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Press Release

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FPR Opens a New Office in Yokohama Bio Industry Center Further Expanding Its Open Innovation Type of Drug-Discovery Research

On September 24, 2010, Forerunner-Pharma Research Co., Ltd. (Meguro-ku, Tokyo) (President: Tatsumi Yamazaki, Ph.D.) opened a new office in Yokohama Bio Industry Center for further expanding its genomic antibody drug discovery research and low-molecular drug discovery research by collaborative studies with leading-edge research organizations.

In April 2005, Forerunner Pharma Research (FPR) was jointly established by Chugai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., Mitsui & Co., Ltd. and Central Institute for Experimental Animals to create an unprecedented research collaboration form that combines genome research, disease structure and pathological studies with bio-pharmaceutical and antibody drug discovery. As a first step towards the goal, FPR set a research base in Komaba Open Laboratory of University of Tokyo to realize a collaborative study with the university that has proven records in leading-edge research. This also enabled FPR to construct a research system for the new genomic antibody drug discovery that produces antibody drugs efficiently from disease structure and genomic information. As a result, FPR has succeeded in creating a considerable number of antibody drug candidates to this date.

By opening the new office in Yokohama Bio Industry Center, FPR is going to co-study with neighboring RIKEN for drug discovery that targets new molecules. FRP believes that the research model including strategic establishment of research base which is closely connected to cutting-edge research organizations, is highly beneficial for its creative drug discovery research. In the midst of fierce competition, FRP intends to expand its research network with an aim to make contribution to the new drug development by taking a creative approach.