

Tokyo Medical and Dental University  
Innovation Network Corporation of Japan  
Rena Therapeutics Inc.

**Tokyo Medical and Dental University to establish an INCJ-backed venture company, Rena Therapeutics Inc.  
Applying hetroduplex oligonucleotide technology to promote ground-breaking medical innovation**

**Tokyo, August 6, 2015** – Tokyo Medical and Dental University (“TMDU”) has been supporting the ground-breaking research on hetroduplex oligonucleotide technology by Professor Takanori Yokota of the Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences, Department of Neurology and Neurological Science through support and management of strategies of intellectual property and research. Recently Innovation Network Corporation of Japan (“INCJ”) invested ¥600 million to establish Rena Therapeutics Inc. (“Rena Therapeutics”) to develop new business utilizing the hetroduplex oligonucleotide technology.

Authorizing Rena Therapeutics as its bio-venture company and as well as providing licensing of the technology, TMDU will plan joint researches with the company and allow to access to university facilities to support the company.

Nucleic-acid therapeutics has been gathering attention as the next generation bio-pharmaceutical platform following antibody therapeutics, and the research is progressing around the world. However, during attempts for its practical application, various issues have been revealed: instability in blood, difficulties to get delivered to target organs and side-effects. The hetroduplex oligonucleotide technology developed by Professor Yokota is technology to utilize double stranded DNA/RNA with molecules for proper drug delivery, and it is expected to overcome these issues.

Rena Therapeutics will develop this hetroduplex oligonucleotide technology to be a platform applicable to drug discovery researches of antisense oligo nucleotides and/or siRNAs therapies, and aims to bring the therapies to patients as quickly as possible through licensing of the technology and drug candidates to pharmaceutical companies.

To this end, in addition to its partnership with TMDU, Rena Therapeutics will collaborate with a wide range of academics and biotech companies related to nucleic acids therapeutics. Such collaborations are already being started with notable Japanese first-tier academics and biotech companies in this field.

The representative director of Rena Therapeutics is Junichi Yano, who has been contributing to the research and development of nucleic acid therapeutics in a Japanese pharmaceutical

company for many years as head of drug discovery research, general manager of R&D, and director (responsible for R&D). Rena Therapeutics will fully utilize Mr. Yano's R&D experience and his global network of nucleic acid therapeutics researchers to advance the R&D and business development.

As well as providing the initial funding for Rena Therapeutics, INCJ will also provide various supports to help their operations through with external board members and scientific advisors. Not limited to the above measures, INCJ will also assist Rena Therapeutics to contribute to the world by producing nucleic acid therapeutics that fulfill unmet medical needs (the pharmaceutical needs of patients for whom treatments have not yet to be developed) at its fastest pace, and make it a case study for biotech companies from academia.

#### **About Rena Therapeutics Inc.**

Location: 2-3-10 Kanda-Surugudai, Chiyoda, Tokyo

Representative : Junichi Yano, managing director

URL : <http://www.renatherapeutics.com/>

#### **About Innovation Network Corporation of Japan (INCJ)**

INCJ was established in July 2009 as a public-private partnership that provides financial, technological and management support for next-generation businesses. INCJ specifically supports those projects that combine technologies and varied expertise across industries and materialize open innovation. INCJ has the capacity to invest up to ¥2 trillion (approx US\$20 billion).

INCJ's management team is drawn from the private sector with diverse experience in investment, technologies and management. Through its Innovation Network Committee, INCJ assesses investment opportunities that contribute to industrial innovation in Japan in line with criteria set by the government.

#### **About Tokyo Medical and Dental University**

Location: 1-5-45 Yushima, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo

Representative: Dr. Yasuyuki Yoshizawa, president

URL : <http://www.tmd.ac.jp/>

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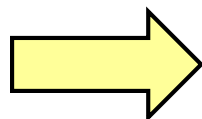
# <Appendix> INCJ to invest in Rena Therapeutics Inc., established by Tokyo Medical and Dental University to commercialize Heteroduplex Oligonucleotide Technology



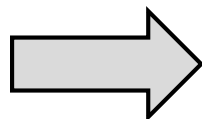
**Target:** Rena Therapeutics Inc.

**Outline:** R&D of nucleic acid medicine platform technologies based on Heteroduplex Oligonucleotide Technology

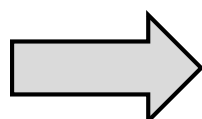
**Authorized investment:** ¥600 million (maximum)




Investment and management support




Investment



Investment

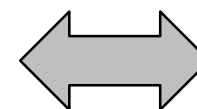


## Rena Therapeutics

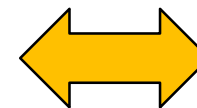
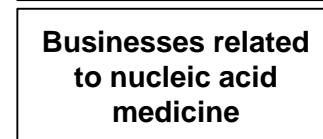


Example of heteroduplex oligonucleotide structure

Rena Therapeutics will develop the heteroduplex oligonucleotides technology to make the technology a platform applicable to drug discovery researches of nucleic acid medicines, aiming to realize the therapies as quickly as possible through providing pharmaceutical companies with the platform and new drug candidates.



Technology transfer  
Collaborative researches



Alliance  
Collaboration

- Support a biotech company to commercialize a platform technology to strengthen nucleic acid therapeutics research in Japan
- Maximize value of intellectual properties generated at academia in Japan
- Contribute to facilitate developments of any nucleic acid therapeutics in pipelines at any third parties