

March 27th, 2019

ONO Announces a Strategic Drug Discovery Alliance Agreement with Cancer Research UK and LifeArc for Cancer Immunotherapy

Ono Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Osaka, Japan; President, Representative Director and CEO, Gyo Sagara; “Ono”) announced today that it entered into a strategic drug discovery alliance partnership with Cancer Research UK (London, UK; CEO, Michelle Mitchell, OBE; “CRUK”) and LifeArc (London, UK; CEO, Melanie Lee, Ph.D., CBE) for cancer immunotherapy.

The multi-year partnership brings together CRUK’s network of world-leading scientists and drug discovery expertise, LifeArc’s renowned therapeutic antibody engineering and development expertise, and Ono’s considerable track record in developing cancer immunotherapies.

The collaboration will identify targets for the development of both antibody and small molecule therapeutics. Boosted by a multimillion pound investment from Ono and a further investment from LifeArc, drug discovery experts will be pursuing targets within CRUK’s extensive portfolio of immunology research.

This new collaboration expands upon an existing alliance between CRUK and LifeArc announced in 2017. Ono’s investment and expertise will help identify new therapeutic targets, accelerate target validation within the alliance, and support validated targets through the drug discovery phase.

Under the terms of the deal, LifeArc will progress antibody projects via its antibody screening and development expertise. Small molecule projects will be taken forward by CRUK’s Therapeutic Discovery Labs.

Ono will have option rights to licence the outputs of the alliance, and take on clinical development and commercialisation of successful projects with worldwide exclusive rights. Ono will pay CRUK and LifeArc an upfront access fee for entering the alliance, as well as additional upfront, milestone, and royalty payments for licensed projects.

“We greatly appreciate Cancer Research UK’s network of scientists, drug discovery expertise together with LifeArc’s antibody development capabilities,” said Dr. Toichi Takino, Ph.D., Corporate Officer and Executive Director, Discovery and Research of Ono. “We are very pleased to join in the successful collaboration between Cancer Research UK and LifeArc and we believe that we together will successfully identify novel drug candidates for new cancer treatment in the immuno-oncology field, which will be further developed and commercialized by us throughout the world, and fulfil unmet medical needs.”

Dr. Hamish Ryder, Director of CRUK’s Therapeutic Discovery Labs, said: “We’re thrilled to welcome Ono to join and expand our successful collaboration with LifeArc and create one of our most ambitious alliances to date. This unique alliance is a melting pot of world-leading cancer research and each organisation’s extensive expertise in oncology drug discovery. As we enter into a new age of immuno-

therapeutic approaches to cancer care, we hope that this partnership will accelerate the development of new treatments, bringing them to patients with cancer much faster.”

LifeArc CEO, Melanie Lee, noted; “At LifeArc, we are committed to translating medical innovation to benefit patients with new therapies, diagnostics or by building on the understanding of disease. This collaboration with Cancer Research UK and Ono is an example of how shared goals and collaboration can create real value.”

About CRUK and the Therapeutic Discovery Laboratories

Cancer Research UK (CRUK) is the world’s leading cancer charity dedicated to saving lives through research. CRUK receives no government funding for its life-saving research and every step it makes towards beating cancer relies on vital donations from the public. CRUK supports research into all aspects of cancer through the work of over 4,000 scientists, doctors and nurses in 70 universities of UK.

CRUK has a wholly owned subsidiary, Cancer Research Technology Ltd. for its commercial activity operations which pursues drug discovery research in alliance partnerships and delivers varied commercial partnering arrangements through its Commercial Partnerships team and the CRUK Therapeutic Discovery Laboratories as the drug discovery unit. For additional information, please visit <http://discoverylabs.cancerresearchuk.org/> and <http://commercial.cancerresearchuk.org/>.

About LifeArc

LifeArc is a medical research charity with a 25-year legacy of helping scientists and organisations turn their research into treatments and diagnostics for patients. LifeArc turns great science into greater patient impact. The charity brings together a network of partners to tackle specific diseases and directly funds academic and early stage research. So far, LifeArc’s work has helped to develop four drugs (Keytruda®, Actemra®, Tysabri® and Entyvio®) and a test for resistance to carbapenems. www.lifearc.org Twitter @lifearc1

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