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Patent Granted on "Pancreatic Regeneration" with Self-assembling Peptide Technology

The company hereby announces that the following patent on pancreatic regeneration, applied jointly by Okayama University and the company, has been granted in the U.S.

[Title of invention] Cell Cultivation Method and Cell Culture
[Patent number] U.S. Patent No. 8,697,438
[Patent owner] Okayama University, 3-D Matrix, Ltd.

This patent relates to the cells cultured in our self-assembling peptides. Pancreatic islets cultured in three-dimensional scaffolds of the self-assembling peptide showed to retain their functionality. Relating to this field, Dr. Naoya Kobayashi (Chairman of Okayama Saidaiji Hospital, former lecturer of Okayama University) has published results for application in clinical practice in his papers and academic conferences. This patent complements the patent regarding the method of cultivating pancreatic islets, which was announced on February 13th, 2014. The company now owns the rights to both cultivating method and cultured cells of pancreatic islets.

Maintaining physiological function of transplanted cell or tissue is one of the main issues in organ transplant. Currently, it is generally known that physiological functions of pancreatic islet cells are lost by repeated subculturing in two-dimensional (flat) culture surface. Many studies are ongoing in attempt to culture functioning pancreatic islets. The three-dimensional cultivation method covered by the above patent yields pancreatic islet cells, which can retain physiological functions much longer than those cultivated using traditional methods. This method is promising and expected to contribute greatly in establishing pancreas transplant technology for diabetes treatment.

The company will continue to promote research and development in fields of regenerative medicine using this patent. Regeneration of bone and skin are already being explored and studied currently, and efforts will be expanded to organ regeneration area to develop effective and meaningful medical products to increase our corporate value.

This patent granted does not influence the earning forecast of the company at this moment.