

June 16, 2023

MPH was Selected for AMED's Strengthening Program for Pharmaceutical Startup Ecosystem Initiative

Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corporation (Head Office: Chuo-ku, Osaka; Representative Director: Akihiro Tsujimura; hereinafter, "MTPC"), a member of the Mitsubishi Chemical Group, announced today that MP Healthcare Venture Management (hereinafter, "MPH"), the corporate venture capital (CVC) of MTPC, was selected as a certified venture capital (certified VC) of Strengthening Program for the Pharmaceutical Startup Ecosystem Initiative. This program is implemented by the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (hereinafter, "AMED"), and MPH entered into an agreement with AMED on June 16, 2023. This is the first time for a major domestic pharmaceutical company's CVC to be selected.

The development of new drugs requires a significant amount of funding. In Japan, it is challenging for drug discovery startup companies to secure the necessary development funds compared to Europe and the United States. AMED has initiated this project to address the shortage of large-scale development funds for startup companies. AMED certifies venture capital firms that provide funding and hands-on support for drug commercialization and supports startup companies on the condition that the certificated VC provides the funding.

MPH invests in and supports the activities of start-ups in Japan, the United States, and Europe that are engaged in the development of innovative therapies, primarily focusing on neurology, immuno-inflammation, and oncology. Since 2021, MPH has been investing in Liberothera Co., Ltd. and Edit Force, Inc. which are drug discovery startup companies in Japan.

Recognizing the importance of leveraging its development experience through investments in promising start-ups, particularly in the United States and Europe, to strengthen the pharmaceutical startup ecosystem in Japan, MPH applied to become a certified VC for this project. As a result of the review conducted by AMED, MPH has been selected.

Over the course of the 2-year contract period, MPH will collaborate with promising drug discovery ventures in Japan to strive for selection in this project. If selected, AMED will provide funding for non-clinical studies, Phase 1, Phase 2 and exploratory clinical studies conducted by the venture companies up to twice the amount of MPH's investment.

Through this project, MTPC group aims to contribute to strengthening the pharmaceutical ecosystem in Japan and provide hope to all those facing illness.

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- **For further information about the Strengthening Program for Pharmaceutical Startup Ecosystem Initiative, please refer to the public disclosure on AMED's website (Japanese only).**

<https://www.amed.go.jp/program/list/19/02/005.html>

- **About MP Healthcare Venture Management (MP Healthcare Venture Management, Inc.)**

MPH is based in Boston, U.S. and collaborates with healthcare entrepreneurs and investors to support the development of new technologies and therapies. It primarily invests in new therapeutic agents based on cutting-edge science, and seed and early stage biotechnology companies developing platform technologies in Japan, the United States, and Europe. Current areas of therapeutic interest include neurodegenerative, immunologic, oncology and rare diseases. MPH is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma America, Inc., which, in turn, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of MTPC. For more information, including investment performance to date, please visit <https://www.mp-healthcare.com/>.