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**[Delayed] Announcement of launch of the comprehensive research and development project for creating the culture product kit using “ReproHepato<sup>TM</sup>: human iPS cell derived hepatocyte,” a cell product of ReproCELL Incorporated, and “PuraMatrix<sup>®</sup>,” a product of 3-D Matrix, Ltd.**

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We are pleased to inform you that our group has launched the comprehensive research and development project in collaboration with ReproCELL Incorporated. In this joint project, we explore the possibility of adopting the culture product kit containing “PuraMatrix<sup>®</sup>,” our research reagent, as a culture material recommended for “ReproHepato<sup>TM</sup>,” human iPS cell derived hepatocyte that ReproCELL has commercialized and marketed/distributed first in the world.

In the global area, our group markets “PuraMatrix<sup>®</sup>,” as a research reagent that enables cell culture in a 3D environment using the self-assembling peptide technology that Massachusetts Institute of Technology granted us the exclusive license.

On the other hand, “ReproHepato<sup>TM</sup>,” has been used to evaluate toxicity and efficacy, an important step for exploring initial substances in drug development. In 2014, “PuraMatrix<sup>®</sup>,” was listed as the cell culture material for “ReproHepato<sup>TM</sup>,” in the standard protocol. A 3D culture using “PuraMatrix<sup>®</sup>,” was compared with that using other cell culture substrata by exposing “ReproHepato<sup>TM</sup>,” to a drug in these culture environments. The drug metabolism was remarkably enhanced in a 3D culture using “PuraMatrix<sup>®</sup>.” Therefore, more efficient evaluation of toxicity and efficacy is expected. In addition, “PuraMatrix<sup>®</sup>,” is advantageous because it needs no preparation in advance and saves time on experiment.

By utilizing the above product characteristics and advantages, we make concerted effort to promote this comprehensive research and development project to create the culture product kit.

At present, this matter has no effect on the earnings forecast for the current fiscal year.