PeptiDream and JCR Announce Joint Research Agreement

TOKYO, JAPAN – February 22nd, 2016 – PeptiDream Inc., a public Tokyo-based biopharmaceutical company (“PeptiDream”) (Tokyo:4587) and JCR Pharmaceuticals Co., Ltd., a public Hyogo-based biopharmaceutical company (“JCR”) (Tokyo:4552) announced today that they have entered into a joint research agreement. PeptiDream will use its proprietary Peptide Discovery Platform System (PDPS) technology to identify macrocyclic/constrained peptides against target selected by JCR, with the aim of the joint research focused on identifying macrocyclic peptides capable of carrying various therapeutics across the blood-brain barrier (BBB) for delivery to the brain. JCR will contribute its significant expertise in this area, attained during the development of its proprietary technology “J-Brain Cargo®” for the delivery of various therapeutics across the BBB and into the brain. PeptiDream will contribute its expertise in identifying macrocyclic peptides, and the use of such peptides as peptide-drug conjugates (PDCs), which allow for the specific targeting of therapeutics to specific cells or tissues, and a major area of internal research and development at PeptiDream.

Under the agreement, the initial work will proceed as joint research, with each company funding its own efforts. An option exists between the companies to migrate the joint research program into a co-development agreement at the pre-clinical or clinical stage should the joint research progress satisfactorily.

In the past six years, PeptiDream has established funded discovery collaborations with 14 of the leading pharmaceutical companies; Amgen, AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers-Squibb, Eli Lilly, GlaxoSmithKline, Novartis, Mitsubishi Tanabe, Daiichi Sankyo, Merck, Sanofi, Teijin, Kyorin, Shionogi, Ipsen, and Genentech, all of which are active and ongoing. In addition, PeptiDream has transferred its PDPS discovery platform for broad use to Bristol-Myers-Squibb and Novartis.
[Comment from Kiichi Kubota, CEO and President of PeptiDream Inc.]
“We are delighted to collaborate with JCR to investigate the use of our macrocyclic peptides as potential carriers for therapeutics across the BBB and into the brain. We look forward to leveraging our PDPS technology to rapidly identify various macrocyclic peptide candidates in combination with JCR’s world-class expertise in this area to develop carriers that could be universally used with a variety of therapeutics, to significantly advance the treatment of CNS disorders, to which there is a large unmet medical need.”

[Comment from Shin Ashida, Chairman and President of JCR Pharmaceuticals Co., Ltd.]
“We also look forward to working with PeptiDream and leveraging the significant expertise we have gained and advances we have made in creating our proprietary J-Brain Cargo® technology. We will explore the use of J-Brain Cargo® for the macrocyclic peptide candidates identified by PeptiDream’s PDPS technology to fully investigate their potential as carriers of therapeutics across the BBB. JCR is focused on rare diseases and building platform technologies, highlighted by JR-141 for the treatment of Hunter Syndrome which incorporates J-Brain Cargo® and JR-142, a long-acting growth hormone developed from our long-acting protein technology using modified albumin. JCR is also leveraging its expertise in regenerative medicine, highlighted by the recent launch of TEMCELL® HS Inj, the world’s first mesenchymal stem cell product for the treatment of Acute Graft-versus-Host-Disease (Acute GVHD). We believe that taking on new challenges such as the research collaboration with PeptiDream would contribute to creating innovative treatment options for many patients.”

<About the Blood Brain Barrier (BBB)>
The blood-brain barrier (BBB) is a highly selective permeability barrier that separates the circulating blood from the brain extracellular fluid in the central nervous system (CNS). The BBB is formed by brain endothelial cells, which are connected by tight junctions, and allows the passage of water, some gases, and lipid-soluble molecules by passive diffusion, as well as the selective transport of molecules such as glucose and amino acids that are crucial to neural function. The BBB functions as a barrier to microscopic objects (bacteria, etc.) and large or hydrophilic molecules.
<About PeptiDream Inc.>
PeptiDream is a public (Tokyo Stock Exchange First Section 4587) biopharmaceutical company founded in 2006 employing our proprietary Peptide Discovery Platform System (PDPS), a state-of-the-art highly versatile peptide generation and selection platform which enables the production of highly diverse (trillions) non-standard peptide libraries with high efficiency, for the discovery and development of best-in-class and first-in-class peptide-based therapeutics. PeptiDream aspires to be a world leader in the discovery and development of novel highly functional peptide therapeutics to address unmet medical needs and improve the quality of life of patients worldwide.
For further information, please visit www.peptidream.com

<About JCR Pharmaceuticals Co., Ltd.>
JCR is a specialty pharma engaged in the research, development, manufacture and marketing of biopharmaceuticals and regenerative medicine with a focus on rare diseases. Its philosophy, “Contributing towards people’s healthcare through pharmaceutical products” drives JCR to create innovative pharmaceutical products as a value-added treatment options for the under-served patient community.
For further information, please visit www.jcrpharm.co.jp/en/

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