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Eisai Co., Ltd.

EISAI ENTERS COLLABORATION WITH LIVERPOOL SCHOOL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL TO DISCOVER NOVEL ANTI-WOLBACHIA TARGETED ANTI-FILARIAL DRUGS

JOINT RESEARCH PROJECT AWARDED GHIT FUND GRANT

Eisai Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Tokyo, President
world-class academy that has made major contributions toward understanding the mechanisms of dr
action of several classes of anti-parasitic drugs, to identify and develop novel drug candidates th
efficiently eliminate the bacteria *Wolbachia. Wolbachia* live inside the parasitic worms, known as filaria
that cause lymphatic filariasis and onchocerciasis, two infectious diseases that together affect more tha
150 million people worldwide. As filariae are dependent on these *Wolbachia* for growth, developme
reproduction and survival, these worms can be effectively eradicated by first eliminating the *Wolbach*
inside them.

While current anti-filarial treatments are effective against larvae and microfilariae, they require many yea
of consistent, annual mass drug administration in a given endemic community in order to al
successfully eliminate the adult worms. Anti-*Wolbachia* therapy is expected to lead to worm sterility a
effective worm eradication, thereby reducing treatment timeframes and providing superior therapeu
outcomes compared to existing anti-filarial drugs. Further, as anti-*Wolbachia* programs are still in th
infancy, this collaboration is expected to potentially provide a unique opportunity to make a significa
contribution to communities affected by filariasis.

To date, the screening of more than 10,000 potential anti-*Wolbachia* compounds has reveal
approximately 50 compounds as confirmed hits, leading to identification of about six chemotypes w
anti-infective potential. Eisai and its collaboration partners will focus on two of these six proposed typ
and aim to identify a single candidate for potential drug development within one to two years.

This unique approach was also evaluated and subsequently awarded a two-year grant by the Glob
Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT Fund), an international non-profit organization that aims
promote the discovery of new health technologies for eliminating infectious diseases prevalent
developing countries.

In support of the World Health Organization (WHO)'s program to eliminate lymphatic filariasis by 202
Eisai is supplying diethylcarbamazine (DEC) free of charge to WHO. Under its collaboration with LST
and UoL, Eisai aims to make new treatments available as early as possible to patients with filariasis a
thereby further increase the healthcare benefits provided to these patients and their families in developi
and emerging countries.

[Please refer to the following notes for further information on anti-*Wolbachia* therapy, the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, the University of Liverpool, and the GHIT Fund.]

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[Notes to editors]