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Press Release



February 2, 2021

Shonan Health Innovation Park

Shonan iPark Initiates Pilot Program for Development of iPS Cell Delivery Platform

Shonan Health Innovation Park ("Shonan iPark") announced today that it has finalized overall research plans and initiated a pilot program for the development of its iPS Cell Delivery Platform, which will be operated by iD4 (iPSC Delivery on Demand for Drug Discovery). iD4 was established in August 2020.

Once the pilot program has been completed, Shonan iPark seeks to develop a one-stop iPS Cell Delivery Platform to promote iPS cells' industrial use in Japan.

Background and Purpose

iPS cells are highly beneficial not only in cell therapy but for identifying mechanisms of diseases and developing medicines. However, various challenges are preventing leveraging iPS cells for wider industrial use in Japan. These challenges include: 1) Cell delivery process: the inability to use donated cells in drug discovery research due to disparities in the content of consent from donors and the lack of information on donated cells; 2) Cell manufacturing and storage process: varying quality of cells due to differences in manufacturing methods and the difficulty in searching or obtaining cells due to the dispersed cell storage institutions, and 3) Cell usage process: inability to identify which cells are suitable for delivering to target organs due to deficiencies in cell information.

A key factor for Japan to become a global leader in the highly competitive iPS cell research is connecting medical and research sites while developing systems that will enable further industrial use.

iD4 aims to promote iPS cells' industrial use and contribute to the development of rare disease therapies. "iPS Cell Delivery Platform" will not only bring together all parties across the cell delivery process, including cell donors (patients and medical institutions), iPS cell manufacturers and storage (contract manufacturers and storage operators), and organizations using cells (academia and

pharmaceutical companies), but it will also standardize and create databases for methods to acquire donor consent, information on donated cells, methods of iPS cell establishment, and distribution routes.

Pilot Program

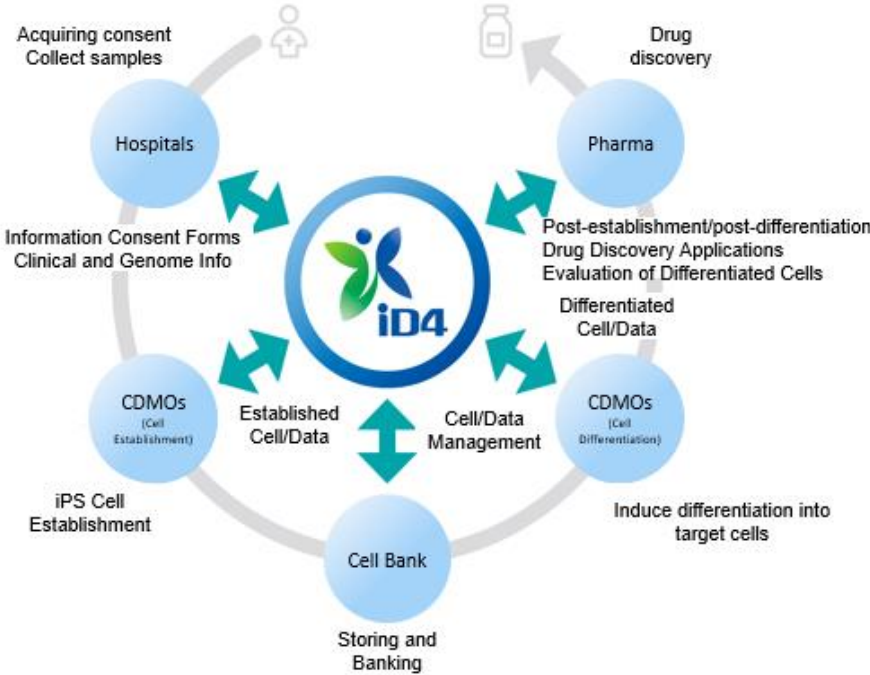
Over the year, iD4 will collaborate with selected medical institutions and companies to conduct the pilot program to verify an iPS cell delivery platform's feasibility that caters to drug discovery in specific disease areas.

If the model is verified through this pilot program, iD4 plans to develop the business infrastructure for an innovative platform that can be used by various healthcare organizations and companies within this year.

Comment from Toshio Fujimoto, Shonan iPark's General Manager and Representative Director of iD4:

"It is difficult to obtain cells from patients affected by rare and intractable diseases, and that is inhibiting acceleration of research to develop viable treatment. A sustainable cell delivery platform will help connect patients who are awaiting new treatment and companies that are striving to develop such innovative treatment. We hope that the use of iPS cell technologies will accelerate drug discovery efforts worldwide, and Shonan iPark will continue to work on developing a platform that will further drive forward research and the industry."

Platform overview



iD4 overview

Name of organization: iD4; iPSC Delivery on Demand for Drug Discovery

Representative Director: Toshio Fujimoto

Established: August 3, 2020

Areas of business:

- Acquisition and management of cells and cell data from medical institutions
- Establishment and differentiation of iPS cells; sales / delivery of such cells
- Database development on cells, and sales / delivery of such data
- Promotion of drug discovery using iPS cells

Members: Shonan Health Innovation Park (Takeda Pharmaceutical Company, Ltd.) and others.

Honorary Members:

CiRA Foundation; Dr. Megumu K. Saito from Center for iPS Cell Research and Application, Kyoto University

Supporting Members:

Takeda Pharmaceutical Company, Ltd., Astellas Pharma Inc., and Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corporation.

About Shonan Health Innovation Park (Shonan iPark)

Shonan iPark is a science park founded in April 2018 by a pharmaceutical company. It convenes private and public sector organizations and academic institutions that range widely in terms of business type and scale, and aims to be a space where health innovation can be accelerated. More than 2,000 employees (as of January 2021) from more than 100 pharmaceutical, next-generation medicine, AI, venture capital, and government-related companies and organizations together form an ecosystem to enable such innovation.

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