



March 6, 2013

UMN Pharma Inc.

API Co., Ltd.

Yakult Honsha Co., Ltd.

UMN Pharma, API, and Yakult Honsha Sign Letter of Intent to Co-develop and Commercialize Biosimilars

UMN Pharma Inc. (TSE: 4585; Headquarters: Akita; CEO: Tatsuyoshi Hirano, “UMN Pharma”), API Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Gifu; CEO: Takahiko Nonogaki, “API”), and Yakult Honsha Co., Ltd. (TSE: 2267; Headquarters: Tokyo; President: Takashige Negishi, “Yakult Honsha”) today announced that they signed a letter of intent and agreed on a basic framework for co-development and commercialization of biosimilars in the field of oncology. The three companies will hold talks on the details of the joint business and sign an official agreement.

Under this agreement, the three companies will conduct research, development, manufacturing, and sales of biosimilars by taking advantage of the strengths of each company. UMN Pharma and API will be in charge of process development and manufacturing of the drug substances and drug products, while Yakult Honsha will be responsible for development and marketing. Under this framework, the three companies are aiming to supply high-quality biosimilars to the market.

The strength of UMN Pharma's business is its ability to offer proposals and solutions based on its state-of-the-art biopharmaceutical manufacturing facilities, skilled staff with advanced biopharmaceutical expertise, and production processes of its own developed products.

Founded in 1907, API has expanded its businesses from beekeeping to contract manufacturing of health food. API began its contract manufacturing business for pharmaceuticals in 2004, and over this time has accumulated a wealth of advanced expertise in pharmaceutical manufacturing. Yakult Honsha is engaged in businesses in the manufacture and marketing of beverages, foods, and pharmaceuticals. In its pharmaceutical business, Yakult Honsha is particularly involved in research and development and marketing of pharmaceuticals in the field of oncology, and has a strong presence in the market because of its established track record and experience both in Japan and abroad.

[For Media Inquiries]

UMN Pharma Inc., General Affairs Division

Tel. +81-45-624-8341 E-mail: press@umnpharma.com

API Co., Ltd., Pharmaceutical Business Division, (Contact: Takahashi, Nakamura, Tatemichi)

Tel.: +81-58-271-3847 Fax: +81-58-275-0855

Yakult Honsha Co., Ltd., Public Relations Department

Tel.: +81-3-3574 - 8920