drug discovery.

ONO aims to identify and develop original and breakthrough pharmaceutical products and in our efforts to accelerate the drug discovery process ONO has agreed with Tohoku University and The University of Tokyo to establish a new type of research network of industry-academia collaboration called “Orientem Innovation”. Under this new scheme we will furnish ONO’s unique and novel compounds to academic institutions having cutting-edge knowledge and technologies to identify therapeutic use. In this initial attempt, Tohoku University will supervise this research network by virtue of its plentiful knowledge of novel bioactive lipids and will establish assay systems imitating pathology of various diseases. The University of Tokyo will analyze clinical samples and crystal forms by utilizing its predominant cutting-edge technology. Through these activities, the universities will cooperatively find out the involvement of bioactive lipids in various diseases and pathology, and ONO will synthesize new compounds and optimize them towards the innovative medicines that meet unmet medical needs by utilizing the knowledge generated through the activities of this research network, which is expected to pursue missions of academia and industry respectively.

ONO will have worldwide exclusive rights to develop and commercialize any pharmaceutical product containing a compound discovered by this Orientem Innovation and will pay royalties to Tohoku University and The University of Tokyo based on the net sales of the product.

ONO will continue to seek potential collaborations under the scheme of this Orientem Innovation inside and outside Japan.

About bioactive lipids

Bioactive lipids such as prostaglandins, leukotriene, platelet-activating factor, lysophosphatidic acid, sphingosine-1-phosphate and steroids are lipids having biological activities relating to biophylaxis, blood pressure adjustments, inflammatory response including pain and fever, enterokinesis, cell proliferation, cell division and cell differential regulation. It is understood that disorder or unregulation of these bioactive lipids relates to various diseases. Research in this area has led to discovery of various new drugs. Recently, drug discovery research is actively pursued worldwide in the areas of central nervous system, immunology, metabolic diseases, etc. because of the progress of the research attesting the important roles of novel bioactive lipids in vitals.