

April 4, 2008

Effector Cell Institute, Inc
(Nagoya Stock Market, Centrex:4567)
4-7-7 Aobadai Meguro-Ku,
Tokyo 153-0042
Japan

**Announcement of Joint Research Agreement to be Concluded
with the National Institute on Aging (NIA)**

- Development of new treatment using eMIP/ECI301
in combination with DNA cancer vaccine –

Effector Cell Institute (ECI) was recently approached by the National Institute on Aging^{*1} (NIA), a division of the United States National Institutes of Health^{*2} (NIH), and requested to enter a joint research agreement related to the application of eMIP/ECI301, an anticancer drug medicine currently being developed at ECI. At a board meeting held by ECI today, the decision was made to sign and enter into a joint research contract.

NIA is developing a DNA cancer vaccine^{*3} with enhanced therapeutic efficacy *in vivo*. The efficacy of the vaccine for cancer treatment has been confirmed in preclinical studies and preparations are being made to begin clinical testing.

ECI is developing eMIP/ECI301, an anticancer medicine. In preclinical studies, it has shown a unique treatment characteristic known as the abscopal effect^{*4}, in which the treatment effects on the tumor are transmitted to other tumors in the body. Preparations to conduct clinical testing related to this development project are underway at a national medical research organization in USA.

Since the NIA has shown interest in the above-mentioned ECI development project, after signing the joint research agreement, it is planned to conduct preclinical studies to investigate the combined effect of using eMIP/ECI301 to enhance the effect of the DNA cancer vaccine. One of the original effects of eMIP/ECI301 is that it works to induce various white blood cells, and it is anticipated that this application will result in the development of new cancer treatments. If the project proceeds smoothly, in addition to use in ECI's development projects, it is possible that eMIP/ECI301 will be used to enhance a wide variety of cancer vaccines. The joint research agreement does not require ECI to provide any funding to the NIA.

[Explanation of Terms]

*¹ National Institute on Aging (NIA)

Research center focusing mainly on diseases that occur related to aging, such as Alzheimer, cancer, osteoporosis, arteriosclerosis and hypertrophic arthritis.

Established in 1974, in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.

*² National Institutes of Health (NIH)

World's largest medical research organization

(Researchers/Employees: Approx. 18,000; 2007 Budget: Approx. 3 trillion yen)

Consists of 27 research facilities and centers such as the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and NIA.

Established in 1887, in Bethesda, Maryland, U.S.A.

*³ DNA Cancer Vaccine

A vaccine that is a combination of antigen genes that appear specifically in cancer cells, and genes that educate the human immune system. It is anticipated to have the treatment effect of destroying cancer cells, which contain the target antigen, using the immune system (by induction of cytotoxic T lymphocytes).

*⁴ Abscopal Effect

The effect where cancerous tissue that is clearly distant from the targeted tissue shrinks or disappears during radiation treatment. It is only rarely observed in clinical settings. However, in preclinical tests with eMIP/ECI301, the induction of this effect has been observed repeatedly.

(Contacts for inquiries or additional information)

Effector Cell Institute, Inc

Administrative Department

Tel: +81-3-5452-0662(DID) Fax: +81-3-5452-0663

<http://www.effectorcell.co.jp>