PRESS RELEASE

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Japanese company within regenerative medicine establishes subsidiary in Sweden

CellSeed Inc., a Japanese company within the area of regenerative medicine, has established a subsidiary in Stockholm, CellSeed Sweden AB. CellSeed will collaborate with Karolinska University Hospital, Huddinge and is planning a clinical trial in Sweden.

In 2012, a collaboration was established between Tokyo Women’s Medical University and Karolinska University Hospital. A patented technology for generation of autologous cell sheets has successfully been evaluated. The clinical effect will now be studied in a clinical trial on patients with esophageal cancer.

The basic technology of “cell sheet engineering” was originally developed by Prof. Teruo Okano, Tokyo Women’s Medical University. Results from the study at Karolinska University Hospital are very promising and will be presented at the 13th annual meeting of the International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR) in Stockholm, June 24-27.

As a consequence of the promising results, CellSeed Inc. has decided to invest SEK 6.8 million in a subsidiary, with the aim of starting a clinical trial in Sweden. “We have chosen to establish a subsidiary in Sweden based on the excellent support structure and the high competence level at Karolinska University Hospital, Huddinge. This is the first hospital outside Japan to use our patented technology for esophageal cancer” says Setsuko Hashimoto, CEO of CellSeed Inc. and Chairman of CellSeed Sweden AB.

“Our medical team at Huddinge has acquired a lot of knowledge from this project. Paired with our expertise in the area of esophageal cancer, we have established an innovative cell therapy that we are now going to test further in a prospective study” says Matthias Löhr, Prof. of Gastroenterology & Hepatology at Karolinska Institutet. In the clinical research study, autologous cell sheets have been produced at Vecura, Karolinska University Hospital in Huddinge. The cell sheets have thereafter been transferred back to the patient to improve wound healing in the esophagus after the removal of cancerous tissue. “We have seen encouraging results and are eager to proceed with the clinical trial once everything is in place” says Magnus Nilsson, Principal Investigator for the study.

CellSeed Sweden AB has assigned Erik Walldén as board member. Mr. Walldén has held leadership positions in the international Life Science industry for over 30 years. He has a strong track record of launching new technologies and companies globally.

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About CellSeed Inc.: CellSeed Inc. is a leading company within regenerative medicine. Employing the "cell sheet engineering" technology developed by Prof. Teruo Okano of the Tokyo Women's Medical University, we aim to develop regenerative medicine products that can lead to fundamental changes in therapies of severe medical conditions worldwide. The company was founded in 2001 and is listed on JASDAQ Stock Exchange Group in Japan since 2010.
About Tokyo Women’s Medical University, Japan: Tokyo Women’s Medical University dates back to 1900 and the Institute of Advanced Biomedical Engineering and Science, established in 2001, is a leading multidisciplinary research center for advanced biomedical engineering and science, especially in the field of cell sheet engineering regenerative medicine. The institute is active in both clinical application and integrated tissue-engineering technology development under partnership with international partners and industry. www.twmu.ac.jp/ABMES/en