

Collaborative Research Agreement with AstraZeneca

PharmaDesign, Inc. (Chuo-ku Tokyo, Japan. President & CEO: Dr. Toshio Furuya) and AstraZeneca AB (Södertälje, Sweden) have announced a drug discovery collaborative research agreement in cardiovascular disease.

Using proprietary information from PharmaDesign on venom-derived peptides, PharmaDesign and AstraZeneca will collaborate to develop and test small chemical compounds that mimic the action of the PharmaDesign-developed peptides. These small molecules have been selected with PharmaDesign's proprietary in silico drug design technology. The aim of the collaborative research is to study inhibitory activity of the peptides and small molecules against certain target proteins in the field of cardiovascular diseases.

Under the agreement, the parties have agreed certain rights for future access to the peptides and the small molecule technology from PharmaDesign.

About PharmaDesign, Inc. : (<http://www.pharmadesign.co.jp>)

PharmaDesign is a venture firm, its core business is bioinformatics and rational drug design. PharmaDesign conducts contract research in rational drug design, 'Genome Drug Discovery' and in-house drug discovery research to identify lead compounds for drug development based on integrated knowledge in selection of the proper druggable target proteins with in silico analysis of the structural and functional information. Its business development focuses on in silico drug discovery research and supporting works in drug discovery activities. PharmaDesign is currently challenging to expand its capabilities with exploratory studies on protein-protein interactions as the target for drug discovery and also on a fragment-based approach to generate lead compounds for further development.

About AstraZeneca

AstraZeneca is a major international healthcare business engaged in research, development, manufacturing and marketing of prescription pharmaceuticals and supplier for healthcare services. AstraZeneca is one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies with healthcare sales of US \$29.55 billion and is a leader in gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, neuroscience, respiratory, oncology and infection product sales. AstraZeneca is listed in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (Global) as well as the FTSE4 Good Index.

For more information, please contact:

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