京都大学 KYOTO UNIVERSITY　三重大学 MIE UNIVERSITY　Chordia Therapeutics

This press release is an English translation of a Japanese-language press release. The official language of this press release is Japanese, and the Japanese version takes precedence over the English version in terms of content and interpretation.

<Press Release>
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Announcement of Publication of Collaborative Research Findings on CDK12 Inhibitor CTX-439

Chordia Therapeutics Inc. (Head Office: Fujisawa City, Kanagawa Prefecture; CEO: Hiroshi Miyake, "Chordia") today announced that research findings from a collaborative research with Kyoto University and Mie University on the mechanism of action of CTX-439, a CDK12 inhibitor currently under preclinical development, and a combination therapy designed to enhance its therapeutic effect were published in *EMBO Molecular Medicine* on November 24, 2026.

Summary

CTX-439 is an orally available small-molecule kinase inhibitor with high selectivity for cyclin-dependent kinases (CDK) 12 and 13, members of the CDK family of serine/threonine kinases that regulate mRNA transcriptional elongation and termination. By inhibiting mRNA transcription processes essential for cancer cell survival, CTX-439 suppresses the production of proteins required for cell proliferation, imposes excessive stress on cancer cells, and leads to cell death through a novel mechanism of action.

In this study, a detailed analysis of the mechanism of action of CTX-439 newly revealed CTX-439-induced alterations in transcription and how these alterations lead to cancer cell death. The study further identified a new vulnerability that arises in cancer cells as a result of these transcriptional alterations and demonstrated that combining CTX-439 with an agent targeting this vulnerability enhanced antitumor activity.

This study provides further insight into the mechanism of action of CTX-439 and suggests the potential for a new combination treatment strategy based on this mechanism. The findings are expected to provide a foundation for future clinical research and the evaluation of therapeutic strategies.

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Publication Details

CDK12/13 inhibition by CTX-439 creates a targetable BCL-2/BCL-xL dependency
EMBO Molecular Medicine, Nov. 24, 2026
URL：https://link.springer.com/article/10.1038/s44321-026-00549-8

About the Journal

EMBO Molecular Medicine is an international open-access journal published by the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) that covers translational and biomedical research in experimental medicine. The journal encompasses a broad range of medical and life science fields, including drug discovery, and publishes research that advances the understanding of the molecular mechanisms of disease and supports clinical translation through studies in preclinical models and humans.

Glossary of Terms

Term	Explanation
Kinase	A general term for enzymes (proteins) that transfer a phosphate group to substrate proteins.
CDK	A group of kinases involved in regulating cell proliferation and gene expression, which function by binding to proteins known as cyclins.
RNA	A molecule required to generate proteins based on genetic information in DNA; includes messenger RNA (mRNA) transcribed from genomic DNA and transfer RNA (tRNA) used during protein synthesis.
mRNA Transcription	The process by which genetic information encoded in DNA is read and transcribed into mRNA—an essential, initiating step that enables cells to synthesize proteins.

This collaborative research was conducted under the leadership of Professor Kosuke Yusa of the Institute for Life and Medical Sciences, Kyoto University, together with Professor Masakazu Toi of the Department of Breast Surgery, Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University (at the time of the research), and Professor Kosuke Kawaguchi of Breast Surgery, Mie University Hospital. The research was supported by the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED) under the "Practical Research for Innovative Cancer Control" program.

About Chordia Therapeutics

Chordia Therapeutics is a research and development-stage biopharmaceutical company specializing in oncology with clinical-stage assets, headquartered in Fujisawa City, Kanagawa Prefecture. Chordia's lead asset, rogocekib (CLK inhibitor CTX-712), is under Phase 1/2 clinical study in the US. Rogocekib potentially targets the vulnerability of cancer and is expected to deliver benefits to patients of various types of cancer. In addition to rogocekib, Chordia is engaged in the research and development of several assets, including ocipumaltib (MALT1 inhibitor CTX-177), CTX-439, a CDK12 inhibitor, and GCN2 inhibitors. For more information, please visit our website https://www.chordiatherapeutics.com/en/.