

April 30, 2021
Bonac Corporation

Studies in Development of Nucleic Acid Technology-Based COVID-19 Treatment to Gain Momentum with Government Subsidy

Bonac Corporation (“Bonac”; HQ: Kurume City, Fukuoka; CEO: Hirotake Hayashi) is pleased to announce that it has signed a research and development agreement with Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED) in the development of a COVID-19 treatment medicine. The signing follows Bonac’s selection by AMED as a government subsidy CiCLE (Cyclic Innovation for Clinical Empowerment) recipient.

The support deriving from CiCLE will further accelerate Bonac’s research and development of COVID-19 therapeutics using its proprietary nucleic acid technology, driving forward Bonac’s next R&D efforts in the development of lead compounds that inhibit the viral replication of SARS-CoV-2. Specifically, the agreement with AMED will focus on non-clinical studies of our treatment compounds including pharmacodynamics, GLP toxicity, and pharmacokinetics, as well as Phase I and II exploratory clinical studies.

In spring 2020, Bonac entered a cooperative agreement with Fukuoka Prefecture and Kurume City to hasten its effort in the identification and development of lead compounds for potential treatment of COVID-19 patients. The core technology of such potential treatment involves Bonac’s RNA interference technology derived from its proprietary nucleic acid drug platform. Joint research with the Fukuoka Institute of Health and Environmental Sciences, a public health organization experienced in viral research with access to the latest data and knowledge of infectious diseases, began on May 18, 2020.

Nagasaki University and Tokyo Medical University have come on board also as collaborators.

Established in 2010, Bonac has developed through its R&D of proprietary platform technology in nucleic acid medicine. To date, the biotech venture has been working on the development of drugs in the area of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and other respiratory diseases. In such endeavors, it focuses on drug delivery technology, specifically the use of inhalers to minimize patient side effects. The company is also working on the development of nucleic acid medicines for viruses such as hepatitis.

Bonac is pursuing rapid R&D with the aim of delivering innovative nucleic acid medicines for treatment of viral respiratory infections around the world.

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