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**Collaborative Clinical Study for Advanced Melanoma Starts
with Keio University School of Medicine**

Phase 1 and 2 clinical studies for a of DC vaccine therapy with anti-cancer drugs

tella, Inc. (Head office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; Representative Director and President: Yuichiro Yazaki) has signed a collaborative research agreement with the School of Medicine of Keio University, which is located in Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo.

Based on this agreement, tella and Keio University will start Phase 1 and 2 clinical studies for the treatment of advanced melanoma (malignant melanoma predominantly occurs on the skin) in order to evaluate the safety and efficacy of WT1 peptide*¹ pulsed DC vaccine therapy*² in combination with anti-cancer drugs.

1. Background

Melanoma is difficult to treat because chemical therapy is not very effective and this disease is difficult to control using localized treatments such as surgery and radiation when it reoccurs or spreads. In addition, melanoma is a type of cancer with high immunogenicity (the ability to instigate an immune response). As a result, there are many research projects concerning the use of immunotherapy to treat melanoma. More advances in immunotherapy may lead to an improvement in the prognosis for individuals who have melanoma. In particular, there are high expectations for DC vaccine therapy as a new treatment for improving the prognosis for melanoma patients.

2. Summary of the clinical study

The lead physician for the collaborative clinical study will be Professor Masayuki Amagai of Department of Dermatology, Keio University School of Medicine, who will supervise and conduct the study. Immunological analysis will be performed by Professor Yutaka Kawakami of Division of Cellular Signaling Institute for Advanced Medical Research, Keio University School of Medicine. Preparation and administration of DC vaccine will be performed with the cooperation of Tokyo Midtown Medical Center*³, which is one of tella's contracted medical institutions.

tella has the exclusive right to use DC vaccine therapy with WT1 peptides. The Company also has technologies, know-how and a variety of basic data concerning this therapy. All of these resources will be provided by tella for this collaborative clinical study.

The Company and the Keio University School of Medicine will use this collaborative clinical study to accumulate data based on the scientific evidence for the DC vaccine therapy. The purpose is to evaluate the safety and efficacy of the treatment.

*1 WT1 peptides

WT1 peptides are a type of protein called WT1 that were discovered by Professor Haruo Sugiyama of Osaka University. Almost all types of cancer (including blood cancer) incorporate WT1. The properties of WT1 can be utilized to permit the use of WT1 peptides, which are part of WT1, for DC vaccine therapy and other therapies. U.S. academic publications have reported that WT1 is the most effective of the new cancer antigens.

*2 DC vaccine therapy

DC (dendritic cell) vaccine therapy is a new type of cancer immunotherapy. This therapy involves the production outside the patient's body of a large volume of monocytes (A special type of cell that is a key regulator of the immune system and capable of activating lymphocytes that defend the body from foreign substances), which normally exist in only small quantities in the blood. These cells are then processed so that they recognize the patient's cancer cells and a compound (new cancer antigens) produced artificially as a tumor marker. Next, the cells are returned to the patient's body so that the characteristics of the cancer are transferred from the dendritic cells to lymphocytes. The lymphocytes can then attack only the cancer cells.

*3 Tokyo Midtown Medical Center

Established in February 2010, this institute provides DC vaccine therapy and other cancer therapies and also performs apheresis (a blood cleansing therapy), and performs medical check-ups and outpatient surgical procedures.

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