

For Immediate Release

Company name: DAIICHI SANKYO COMPANY, LIMITED
Representative: George Nakayama, Representative Director, President and CEO
(Code no.: 4568, First Section, Tokyo Stock Exchange)
Please address inquiries to Noriaki Ishida, Executive Officer,
Vice President, Corporate Communications Department
Telephone: +81-3-6225-1126
<http://www.daiichisankyo.com>

Daiichi Sankyo Announces Collaborative Research on Drugs for Neglected Tropical Diseases

Tokyo, Japan (March 30, 2017) – Daiichi Sankyo Company, Limited (hereafter, “Daiichi Sankyo”), announced that it has entered into a new joint research agreement with the Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative* (hereafter, “DNDi”) with regard to a new research program, the Hit-to-Lead Project, with the aim of developing drug treatments for two neglected tropical diseases (hereafter, “NTDs”), leishmaniasis and Chagas disease.

In February 2016, Daiichi Sankyo and DNDi launched a High-Throughput Screening (HTS) project of 40,000 compounds from Daiichi Sankyo with the goal of discovering anti-leishmaniasis and anti-Chagas disease compounds, and subsequently identified three compound series.

Based on these results, Daiichi Sankyo has signed this agreement to advance a Hit-to-Lead Project to develop derivatives from these three compound series as new leishmaniasis and Chagas disease treatments from April 2017. This collaborative project is funded through the Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT Fund) Hit-to-Lead Platform (HTLP) and will receive approximately US\$780,000 over a period of 18 months.

By developing and producing pharmaceutical agents and improving access to healthcare in developing countries, Daiichi Sankyo is actively contributing towards the third Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) set by the United Nations: ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all people at all ages. Daiichi Sankyo is also contributing to the health and quality of life of people across the globe by participating in this collaborative research project into drugs for NTDs.

About Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative* (DNDi)

Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) is a collaborative, patients' needs-driven, non-profit drug research and development (R&D) organization that is developing new treatments for neglected diseases. DNDi focuses on discovering and developing treatments for sleeping sickness (human African trypanosomiasis), Chagas disease, leishmaniasis, filarial infections, paediatric HIV, mycetoma, and hepatitis C. In 2016, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, DNDi launched the Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership, a not-for-profit research and development organization to develop new antibiotic treatments addressing antimicrobial resistance and to promote their responsible use for optimal conservation, while ensuring equitable access for all. Since its inception in 2003, DNDi has developed seven new treatments for neglected with several new drug candidates in the R&D pipeline. DNDi's objective is to deliver 16 to 18 new treatments by 2023, ensure equitable access to these treatments, and build a robust pipeline of new drug candidates. www.dndi.org

About Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT Fund)

The GHIT Fund is a public-private partnership between the Japanese government, multiple pharmaceutical companies, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Wellcome Trust, and UNDP. Launched in April 2013 with an initial commitment of more than US\$100 million and now with capital of over US\$140 million, the organization taps Japanese research and development (R&D) to fight neglected diseases. GHIT Fund invests and manages a portfolio of development partnerships aimed at neglected diseases that afflict the world's poorest people. GHIT Fund mobilizes Japanese pharmaceutical companies and academic and research organizations to engage in the effort to get new medicines, vaccines, and diagnostic tools to people who need them most, with Japan quickly becoming a game-changer in global health.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.ghitfund.org>.