

October 6th, 2020

Shonan iPark Commences “3rd Shonan Meeting”, Focusing on Perinatal Depression

- Janssen Pharmaceutical K.K. becomes sole sponsor.
- Eight companies join and begin focused discussions.

Shonan Health Innovation Park (Shonan iPark) announced today the start of the 3rd Shonan Meeting. This term will focus on resolving social issues concerning perinatal depression, under sole sponsorship by Janssen Pharmaceutical K.K., one of the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, and joined by eight companies: Aska Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., Aflac Life Insurance Japan Ltd., MTI Ltd., Gunze Limited, Genequest Inc., Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corporation, IBM Japan Ltd. and Hyper Cube Ltd.

The Shonan Meeting began in 2018 as a consortium of private-sector companies seeking to create businesses for pre-symptomatic conditions. Facilitated by Shonan iPark and supported by Kanagawa Prefecture (ME-BYO Industry Research Group), Fujisawa City, and Kamakura City, the 1st term (November 2018 - March 2019) saw eight companies combine efforts to address middle-aged male patients with metabolic syndrome. The 2nd term (July - November 2019), saw four companies hold focused discussions on building business models to develop a society that better accommodates dementia. Participating companies are now considering ways to implement ideas conceived at the consortium in society. Together with Janssen, Shonan iPark identified critical social issues that the Shonan Meeting should address and selected participating companies to establish the 3rd Shonan Meeting.

Overview of 3rd Shonan Meeting

Duration: October 2020 - February 2021 (five meetings in total)
Hosted by: Shonan iPark
Sponsored by: Janssen
Supported by: Kanagawa Prefecture (ME-BYO Industry Research Group), Kamakura City, Fujisawa City
Theme: Perinatal depression
Eight participants: Aska Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., Aflac Life Insurance Japan Ltd., MTI Ltd., Gunze Limited, Genequest Inc., Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corporation, IBM Japan Ltd., Hyper Cube Ltd.

IBM Japan Ltd., MTI Ltd., Aska Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corporation, Aflac Life Insurance Japan Ltd., Gunze Limited, Hyper Cube Ltd., Genequest Inc.

About perinatal depression

- Perinatal depression is a condition experienced by patients worldwide, affecting 10 to 15% of women with children and often occurs within one year after childbirth. Depressive symptoms assessed using the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS) are this first step toward diagnosing postpartum depression. Characteristic symptoms include depressed mood, lethargy, loss of pleasure, excessive fatigue, strong anxiety, and difficulties in sleeping.
- In Japan, the highest cause of death among perinatal women is suicide from perinatal depression (102 out of 357 total deaths during 2015-2016).
- Women who suffer from perinatal depression are at increased risk of obstetric and birth complications, including premature birth and delivering infants of low birth weight¹.

Toshio Fujimoto, General Manager, Shonan iPark said, “The Shonan Meeting has previously addressed important social issues such as metabolic syndrome and dementia. For this term, perinatal depression is a critical social issue that needs to be resolved to enable a society where mother and child can live healthily. We look forward to developing solutions together with the program’s sponsor Janssen, eight participating companies, and members of the municipality.”

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 workers (as of September 2020) from over 100 pharmaceutical, next-generation medicine, AI, venture capital, and government-related companies and organizations together form an ecosystem to enable such innovation.

<https://www.shonan-health-innovation-park.com/>

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