



News Release

April 1, 2024

Taiho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

Taiho Ventures, LLC

**Corporate Venture Capital Firm Taiho Ventures
Selected for AMED's Strengthening Program for
Pharmaceutical Startup Ecosystem**

TOKYO, Japan, and MENLO PARK, Calif. April.1, 2024 – Taiho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. and Taiho Ventures, LLC, a strategic corporate venture capital (CVC) arm of Taiho Pharmaceutical, announced today that Taiho Ventures has been selected as a certified venture capital (certified VC) of the Strengthening Program for Pharmaceutical Startup Ecosystem (hereafter “Program”) implemented by the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED) and has entered into an agreement with AMED on April 1, 2024.

To solve the shortage of fundings for the development of new drugs, this Program supports pharmaceutical startup for development and commercialization, provided they secure funding from venture capital firms registered by AMED specializing in drug development and providing hands-on business management and commercialization support

• For details about the Strengthening Program for Pharmaceutical Startup Ecosystem:

<https://www.amed.go.jp/content/000121880.pdf>

Taiho Ventures not only has one of the largest investment pool (400 million USD) among the CVC firms of Japanese pharmaceutical companies, but also focuses on delivering cutting-edge technologies and therapies to society by supporting pharmaceutical startups while leveraging its experience in research and development and business management. Since its establishment in 2016, Taiho Ventures has invested in over 25 promising pharmaceutical startups mainly in the US and Europe, that possess innovative technologies and insights primarily in the oncology field. These

include Arcus Biosciences, Cullinan Pearl, Dren Bio, Orna Therapeutics, and Werewolf Therapeutics. In Japan, Taiho Ventures has been investing in LiberoThera since 2021.

Taiho Ventures applied for and was selected as a certified VC for the Program, with the aim of contributing to the development of Japan's pharmaceutical startup ecosystem by leveraging its experience in supporting pharmaceutical startups.

Through the Program, Taiho Pharmaceutical and Taiho Ventures will contribute in strengthening Japan's drug discovery ecosystem to continuously provide new technologies and treatment options to society.

About Taiho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Japan)

Taiho Pharmaceutical, a subsidiary of Otsuka Holdings Co., Ltd. (<https://www.otsuka.com/en/>), is an R&D-driven specialty pharma focusing on the fields of oncology and immune-related diseases. Its corporate philosophy takes the form of a pledge: "We strive to improve human health and contribute to a society enriched by smiles." In the field of oncology, in particular, Taiho Pharmaceutical is known as a leading company in Japan for developing innovative medicines for the treatment of cancer, a reputation that is rapidly expanding through their extensive global R&D efforts. In areas other than oncology, as well, the company creates and markets quality products that effectively treat medical conditions and can help improve people's quality of life. Always putting customers first, Taiho Pharmaceutical also aims to offer consumer healthcare products that support people's efforts to lead fulfilling and rewarding lives. For more information about Taiho Pharmaceutical, please visit <https://www.taiho.co.jp/en/>

About Taiho Ventures, LLC

Taiho Ventures, LLC is the strategic corporate venture capital arm of Taiho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., a Japanese specialty pharma focusing on oncology, allergy and immunology. Taiho Ventures is looking at early-stage preclinical oncology companies as well as platform technology companies for our core therapeutic areas. Taiho Ventures will review the wide variety of modalities for both biologics and small molecules. The company will also consider the option type of investments and spin-outs, in addition to the pure equity investments. For more information about Taiho Ventures, please visit <https://www.taihoventures.com/>

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