

# Gate Opening Summit for Innovative Drug Discovery (2024. 07. 30)

Challenges and Future Prospects for Cancer Drug Development in Japan  $\sim$  Initiatives to Overcome Drug Lag and Drug Loss  $\sim$ 

日本のがん治療薬創開発における課題と展望 ~ドラッグラグ・ドラッグロスの克服に向けた取り組み~

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# Efficiency of clinical trials in Japan still have challenges

# What is clinical trial efficiency?

Japan performance compared to other countries

- <u>Quality</u>: Compliance of Data entering, Query, deviation, etc.
- <u>Speed</u>: No. of patient enrolled in clinical trials per site/study, etc.
- <u>Cost</u>: No. of reports/site, Usage ratio of CRB, No. of sites/CRA, etc.





EFPIA / PhRMA's Clinical Trial Performance Survey

第23回 CRCと臨床試験のあり方を考える会議2023 in 岡山PhRMA/EFPIA Japan共催セミナー 日本がグローバル 試験から排除される日 ~5年間で我々は変われたのか?最悪のシナリオを回避するための意識・行動改革~ よ り引用

- ► Japanese clinical trial site are still less efficient by global standards in terms of cost.
- ► High costs are one of the barriers for EBPs in conducting clinical trials in Japan.
- Some measures are required to improve these issues, especially in non-oncology area.

(i.e. Human resource development, Central IRB, DX in clinical trials, Regulatory reforms of IRBs, etc.)

### A Drug Development Ecosystem Based on Basic Science

Targeting "Drivers" Targeting "Marks"

Mark: specifically expressed in the cancer cells, but not essential for the driver function

**Multi-modal Development** 

Single-modal Development



#### ✓Expansion of druggable target molecules

National Cancer Center Japan

 Targeting molecules specifically expressed and/or mutated in cancer cells as guiding markers

#### Single-modal to multi-modal drug development

- Developing specific inhibitors for each target is costly
- Acquired resistance is inevitable
- Functional unknown molecules are undruggable
- Combination of specific carriers and multiple payloads
- Selection of combinations for each cancer cells and tumor microenvironment

#### Concerns...

Requiring a strategic integration of both excellent biology and engineering

# *i.e.* CONVERGENCE RESEARCH

# Paradigm Shift in Cancer Therapy Development

🥺 National Cancer Center Japan

The Cancer Therapy Development system should be changed from "Orchestra" (Fixed Team and well-planned Procedure) to "Jazz" (Diverse and Agile Procedure).

#### "Orchestra" (ex. Pharma) model



• All functions required for development are supplied in one company.

Effective for "Single modality to multi-targets" sequential development

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As drug development shifts to **"Multiple modalities to a single target," (ex. P53, RAS, etc.)** the "Orchestra" model does not function well.

### "Jazz" (ex. Startups Eco System) model



This model needs a coordinator to work efficiently. Thus, ecosystems have centered around Accelerators/Incubators.

• Flexible and speedy development can be conducted simultaneously for various types of seeds (startups)

#### Horizontal and synchronized development system targeting multiple targets in diverse disease fields

**Development of Ecosystem Model around Accelerators/Incubators** 



- One-stop services from Basic Science  $\rightarrow$  Manufacturing  $\rightarrow$  Clinical Development
- Accelerator/Incubator-centered ecosystem for Japanese-style company creation and drug development
- A global ecosystem in collaboration with overseas accelerators

# References

# National Cancer Center (NCC) capability for FIH

# FIH trials in NCC 2021-2023 FY (new contract)



#### The number of FIH trials contracted is increasing, although it varies from year to year. 40 trials were conducted by the NCC in FY2023.



The number of clients is about the same for foreign and domestic companies, or slightly more foreign-owned. (Considering the number of products developed, the number of foreign-owned FIHs is still low in Japan).



FIH trials have mostly participated in simultaneous global development (Global-FIH) in recent years, and FIH is rarely initiated in Japan alone.



The novel drugs in which Japan participates are varied, but the development of small molecule is still very active. On the other hand, the development of biologics, which are highly novel, is still less active in Japan.

# Acceleration of drug lag and loss is due to <u>delays in responding to</u> <u>development of new modalities</u>, including non-cancer drugs ①

- As of March 2023, 86 drugs that have been approved in Europe and the U.S. have not been developed yet in Japan (60.1% (86/143) of unapproved drugs)
- Analysis of 86 products whose development in Japan has yet to initiate: high proportion of venture(emerging biopharma)-originated, orphan, and paediatrics.

Drug lag/loss status in Japan, U.S., Europe (number of items)

Breakdown of drugs not yet developed in Japan

	approved		unapproved	Not yet started Break-down		venture-	orphan	pediatric	С
	total	total	Under- development		developed	drug	drug	_	
US	136	7	3	4		► <b>56</b> %	47%	37%	
Furana	86	57	26	21		48*	40*	32* *nı	umber of items
Luiope	80	51	20	31		Out of the 86 drugs, 14 drugs (16%) were neither developed by		oped by	
Japan	0	143	57	86		venture companies nor designated as orphan or pediatric drugs.			

Source: Published information from PMDA, FDA, and EMA, prepared by the Pharmaceutical and Industrial Policy Research Institute based on tomorrow's new drugs (Technomic Co., Ltd.), and tabulated by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. %1:Of the NMEs approved in Europe and the United States in 2016-2020, those not approved in Japan as of the end of 2022 are counted as unapproved.

2:As of March 2023, items for which no development information was available are counted as undeveloped products in Japan.
3:Figures are totaled for development companies with sales of less than US\$500 million within 30 years of approval in Europeand the U.S.

%4:Compiled as orphans for items designated as orphan drugs by the time of approval in Europe and the U.S. %5:2022 Calculated based on pediatric products approved for pediatric use in Europe and the U.S.

第2回 創薬力の向上により国民に最新の医薬品を迅速に届けるための構想会議資料3改変(藤原氏資料)

https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/souyakuryoku/dai2/gijisidai.html

Adapted from "Reference Material 4 of the 1st Meeting of the Committee on Regulatory Measures for Strengthening Drug Discovery Capabilities and Securing Stable Supply" implemented by the Pharmaceutical and Environmental Health Bureau, MHLW

# Acceleration of drug lag and loss is due to <u>delays in responding to</u> <u>development of new modalities</u>, including non-cancer drugs 2

#### Among late-stage new modalities, 75% have not started clinical development in Japan



Modality	Pharmaceutical company	Pipeline			
Cell therapy	BrainStorm Cell Therapeutics Lonza, Capricor Therapeutics	debamestrocel XAP-1002			
Nucleic acid drug	Takeda, Arrowhead Pharmaceuticals AstraZeneca, Ionis Pharmaceuticals	fazirsiran eplontersen			
Gene therapy	Ultragenyx Pharmaceutical CRISPR Therapeutics, Vertex Pharmaceuticals 	pariglasgene brecaparvovec exagamglogene autotemcel 			
Antibody conjugate drug	Ambrx Biopharma MacroGenics	anvatabart opadotin vobramitamab duocarmazine			
Bi-specific Ab	Zymeworks, Jazz Pharmaceutical Compass Therapeutics	zanidatamab CTX-009			
Cell therapy	AiVita Biomedical SOTIO, Therapeutic Solutions	AVGBM-01 stapuldencel-T			
Nucleic acid therapeutics	AIM Immuno Tech Geron	rintatolimod imetelstat			
Gene therapy	Candel Therapeutics Trizell	aglatimagene besadenovec nadofaragene firadenovec			
Genetically engineered cell therapy	Angiocrine Bioscience Iovance Biotherapeutics	AB-205 lifileucel			
Oncolytic virus	Genelux 	olvimulogene nanivacirepvec			



Categorized by disease, of a new modality with 102 pipelines that is currently in Phase 3 trials or under regulatory review in the US and Europe but has yet to initiate clinical development in Japan.

The current development status in Japan of 137 novel modality drugs that are in Phase 3 clinical trials or under regulatory review in global markets as of July 2023

8

第2回 創薬力の向上により国民に最新の医薬品を迅速に届けるための構想会議資料3 (藤原氏資料)

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# Biopharmaceutical development requires a new clinical trial system under government support and guarantees

- Necessities for special facilities to comply with domestic laws and regulations that are different from conventional clinical trial regulations.
- Due to the need for coordination with multiple ministries, the clinical trial initiation process becomes complex and time-consuming.

# Gene and Regenerative Medicine (Cartagena law)



- Vaccinia virus: zoonotic disease
- Vaccines and antibody for infectious diseases of livestock⇔simultaneously control
- Zika virus and Herpes virus

# Radio-ligand drug (RI law)



- Supply system (engineering, physics) Production, Transportation system
- Safety Management (Materials Engineering)
- Therapeutic Optimization for theranostics (Physical/Radial/Biological/Technical)
- Radioactive waste disposal

# Australia offers the essential elements for success to any Emerging Biopharma(EBP): Spe financial benefits, globally accepted quality data



\* CTN: Clinical Trial Notification, IND: Investigational New Drug, IB: Investigator Brochure, PICF: Participant Information and Consent Form, FDA: Food and Drug Administration, EMA: European Medicines Agency, KOL: Key Opinion Leader

#### In Australia, the government is promoting clinical development as a national policy (supporting start-up companies)

- Quality medical research infrastructure, a skilled workforce and world-class healthcare system
- An efficient regulatory pathway and compliance with high international standards for data
- Intellectual property, ranked 11th most secure in the world
- An ethnically diverse, English-speaking population and close proximity to Asia

Australia is a leading global destination

for early phase trials

\* FIH: First In Human