

This is an English translation of press release issued by Shonan Health Innovation Park in Japanese at 3pm JST on July 21, 2020 and is provided for reference purposes.

# Press Release



July 21, 2020

## **iPark Establishes “Japan VC Consortium”**

*Venture Capital Consortium Targets Accelerated Investment in Japan’s Life Science Sector*

---

- **Participated by companies including Takeda Ventures, Inc., Catalys Pacific, Strategic Intelligence Inc., and KEIRETSU FORUM to establish efficient management structure.**
- **Dr. Garry A. Neil, former Chairman of the PhRMA Science and Regulatory Executive Committee to be inaugural meeting guest speaker.**

Shonan Health Innovation Park (iPark) announced today the launch of “Japan VC Consortium”, a collaboration to energize investment in Japan’s life sciences and established under an efficient management structure comprising of companies including Takeda Ventures, Inc., Catalys Pacific, Strategic Intelligence Inc., and KEIRETSU FORUM.

In the first month since the consortium was announced on June 10, 2020, it has been joined by Takeda Ventures, Inc., Catalys Pacific, pharmaceutical companies and venture capitalists (henceforth ‘VC’), and corporate venture capitals (henceforth ‘CVC’). iPark will serve as the facilitator in driving the Consortium’s operation, and will host monthly online meetings, as well as provide opportunities for member companies to exchange insights. Strategic Intelligence Inc. and KEIRETSU FORUM will participate as advisors and the consortium remains open for new members to join after this official launch.

The Consortium’s inaugural meeting will be held on July 29 with Dr. Garry A. Neil, former Chairman of the PhRMA Science and Regulatory Executive Committee participating as guest speaker.

Dr. Garry A. Neil said, “I’m excited to witness the conception of the Japan VC Consortium - the first of its kind in Japan - and take great interest in the initiative. The assembly of individual VCs and CVCs will accelerate investment in the Japanese life science industry, and I’m hopeful that the consortium will contribute to industry growth.”

Toshio Fujimoto, iPark’s General Manager added, “The Japan VC Consortium will be discussing

investment risks in bio fields prior to competition in order to build a network that fosters sound judgement in investment. I hope that the consortium will contribute to stimulating investment in venture companies in Japan.”

### **Japan VC Consortium Inaugural Meeting Overview**

[Note: Open to members only]

**Date:** Wednesday, July 29, 2020

**Time:** 10:00 – 12:00 (1 hour lecture, 1 hour discussion)

**Theme:** Reinventing the Future of Life Sciences

**Speaker:** Dr. Garry A. Neil, former Chairman, Science and Regulatory Executive Committee, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)

### **About Japan VC Consortium**

**Representative:** Takatoshi Kuno,

Head of Commercial & Business Development, Shonan Health Innovation Park

**First Phase:** July 21, 2020 – July 20, 2021

**Objective:** To provide a platform for VCs and CVCs to collectively engage in life science investments; boost the overall capabilities of member companies; and stimulate risk investments by:

- Implementing projects such as information gathering and pitch events
- Identifying entrepreneur candidates; creating and fostering new VCs

**Number of companies:** A maximum of 20 VCs and CVCs (membership renewed annually)

[Note: New members welcome after the launch]

**Annual membership fee:** 1 million JPY

**Email inquiries:** [shonan-health-innovation-park@takeda.com](mailto:shonan-health-innovation-park@takeda.com) (Attn: Takatoshi Kuno)

### **Japan VC Consortium Background**

The investment market for Japan's life science sector is comparatively smaller than other regions of the world. In 2019, total investment for the sector in Japan stood at USD 700 million, amounting to only 3% of the USD 22 billion invested in the US market.\* Furthermore, horizontal relationships between VCs and CVCs have been weak compared to other regions, stifling bold risk investments.

iPark founded this consortium to break this mold and proactively encourage relations between VCs and CVCs by providing an interactive platform where participants can enhance their investment know-how before investing. The consortium's ultimate goal is to accelerate Japanese healthcare innovation by fostering a culture and environment that enables bold and speedy investments.

\* Source: PitchBook: Venture Capital, Private Equity and M&A Database

Press Contact:

iPark Office Communication Attn: Keiko Takizawa, Haruka Hibino  
e-mail : [smb.iParkcommunication@takeda.com](mailto:smb.iParkcommunication@takeda.com)