

Press Release

October 3, 2005

PharmaDesign, Inc. (PDI) launches collaborative research with Pharma Valley Center (PVC) of Shizuoka Prefecture to develop anti-cancer drugs targeting transcription factors

PharmaDesign, Inc. (PDI) announced today that they have signed an agreement with Pharma Valley Center (PVC) of Shizuoka Prefecture on collaboration to develop anti-cancer drugs targeting transcription factors. PVC will conduct the research at Center for Drug Discovery (CDD), Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Science, University of Shizuoka.

PDI will build *in silico* 3-D structure models of drug target proteins, run virtual screening of compounds against the models, and provide active compound candidates to PVC. PVC will perform further screening using recombinant proteins and cancer cell lines.

The aim is to conduct time and cost efficient lead optimization based on *in silico* structural based drug design (SBDD) by PDI and *in vitro* screening by CDD. They hope to develop new drug candidates and start clinical trials within 3 to 4 years.

PharmaDesign, Inc. (PDI), <http://www.pharmadesign.co.jp> is a Tokyo based genomic drug discovery company established in 1999, and the first venture company of its kind in Japan. PDI offers a range of proprietary *in silico* technologies in drug discovery based on bioinformatics and computational chemistry. G-protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs), which is a group of proteins most successful as drug targets, have been a major focus in their research. They provide synthesized peptide libraries to identify novel ligands of orphan GPCRs (GPCRs whose ligands are still unknown), and structure-based focused chemical libraries for specific GPCRs.

Pharma Valley Center (PVC), <http://www.fuji-pvc.jp/> is a core institute of Fuji Pharma Valley Initiatives, which was established in September 2002 as a cluster of

medical, healthcare and biotechnology researches and industries by Shizuoka prefecture. It also acts as a coordinator of various projects, such as development of novel cancer diagnostics, drug discovery projects, and networking of clinical trial among 28 clinics in Shizuoka prefecture. Center for Drug Discovery (CDD) was established in Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Science, University of Shizuoka in April 2004. Based on drug screening and structure optimization technologies, they conduct drug discovery researches in cancer and infectious diseases.

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