

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

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## **ECI Enters into a Sponsored Research Agreement with L'Oréal**

Effector Cell Institute, Inc (ECI) is pleased to announce that the company's board of directors has today decided to accept the request for research on human hair generation from L'Oréal, France, and has come to an agreement with the company.

### 1. Overview of the Sponsored Research Agreement

We, ECI, are specialists in analysis of cellular functions and our proprietary cellular assay technology (TAXIScan™ technology<sup>\*1</sup>) attracts a good deal of pharmaceutical companies' attention throughout the world because it enables cellular chemotactic measurements and various other in depth analyses on cell functions using extremely small sample quantities. We have decided to accept the request for research using the TAXIScan™ technology, received from L'Oréal, France, one of the global leaders in the cosmetic industry, with a view to development of a joint research collaboration in the future.

Under this agreement, ECI will receive agreed research funds from L'Oréal for establishment of a testing system required for the commissioned research and collection of assay data.

### 2. Description of the Sponsored Research

- (1) Effective period of agreement: Five months from June 1 to October 31, 2008
- (2) Scope: Measurements and assay of cellular functions related to human hair generation

### 3. A brief corporate profile of L'Oréal is given below for reader's information:

- (1) Consolidated sales FY2006: Approx. 2,500 billion yen
- (2) Employees: Approx. 60,000 (Consolidated base)
- (3) Headquarters: Clichy, France

### 4. Expected Results and Effects

There is no impact of this agreement on the company's business outlook for this financial year.

[Glossary]

\*1: TAXIScan™ technology

TAXIScan™ technology is ECI's unique, core technology for analyzing cellular functions that supports the company's cell-based drug discovery (CDD) activities. Using this proprietary technology, ECI is doing much for the progress of personalized medicine, including the discovery of new biomarkers\*2 useful for new drug development through the collaboration agreement concluded with AstraZeneca Plc., UK, one of the leading global pharmaceutical companies.

The TAXIScan™ technology is also used for the development of our cytoanalyzers, which are being used by various research organizations at home and abroad and have won a high international reputation.

\*2: Biomarker

A biomarker is any kind of substance derived from living organisms (including cells), contained in urine or blood, which can become a quantitative indicator (=marker) of a particular biological change or process in an organism. For example, albumin contained in the urine and measured for assay of the kidney function, and GPT (glutamic-pyruvic transaminase) and GOT (glutamic-oxaloacetic transaminase) contained in the blood, which are indicators of the liver function, are well-known biomarkers.

A biomarker quantitatively changes in correlation with a particular disease state or a particular state of an organism (body). Therefore, such a particular disease can be identified or an effective therapeutic method can be established by objective measurement and evaluation of the biomarker.

(Contacts for inquiries or additional information)

Effector Cell Institute, Inc Administrative Department Tel: +81-3-5452-0662(DID) Fax: +81-3-5452-0663 <a href="http://www.effectorcell.co.jp">http://www.effectorcell.co.jp</a>
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