



For Immediate Release

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Announcement of License Agreement on a New Antiemetic Combination Agent

Tokyo, 13 April 2011 – Taiho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (HQ: Tokyo, President: Toru Usami), and its parent company, Otsuka Holdings Co., Ltd. (HQ: Tokyo, President and Representative Director, CEO: Tatsuo Higuchi), announced today that Taiho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. and Helsinn Healthcare S.A. (HQ: Lugano, Switzerland) signed on April 12th, a licensing agreement on a fixed-dose combination product containing netupitant, an neurokinin-1(NK1)receptor antagonist, an d palonosetron, a serotonin-3(5HT-3) receptor antagonist for potential use in the prevention of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (CINV) in Japan,.

Under the terms of the agreement, Helsinn will be responsible for the CMC development and supply of the product, and Taiho will be responsible will conduct preclinical and clinical development for obtaining regulatory approvals in Japan.

Taiho currently is marketing ” Aloxi® Injection 0.75mg” (generic name: palonosetron hydrochloride) in Japan, which is used for prevention of nausea and vomiting associated with cancer chemotherapy, based on the existing license agreement with Helsinn.

Riccardo Braglia, CEO of Helsinn group, said "We are very proud of the existing successful collaboration with Taiho Pharmaceutical in Japan. At the beginning of last year our Japanese partner launched palonosetron on the national market and, within less than one year, our drug became the market leader in its class. Now our collaboration is extending to the netupitant-palonosetron fixed dose combination and we are sure that the success will reiterate."

“We are delighted to extend our relationship with Helsinn with this license agreement in addition to our strong collaboration with Aloxi.” Mr Toru Usami, President and Representative Director of Taiho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. said. “With netupitant-palonosetron fixed dose combination product, we hope to further contribute in the area of supportive care in oncology”

【About Netupitant】

Netupitant is a highly selective NK1 receptor antagonist, an antiemetic that works by blocking the action of Substance P, an endogenous neurotransmitter contained in high concentrations in the vomiting center of the

brainstem that can stimulate the vomiting reflex. The fixed-dose combination of netupitant and palonosetron is entering Phase III for the prevention of acute and delayed nausea and vomiting following both highly and moderately emetogenic chemotherapy.

【About Palonosetron】

Palonosetron (generic name: palonosetron hydrochloride) is a second generation 5-HT₃ Receptor Antagonist, developed for the prevention of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (CINV) in patients with cancer, with a long half-life of 40 hours and a high receptor binding affinity.

Palonosetron has been developed by the Helsinn Group in Switzerland and today it is marketed as Aloxi®, Onicit®, and Paloxi® in more than 50 countries world-wide.

For more information about palonosetron, please visit the website: <http://www.aloxi.com>

【About Helsinn Group】

Helsinn Group is a privately owned pharmaceutical group including Helsinn Healthcare S.A., with headquarters in Lugano, Switzerland, and operating subsidiaries in Ireland and USA. The Group's business model is in-licensing of pharmaceuticals and medical devices in therapeutic niche areas during their development stage, completes their development and filing for and attainment of market approval worldwide, and out-licenses the product to its network of local marketing and commercial partners. For more information about Helsinn Group, please visit the website: <http://www.helsinn.com>

◆ Official Website ◆

<http://www.taiho.co.jp/>