

Press Release



Announcement regarding a Joint Research Agreement with RaQualia Pharma Inc. for Drug Discovery Targeting Specific Ion Channels

TOKYO, July 1st, 2019 – ASKA Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Minato-ku, Tokyo, President: Takashi Yamaguchi, hereinafter "ASKA") has announced that ASKA has signed a joint research agreement with RaQualia Pharma Inc. (Head Office: Nakamura-ku, Nagoya, President: Naoki Tani, hereinafter "RaQualia ") regarding drug discovery targeting specific ion channels.

This agreement came to reality from RaQualia's openness for innovation and its strengths in ion channel drug discovery technology as well as ASKA's intention to actively develop new drugs as a "competitive specialty pharma".

Ion channels are a general term for membrane proteins that allow ions to permeate into and out of the cell, which plays an important role in regulating information transmission in sensory and motor nerves as well as neurotransmitter release in various tissues.

Under the terms of this agreement, ASKA will pay an upfront payment as well as a research collaboration fee to RaQualia. RaQualia will also be eligible to receive payments based on potential development milestone achievements. Specific terms and conditions regarding the achievements and payments are not disclosed.

ASKA and RaQualia will continue to strengthen and collaborate in establishing a progressive collaboration between the two companies.

[About RaQualia Pharma Inc.]

RaQualia is an R&D oriented venture company based in Nagoya that utilizes cutting-edge life science and technology to become a "global drug discovery innovator" that creates new drugs in therapeutic areas where there is a high demand. RaQualia's mission is to create low polymer drugs that will become the seeds for innovative new drugs through its own open innovation, and to deliver new, truly valuable drugs to patients through joint research or out-licensing agreements (Licensing of intellectual property rights) with pharmaceutical companies and other entities.

For more information, please visit <https://www.raqualia.com/>

[About ASKA Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.]

Since its foundation in 1920, under the corporate philosophy of "contributing to human health and tomorrow's medical care through cutting-edge drug discovery", ASKA has concentrated its resources on three priority areas of Internal medicine, Obstetrics and gynecology, and Urology, to actively develop new pharmaceuticals to resolve medical needs.

For more information, please visit <https://www.aska-pharma.co.jp/english/>

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