

[PRESS RELEASE]

September 22, 2017

Saitama Medical University
ImmuniT Research Inc.

Licensing of a novel method for evaluation of immune checkpoint inhibitor efficacy prior to treatment initiation

—Granting of an exclusive license to a venture company from Saitama Medical University—

[Summary]

- Saitama Medical University and ImmuniT Research Inc. have signed an exclusive license agreement relating to a novel blood sample-based method for evaluating the efficacy of immune checkpoint inhibitors prior to therapy initiation (patent pending).
- ImmuniT Research Inc. aims to develop/commercialize diagnostic products based on this technology.
- Once developed, these products are expected to improve the treatment of cancers by ensuring the efficacy of immune checkpoint inhibitors in patients prior to treatment initiation, which will reduce the incidence of adverse reactions and lower the medical costs associated with immune checkpoint inhibitor therapy.
- These products are also expected to contribute to the development of novel methods for the treatment of cancers that do not respond to the currently available immune checkpoint inhibitor therapies.

On August 31, 2017, Saitama Medical University (Chairman: Kiyoyuki Maruki, President: Masami Bessho, Moroyama-machi, Saitama Prefecture) and ImmuniT Research Inc., a venture company from Saitama Medical University (Representative Director: Masahiko Fukuzawa, Minato-ku, Tokyo), signed an exclusive license agreement relating to a **novel blood sample-based method for evaluating the efficacy of immune checkpoint inhibitors prior to therapy initiation (patent pending)**, which was developed by Hiroshi Kagamu, Professor, Department of Respiratory Medicine, Saitama Medical University International Medical Center.

Results related to the development of this novel evaluation method were presented at an American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) meeting held in June this year, and they drew a great deal of attention from major pharmaceutical companies and other stakeholders in the field.

[Overview of the technology]

Professor Kagamu has developed a highly specific and sensitive method for evaluating the efficacy of immune checkpoint inhibitors by evaluating the number of lymphocytes in a sample of blood drawn from a patient prior to therapy initiation. Immune checkpoint inhibitors are drawing a lot of attention from research labs around the world as efficacious means of treating several cancer types; however, these novel drugs currently only work in a specific section of the patient population.

Therefore, the development of diagnostic products that allow evaluation of the efficacy of immune checkpoint inhibitors prior to treatment initiation in drawn blood instead of samples of cancer tissue

are urgently needed. The novel evaluation method developed by Prof. Kagamu is expected to allow identification of patients who are most likely to respond to immune checkpoint inhibitor therapy, which will reduce the number of patients who do not respond to therapy yet who develop adverse reactions. Targeting specific patients will also have the secondary benefit of reducing medical costs.

Professor Kagamu's evaluation method is also expected to provide a clinical basis for the development of novel immune checkpoint inhibitor-based therapies for the treatment of cancers that do not respond to the immune checkpoint inhibitor therapies currently available.

[Saitama Medical University]

Name: Saitama Medical University

Date of foundation : April 1, 1972

Address: 38 Morohongo, Moroyama-machi, Iruma-gun, Saitama

Chairman: Kiyoyuki Maruki

President: Masami Bessho

[ImmuniT Research Inc.]

Name: ImmuniT Research Inc.

Date of foundation : May 15, 2017

Address: 2nd floor, Land work Aoyama Bldg.

2-7-26 Kita-Aoyama, Minato-ku, Tokyo

Representative Director: Masahiko Fukuzawa

Science advisor: Hiroshi Kagamu (Professor, Department of Respiratory Medicine, Saitama Medical University International Medical Center)

Business description:

- Research into methods to determine the clinical effects of and the development of test kits related to immunity checkpoint inhibitors
- Gene analysis related to immunotherapies
- Research into new immunotherapies
- Others

If you have any questions regarding this press release, please contact to ImmuniT Research Inc.

Person in charge: Kawada

Address: 2nd floor, Land work Aoyama Bldg., 2-7-26, Kita-Aoyama, Minato-ku, Tokyo

Phone: 03-6890-0963

Email: ykawada@imtr.jp