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Launch of Chordia Therapeutics

Chordia established by former Takeda scientists to develop novel small molecule therapeutics in oncology

Kanagawa, Japan, November 22, 2017 – Chordia Therapeutics Inc. (“Chordia”) was launched in Shonan Health Innovation Park at Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited (“Takeda”) Shonan site, and entered into an investment agreement, shareholders agreement and other agreements with Takeda and other investors on November 21, 2017. Takeda and venture capital syndicate of Kyoto University innovation capital, Mitsubishi UFJ capital and SMBC venture capital will participate series A investment finance. Chordia seeks to discover new therapeutic options for areas of high unmet medical needs in oncology.

The newly formed company will develop multiple preclinical assets licensed from Takeda, including CDC-like kinase (“CLK”) inhibitors. Chordia uses fully-equipped laboratory space and other resources at Takeda’s Health Innovation Park to support efficient drug research and development. Chordia was established by six former Takeda scientists through the Takeda Entrepreneurship Venture Program (“EVP”) initiative. The EVP initiative was created to promote innovation and an environment of entrepreneurship by combining selected Takeda assets or technologies and outstanding scientists with start-up support.

Hiroshi Miyake, representative director of Chordia and former site head of the oncology drug discovery unit at the Takeda Shonan site, said, “Our mission is to deliver new therapeutic options from Japan as quickly as possible to patients fighting against cancers. We are looking to achieving this by leveraging our global scientific network to accelerate drug discovery and development. Our company name, Chordia, is derived from the word ‘chord,’ which are musical notes that sound pleasant when played together. Like a chord, we are working towards harmonizing our energy and passion for science with our collaborators, supporters, and stakeholders to enable the discovery of innovative drugs.”

Chordia was founded by scientists with various specialties in pharmacology, chemistry, and computational sciences. Each member is an expert in their field and has a track record of success in drug discovery. To accelerate drug discovery, Chordia will collaborate closely with academia. One prominent collaboration is with Prof. Seishi Ogawa at Kyoto University, a

leading cancer genome scientist. He discovered mutations on splicing factors in cancer, which shed light on the molecular mechanism of cancer formation. This collaboration enables Chordia to effectively develop CLK inhibitors that modify the splicing reaction to kill cancer cells. Prof. Ogawa also discovered the molecular basis of adult T cell leukemia lymphoma (“ATLL”). This work led to the creation of the drug discovery collaboration program among Kyoto University, Miyazaki University and Chordia, which is supported by a grant of Acceleration Transformative Research for Medical Innovation (“ACT-M”) in Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (“AMED”).

“Collaborations among industry, academia, and governmental organization are becoming a key driver for innovation in healthcare”, said Miyake. “We look forward to establishing even more partnerships in future.”

Chordia’s research strategy focuses on developing a molecular-targeted drug and personalized medicine. Since cancer is caused by various molecular factors, it is important to approach the right targets in the right patients. Chordia seeks to develop chemical compounds against causative molecules and phenomenon in cancer, and deliver the compounds to the right patients to generate solid clinical trial evidence.

Main development programs for Chordia Therapeutics Inc.

Program	Disease area	Development stage
CLK inhibitor	Cancer	Preclinical study
Drug for ATLL	Adult T cell leukemia lymphoma (ATLL)	Preclinical study