



Press release
5 December, 2016

Kringle Pharma Successfully Raised 610 Million JPY to Accelerate Commercialization of HGF Drug.

Kringle Pharma, Inc. (Head office located in Ibaraki, Osaka; President & CEO, Kunio Iwatani; “KRINGLE”) announces that the company has successfully completed the financing round with a total amount of 610 million Japanese yen (approximately 5.4 million US dollars). The 8 companies that made an investment in KRINGLE are listed below, including DBJ Capital Co., Ltd. and Keio Innovation Initiative, Inc. as the lead investors.

Venture Capital Company

- DBJ Capital Co., Ltd. (President & CEO, Fumiya Kashima)
- Keio Innovation Initiative, Inc. (CEO, Kotaro Yamagishi)
- TOHO Lease Co., Ltd. (President & CEO, Toshiro Hasegawa)
- The Gogin Capital Co., Ltd. (President & CEO, Yasuhiro Takesako)
- KSP, Inc. (President and CEO, Hirohisa Uchida, Ph.D.)

Business Company

- CYBERDYNE, Inc. (President & CEO, Yoshiyuki Sankai, Ph.D.)
- Nippon Zenyaku Kogyo Co., Ltd. (President, Keiichi Takano)
- ReproCELL, Inc. (CEO, Chikafumi Yokoyama, Ph.D.)

Hepatocyte Growth Factor (HGF) is considered as an intrinsic factor with an organotrophic role in the repair and regeneration of various tissues and organs, and is thought to have significant potential in becoming an innovative medicine for many incurable diseases. KRINGLE has been keenly engaged in the clinical development of recombinant human HGF (rhHGF) for acute spinal cord injury and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). With the capital resource secured by this financing, KRINGLE will accelerate ongoing Phase I/II study of rhHGF in acute spinal cord injury.

Kunio Iwatani, President and CEO of KRINGLE stated, “I am extremely proud that KRINGLE has succeeded in fund raising under the tough financial environment. This represents growing expectations of HGF from the investors. The new capital enables us to complete Phase I/II proof-of-concept study of rhHGF for the treatment of acute spinal cord injury. With therapeutic efficacy data from Phase I/II, we will continue our best efforts to commercialize HGF Drug. Also, we are very excited that in this round business companies, having future potential to generate synergy toward HGF commercialization, invested KRINGLE. By combining HGF medicine and “Cybernic treatment” using CYBERDYNE’s HAL for Medical Use (Lower Limb Type), a robot known as the world’s first robotic therapeutic device, we hope to create a new combination treatment to help patients suffering from spinal cord injuries and ALS. In addition, potential business collaborations are discussed with ReproCELL, a leading company in iPS cell technologies, for the application of HGF to a clinical grade reagent, as it has been increased the importance of GMP-compliant reagent for manufacturing regenerative medicine products. We will further strengthen business ties with Nippon Zenyaku Kogyo, a leading veterinary drug company in Japan, for commercial manufacturing of rhHGF. We strongly believe that together with these companies we will be able to maximize the value of HGF.”



About Hepatocyte Growth Factor (HGF)

HGF was originally found to be a mitogen for mature hepatocytes, and subsequent studies elucidated that HGF acts on various epithelial and vascular cells. HGF facilitates regeneration and protection of tissues damaged by injury and disease through its mitogenic, motogenic, and morphogenic properties as well as anti-apoptotic and angiogenic activities. In the brain and nerve tissues, HGF exerts neurotrophic effects and enhances neurite outgrowth. The therapeutic effects of rhHGF on spinal cord injury have been demonstrated in rat and marmoset models of contusive spinal cord injury by Professors Okano and Nakamura's group at Keio University School of Medicine. Based on these preclinical results, it is anticipated that rhHGF will be an effective and novel drug in the treatment of spinal cord injury.

About Kringle Pharma, Inc. <http://www.kringle-pharma.com/en/index.html>

Kringle Pharma is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company established in December 2001 to develop novel biologics based on HGF. Currently, Kringle's ongoing clinical projects on rhHGF are 1) Phase I/II in acute spinal cord injury, 2) investigator-initiated Phase II in ALS, 3) Phase I completed in acute kidney injury, and 4) investigator-initiated Phase I/II in vocal fold scar.

About Keio Innovation Initiative, Inc. <http://www.keio-innovation.co.jp/>

Keio Innovation Initiative (KII) is a venture capital established by Keio University. Our mission is to innovate society through developing new industries which use Keio University's research results.

About DBJ Capital Co., Ltd. <https://www.dbj-cap.jp/english/>

DBJ Capital Co., Ltd. is a venture capital founded by Development Bank of Japan Inc. We focus on venture firms which use new technologies and business models to grow and compete on the global market, regardless of their industry or scale. To meet the particular needs of each client, we mobilize the entire DBJ Group to arrange the best investment solutions, ranging from growth-spurring equity investment to financing schemes drawing on DBJ's vast networks.

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