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Press Release



September 28, 2022

Shonan Health Innovation Park

Shonan iPark Announces Finalists of its Second Incubation Program: “Japan Innovation Bloom GRANT CALL 2022”

Shonan Health Innovation Park (“Shonan iPark”) today announced the nine teams (individuals) that have made it through the first screening round of the “Japan Innovation Bloom GRANT CALL 2022”. Following the application deadline on July 31, these teams have been selected to move forward as finalists, where they will be offered mentoring¹ by Johnson & Johnson Innovation (“JJI”),² Janssen Research & Development, LLC,³ and Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited (“Takeda”) to help further their research proposals in preparation for the final selection round. The awardees are expected to be announced this December.

Following a successful first grant call in 2020, the “Japan Innovation Bloom GRANT CALL 2022” was continued this year as a collaborative effort between the abovementioned companies to identify and nurture innovative ideas and technologies towards commercialization. From May 12 to July 31, Japan-based start-ups, innovators, academia, universities, institutions and hospitals were invited to submit their science or technology across four fields: renal cell carcinoma, cancer cell therapy, oncology, and neuroscience.

Up to five awardees may go on to receive up to three years of research grant funding, mentorship and coaching from experts at the organizing companies, as well as free-of-charge use or membership of Shonan iPark’s research incubation facilities.

List of finalists

Renal cell carcinoma

- Makoto Kurano, Associate Professor, Department of Clinical Laboratory Medicine, The University of Tokyo
- Yuki Shimahara, Chief Operating Officer, LPIXEL Inc.
- Katsuya Yamada, Chief Medical Officer, ORBIO Corporation / Professor (specially appointed), Department of Molecular Transport, Hirosaki University Graduate School of Medicine
- Yukoh Nakazaki, R&D Director, Research Promotion Business Group, aiwell Inc.

Cancer cell therapy

- Kiyotaka Shiba, Project Researcher, Cancer Institute, Japanese Foundation for Cancer Research

Oncology

- Horacio Cabral, Associate Professor, Department of Bioengineering, Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo
- Takatoshi Soga, Senior Vice President, Research, United Immunity, Co., Ltd.

Neuroscience

- Fumihiro Sugawa, CEO, aceRNA Technologies Co., Ltd.
- Hiroyuki Kabayama, CEO, STAND Therapeutics Co., Ltd.

Overview of “Japan Innovation Bloom GRANT CALL 2022” Incubation Program

Co-hosted by: Shonan iPark
JJI
Janssen Research & Development, LLC
Takeda

Open to: Venture companies and academia

Research areas: Renal cell carcinoma, cancer cell therapy, oncology, neuroscience

Applications: May 12 - July 31, 2022

Screening process:

- 1) First round (document screening): August to early September
- 2) Mentoring: September to around November
- 3) Final presentation and judging (either online or at Shonan iPark): around December

Winner announcement: December 2022

Award winners' benefits:

- Opportunities to sign research collaboration agreements with either Janssen Research & Development, LLC or Takeda
- Research funding (10 million yen per year in a model case) and mentoring and coaching (up to 3 years) under the above joint research agreement
- Either free-of-charge use of Shonan iPark's research facilities, or free membership during the duration of the above research collaboration agreement
- Up to five teams (individuals) selected

For more information, please visit:

https://www.shonan-health-innovation-park.com/499fc7/siteassets/pdfs/news/20220513-news-release-japan-innovation-bloom-grant-call-2022_eng.pdf

1. Mentors will be assigned to applicants that have passed the initial screening to provide advice and support research proposals from a business perspective with a goal of winning the award together. The main objective of this program is to help applicants' research succeed by offering long-term R&D know-how beyond the selection process.

2. Division of Johnson & Johnson (China) Investment Ltd.

3. One of the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson

About Shonan Health Innovation Park (Shonan iPark)

Shonan iPark is a science park founded in April 2018 by a pharmaceutical company. It convenes private and public sector organizations and academic institutions that widely range in terms of business type and scale and aims to be a space where health innovation can be accelerated. More than 2,000 employees (as of September 1, 2022) from more than 150 pharmaceutical, next-generation medicine, AI, venture capital, and government-related companies and organizations together form an ecosystem to enable such innovation.

Visit our website here: <https://www.shonan-health-innovation-park.com/en>

Click [here](#) for the latest residents/member companies and organizations of Shonan iPark.

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