

OncoTherapy Science, Inc.

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Patent Registration for MELK-specific inhibitors in Japan

OncoTherapy Science, Inc. (President & CEO: Kazuo Yamamoto; hereinafter, “OncoTherapy”) announces that a substance patent for the MELK (maternal embryonic leucine zipper kinase) -specific inhibitors that are being developed by OncoTherapy as anti-cancer drugs was approved in Japan.

Patent No. 6159948

Country: Japan

Title of invention: 1,5-NAPHTHYRIDINE DERIVATIVES AND MELK INHIBITORS CONTAINING THE SAME

With regard to MELK-specific inhibitors, the equivalent patents have already been approved in the United States of America, Singapore and Australia.

MELK is one of the novel anti-cancer drug targets identified by the genome-wide gene expression analyses conducted by Professor Yusuke Nakamura’s laboratory. It is highly expressed in various types of human cancer including breast and lung cancers, while its expression was hardly detectable in normal tissues. It is therefore expected that drugs acting on MELK are applicable to a wide range of human cancers with a minimum risk of adverse side effects.

With regard to a MELK-specific inhibitor, OTS167, a Phase I/II clinical trial for patients with advanced leukemia is currently being studied at the University of Chicago. In addition, a Phase I clinical study of oral administration of OTS167 for patients with breast cancer, including triple-negative breast cancer has opened at Weill Cornell Medicine and the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

We will accelerate the development of drugs targeting MELK to contribute to the improvement of cancer treatment.