October 30, 2025

To our stakeholders:

Company name: DKS Co. Ltd.
Representative: YAMAJI Naoki, President & CEO
(Securities code: 4461
Tokyo Stock Exchange Prime Market)
Contact: ITO Yoko
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Notice Concerning the Commencement of Joint Research with Kyoto University

DKS Co. Ltd. (Head office: Kyoto, Kyoto Prefecture; President & CEO: YAMAJI Naoki; hereinafter "DKS") hereby announces the commencement of a joint research project (hereinafter "the Joint Research") with Kyoto University in preparation for creating novel drugs for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases.

In the Joint Research, we will evaluate the efficacy of compounds we created and elucidate their mechanisms of action, in collaboration with a Kyoto University group led by Program-Specific Professor TAKAHASHI Ryosuke. In addition, with the commencement of the Joint Research, we will begin using the shared-use research facility "Share Lab EVER SHIMOGAMO," operated by EVER Inc. (President & CEO: TSUJI Kohki; Advisor: Program-Specific Associate Professor, MATSUZAWA Shu-ichi, Kyoto University).

For details, please refer to the attached press release.

DKS will contribute to extending healthy life expectancy and improving quality of life (QOL) by leveraging the synthesis and evaluation technologies it has cultivated over many years.

There will be no change to the earnings forecast for the fiscal year ending March 2026 as a result of these research results.

化学は世界を楽しくする。
第一工業製薬

NEWS RELEASE

October 30, 2025

To our stakeholders

DKS Co. Ltd.

Notice Concerning Commencement of Joint Research with Kyoto University to Develop Novel Drugs for Treatment of Neurodegenerative Diseases

DKS Co. Ltd. (Head office: Kyoto, Kyoto Prefecture; President & CEO: YAMAJI Naoki; hereinafter "DKS") hereby announces that it has entered into a joint research (hereinafter "the Joint Research") agreement with Kyoto University in preparation to develop novel drugs, for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases using our compounds. The Joint Research will evaluate drug efficacy and elucidate the mechanisms of action for neurodegenerative diseases.

It is said that multiple system atrophy, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, and other neurodegenerative diseases are caused by the accumulation of specific substances within the brain. The number of patients with such diseases continues to increase every year, and it is projected that by 2050, there will be 25.2 million patients[1] with Parkinson's disease and 139 million patients[2] with Alzheimer's disease. However, treatment methods have yet to be established for these diseases, and symptomatic therapy is currently the primary approach.

The Joint Research aims to evaluate the efficacy of compounds created by DKS for neurodegenerative diseases, and elucidate their mechanisms of action, in collaboration with Program-Specific Professor TAKAHASHI Ryosuke of Kyoto University. Professor Takahashi has extensive clinical experience and research achievements in the field of neurodegenerative diseases. For example, he served as the principal investigator in a physician-initiated clinical trial for the treatment of Parkinson's disease using dopamine-producing neural pluripotent stem cells derived from iPS cells. This trial yielded research results suggesting both safety and efficacy, and the findings were published in the international academic journal "Nature" in April 2025. We are aiming to provide treatment, a new option distinct from existing symptomatic therapy.

In addition, upon commencing the Joint Research, we will begin using the shared-use research facility "Share Lab EVER SHIMOGAMO," operated by EVER Inc. (President & CEO: TSUJI Kohki, hereinafter "EVER"). Making use of this facility will expand our testing environment and accelerate our research efforts, as well as further promote our research activities by strengthening collaboration with experts, starting with Program-Specific Associate Professor MATSUZAWA Shu-ichi of Kyoto University, who serves as EVER's Advisor.

DKS will work to extend healthy life expectancy and improve quality of life (QOL) by leveraging the synthesis and evaluation technologies it has cultivated over many years.

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[1] BMJ 2025;388:e080952 doi: https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj-2024-080952 (Published 05 March 2025)

[2] Alzheimer's Disease International. (n.d.). *Dementia statistics*. Retrieved October 21, 2025, from https://www.alzint.org/about/dementia-facts-figures/dementia-statistics/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

TAKAHASHI Ryosuke, Program-Specific Professor, Kyoto University

Main research areas: Elucidation of the molecular mechanisms underlying neurodegenerative diseases, particularly Parkinson's disease and related disorders, and development of novel treatments.

Background

March 1983	Graduated from Faculty of Medicine, Kyoto University
July 1999 – December 2004	Laboratory Head, Motor Neuron Degeneration Team, Brain Science Institute, RIKEN
January 2005 – March 2024	Professor, Department of Neurology, Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University
May 2014 – May 2018	President, Japanese Society of Neurology
January 2023 – March 2025	Representative, Union of Brain Science Associations in Japan
October 2023	Member of the Science Council of Japan, 26th Term
April 1, 2024	Director, Life and Medical Sciences Division, Kyoto University Research Administration Center; Program-Specific Professor, Department of Therapeutics for Multiple System Atrophy, Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University
January 1, 2025	Senior Advisor, Kyoto University Office of Research Acceleration; Program-Specific Professor, Department of Therapeutics for Multiple System Atrophy, Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University (Title/role changes due to organizational restructuring)

MATSUZAWA Shu-ichi, Program-Specific Associate Professor, Kyoto University

Main research areas: Development of novel treatments for neurodegenerative diseases, particularly multiple system atrophy and Parkinson's disease

Background

March 1989	Graduated from School of Science, Hokkaido University
March 1991	Completed Master's Program in Chemistry, Hokkaido University
April 1991 – July 1995	Research Associate, Research Section of Biochemistry, Institute of Immunological Science, Hokkaido University
June 1995	Doctor of Science, Graduate School of Science, Hokkaido University
August 1995 – May 2001	Postdoctoral Fellow, Sanford Burnham Prebys
June 2001 – May 2002	Staff Scientist, Sanford Burnham Prebys
June 2002 – October 2006	Research Assistant Professor, Sanford Burnham Prebys
November 2006 – February 2009	Assistant Professor, Sanford Burnham Prebys
March 2009 – March 2016	Senior Staff Scientist/Research Assistant Professor, Sanford Burnham Prebys
April 2016 – September 2023	Program-Specific Associate Professor, Department of Neurology, Kyoto University Hospital
October 2023 –	Program-Specific Associate Professor, Department of Therapeutics for Multiple System Atrophy, Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University
November 2023 –	Advisor, EVER Inc.

EVER Inc.'s Share Lab EVER SHIMOGAMO

Share Lab EVER SHIMOGAMO, located in Shimogamo, Sakyo-ku, adjacent to Kyoto University and Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine, is a shared wet lab compliant with P2/BSL-2 standards and available 24 hours a day. The lab is fully equipped with shared instruments for research in cell culture, molecular biology, regenerative medicine, and other fields, allowing users to begin experiments without preparatory work. This facility serves as a base for university spin-offs, startups, and R&D departments of large corporations that are engaged in drug discovery, regenerative medicine, and small molecule research, allowing them to conduct R&D while minimizing safety management costs and startup time.

～EVER SHIMOGAMO～

Laboratory

First-floor communal space

Inquiries

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