

September 30, 2010

Interprotein and LegoChem Biosciences Sign Collaboration Agreement to Develop VEGF Inhibitor to Treat Solid Tumors

Osaka, Japan | Daejeon, Korea- Interprotein Corporation and LegoChem Biosciences, Inc. proudly announce today that they have signed a collaboration agreement on Interprotein's VEGF inhibitor programme for further optimization and the development of novel, orally active drugs to replace current anti-VEGF antibody therapies for the treatment of various solid tumors by suppressing tumor angiogenesis -.

Interprotein has been engaged in drug discovery research of orally available small molecule VEGF inhibitors that modulate interaction between VEGF and VEGF receptors, without kinase activity for therapy of many kinds of advanced cancers, adjuvant therapies and prevention of metastasis. Bevacizumab is inhibiting the binding of VEGF-A, one of four VEGF (A, B, C and D), to VEGFR. But current Interprotein's lead compound inhibits the binding of not only VEGF-A but also -C and -D to VEGFR, potentially providing greater inhibition of tumor angiogenesis through VEGF pathway. Oral bioavailability combined with more broad inhibition enables the small molecule VEGF inhibitor to replace current antibody therapies and broaden its indications.

Mr. Masato Hosoda, President and CEO of Interprotein, said: "We are excited about the collaboration with LegoChem Biosciences, which has an innovative position in drug discovery and development and a proven track record in progressing drug candidates into development. Monoclonal VEGF antibody product, Bevacizumab evidences that the inhibition of VEGF-A is significantly effective in tumor angiogenesis. What is more, our VEGF inhibitory compounds act on VEGF-A, -C and -D, therefore the programme creates value in the combination with conventional chemotherapy more than Bevacizumab combined with conventional chemotherapy. We believe that orally available drugs have the potential to supersede antibody therapy. The collaboration with LegoChem Biosciences will prove that small molecule compounds may have the potential to inhibit such protein-protein interactions as the next major classes of drug discovery programme."

Dr. Yong Zu Kim, CEO and President, said: "We are very glad to get access to novel drug discovery platform that Interprotein has established. Our strong medicinal chemistry will expedite lead optimization processes and will take this project forward more quickly. Previously inhibition of protein-protein interaction with small molecules has been thought to be impossible or at least almost impossible. But Interprotein's novel approach has proved that modern drug design technology can pave the way to this unpaved field of drug discovery. We are happy to

work together with Interprotein and hope to broaden the collaboration base in near future.”

Interprotein is focusing on the discovery research of synthetic small-molecule protein-protein interaction (PPI) inhibitors as innovative therapeutics to meet high unmet medical needs based on *de novo* drug design.

LegoChem Biosciences(LCB) is a clinical stage leading medicinal chemistry-based biotech backed by prominent Korean venture capitals working on the discovery and development of new small molecule drugs. LCB’s current therapeutic areas include antibiotics, anticoagulants, anticancer and anti-inflammation.

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