

June 11, 2024

Biologics Center for Research and Training

Kidswell Bio Corporation

Announcement of the Conclusion of an Outsourcing Agreement to Strengthen Collaboration with Biotech Ventures

Biologics Center for Research and Training (hereinafter “BCRET”), headquartered in Kobe, Japan and led by Representative Director Satoshi Toyoshima and Kidswell Bio Corporation (hereinafter “KWB”), headquartered in Tokyo, Japan and led by President & CEO Shinya Kurebayashi, are pleased to announce that the two parties have entered into an outsourcing agreement (the “Agreement”) to support novel drug discovery and the development of the biologics industry through the development of personnel skilled in the development and manufacturing of biologics, including biopharmaceuticals with a focus on antibody drugs, as well as new modalities such as cell and gene therapies (the “biologics experts”).

Significant advances in the development of new platform technologies and the diversification of drug modalities by combining multiple technologies have led to active research activities to discover new research targets with high therapeutic potential. However, there is a shortage of domestic professionals with expertise in biologics in industry, government, and academia, and dependence on foreign countries is increasing. This is because many Japanese pharmaceutical companies have focused their management resources on R&D activities for small molecule drugs and have postponed their efforts in new modalities, and because these modalities have many characteristics that differ from those of small molecules, including molecular structures, development processes and manufacturing facilities.

As global expectations for the biologics industry to treat intractable and rare diseases grow, BCRET has been training biologics experts since its establishment in 2017 by providing hands-on training in biologics development, manufacturing, and analysis in Japan, with the aim of contributing to strengthening biologics development and manufacturing.

KWB has been consistently engaged in biopharmaceutical R&D since its establishment in 2001, and launched its fourth biosimilar product in the Japanese market in November 2023 in collaboration with partner pharmaceutical companies. KWB initiated R&D activities for cell therapy (regenerative medicine) in 2019, leveraging its biologics experts and accumulated expertise in biopharmaceutical development gained through the biologics R&D activities, including the four biosimilars.

In response to these circumstances, BCRET and KWB have shared the challenges facing the biologics industry in Japan and exchanged views on the development of the industry. As a result, the two companies agreed to cooperate in creating best practices in biologics by strengthening the development of biologics experts and strengthening collaboration between pharmaceutical companies and biotech ventures. BCRET will develop and provide educational and technical training programs to raise the level of biologics experts, and KWB will utilize BCRET's educational and technical training programs to further develop biologics experts and acquire development expertise in the biologics field based on the Agreement. In addition, BCRET will play a pivotal role in supporting collaboration between domestic pharmaceutical companies and biotech ventures and encourage more efficient R&D of new technologies and manufacturing methods resulting from technological open innovation, thereby making a difference in the Japanese biologics industry.

■ About BCRET

Established in August 2017, BCRET is the only general corporation whose purpose is to provide practical training and develop human resources related to the development, manufacturing and analysis of biologics in cooperation with industry, government and academia. In addition to the base in Kobe, a new dedicated base was established at Mitsui Link-Lab Shinkiba 1 (Koto-ku, Tokyo) in February 2023 to provide training related to manufacturing and analysis mainly in the field of biologics, as well as to conduct advanced research. For more information, please visit our website.

Biologics Center for Research and Training (BCRET) <https://www.bcret.jp/en/>

■ About KWB

Kidswell Bio Corporation, with the corporate philosophy of “Biotech Engineering Company, Striving for Value Creation – For Comprehensive Healthcare System for Children as well as Families and Society –,” is engaged in biosimilars business, which has been established as a stable revenue base through the track record of launching four products. KWB also promotes cell therapy (regenerative medicine) business, which has initiated clinical study and is expected to be a foundation for rapid growth in the future. KWB is dedicated to R&D to provide patients suffering from diseases, especially children, with innovative therapeutic drugs and treatments so that they can live bright and happy lives. For more information, please visit our website.

Kidswell Bio Corporation <https://www.kidswellbio.com/en/>

For inquiries regarding this matter, please contact

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