

SNBL Collaborates with Astellas to Strengthen Drug Discovery Ecosystem in Tsukuba City

TOKYO and KAGOSHIMA, Japan, August 29, 2024 – Shin Nippon Biomedical Laboratories, Ltd. (TSE Prime: 2395, Representative Chairman and President: Ryoichi Nagata, M.D., Ph.D.; hereinafter referred to as SNBL) is pleased to announce that it will collaborate with Astellas Pharma, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as Astellas) to strengthen the drug discovery ecosystem in Tsukuba, by providing non-clinical studies at a facility adjacent to SakuLab™-Tsukuba, an open innovation center in the Tsukuba Research Center of Astellas.

SakuLab™-Tsukuba is located in Tsukuba, Japan, where one of Japan's leading life science centers is being formed. It is an open innovation lab that welcomes innovators from outside the company, including startups and academia. Resident researchers have access to ready-to-use lab equipment and non-confidential consultation on a wide range of drug discovery research activities and networking opportunities with Astellas' scientists.

SNBL, with its mainstay CRO (Contract Research Organization) business, conducts nonclinical and clinical studies (clinical trials) for drug development on behalf of pharmaceutical companies and academia. SNBL supports the concept of SakuLab™-Tsukuba and will participate to enhance the life science ecosystem as the largest nonclinical CRO in Japan. Leveraging its experience and track record in drug discovery across various modalities, SNBL will support tenants of SakuLab™-Tsukuba, Astellas, as well as other pharmaceutical companies and bio-ventures in a wide range of nonclinical studies, including physical properties, pharmacology, kinetics, and safety assessments in the early stages of drug development.

Masahide Goto, Ph.D., Head of Open Innovation Management of Astellas commented:

“Astellas is committed to open innovation activities to contribute to the development of the life science ecosystem in Japan. We are confident that this collaboration with SNBL, one of the leading CROs in Japan will accelerate the development of the Tsukuba ecosystem.”

Ryoichi Nagata, M.D., Ph.D., Representative Chairman, President & CEO commented:

“We are delighted to have this opportunity to work with Astellas to contribute to the reinforcement of the drug discovery ecosystem for startups, academia, and pharmaceutical companies that are challenging novel ideas in one of the leading life science centers in Japan. SNBL has a proven track record of supporting the research and development of new drug modalities globally, and we will fully leverage our know-how and experience to support the further development of drug discovery and advanced technologies in the Tsukuba ecosystem in Japan.”

SNBL, with its corporate mission of “freeing people from suffering,” will continue to support the research and development of advanced technologies in the life science field and businesses that aim to apply and improve technologies in the medical field.

About SakuLab™-Tsukuba:

<https://www.astellas.com/en/innovation/open-innovation/labs/tsukuba>

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