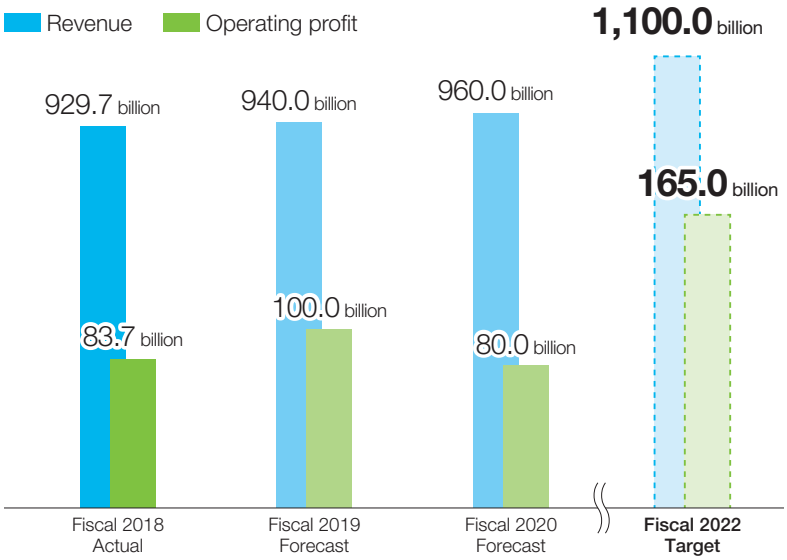
5-Year Business Plan Overview and Progress

The 5-year business plan covers the period from fiscal 2016 to fiscal 2020, which has been positioned as a period for transformation leading up to the 2025 Vision. However, we made revisions to some targets in October 2018, owing to a wide range of environmental changes. Currently, we are studying new targets in light of our strategic alliance with AstraZeneca.

For details, refer to page 33.



Fiscal 2022 Target

- Revenue: ¥1,100.0 billion
- Operating Profit: ¥165.0 billion
- ROE: 8.0% or more
- Increase value of late-stage pipelines
  Expected total revenue at peak:
  ¥500.0 billion or more

Six Strategic Targets for Accomplishing Our Performance Targets

Grow *Edoxaban*

Achievements and Progress

- Expanded global revenue (fiscal 2018 revenue: ¥117.7 billion)
- Ranked No.1 in market share within Japan (as of 4th quarter, fiscal 2018)
- Significantly expanded the market share in many countries within Europe and Asia

Grow as the No. 1 Company in Japan

Achievements and Progress

- Ranked No.1 in market share of domestic ethical drugs for three consecutive years
- Ranked No.1 in MR evaluation for seven consecutive years
- Continually launching new products (*Tarlige* and *MINNEBRO*)

Expand U.S. Businesses

Achievements and Progress

- Expanded American Regent business (fiscal 2018 revenue: ¥117.8 billion)
- Expanded *Injectafer* revenue (fiscal 2018 revenue: ¥44.2 billion)
- Re-examined strategy for the pain franchise of Daiichi Sankyo, Inc.

Establish Oncology Business

Achievements and Progress

- Accumulated promising clinical data on *DS-8201* and working ahead of schedule for the target date to submit an application for approval
- Presented positive clinical data on *U3-1402* and *DS-1062*
- Submitted an NDA for *Quizartinib* and *Pexidartinib*

Continuously Generate Innovative New Medicine changing Standard of Care (SOC)

Achievements and Progress

- Ventured into many different modalities
- *DS-1647* (oncolytic virus) NDA submitting planned
- Progressed on open innovation

Enhance Profit Generation Capabilities

Achievements and Progress

- Optimized Sales & Marketing structure in the U.S. and EU (total 550 position cuts in fiscal 2016 and 2017)
- Optimized global R&D structure (four locations closed)
- Optimized global manufuturing structure (two locations closed and decided to sell one location)

Growth Investments and Shareholder Returns

Prioritize growth investments while also enhancing shareholder returns

Achievements and Progress

- Reduced cross-shareholding shares (33 different stocks for a total amount of ¥46.0 billion over three-year period)
- Sold properties (¥25.0 billion over three-year period)
- Gain on sales of business transfers (¥6.3 billion)
- Issued super-long-term unsecured corporate bonds (¥100.0 billion)
- Acquired own shares (¥100.0 billion over three-year period)
- Maintained a total return ratio of 100% or more (114.8% over three-year period)

Message from the CFO

I would like to begin by thanking all of our stakeholders for the ongoing support to Daiichi Sankyo.

Along with the explanation of our 5-year business plan, reasons for its revision, and its current state, I would like to introduce examples of specific initiatives I am working on to improve the corporate value as CFO.

Toshiaki Sai
Representative Director, Member of the Board, Executive Vice President and CFO

5-Year Business Plan, Reasons for Its Revision, and Its Current State

1. 5-Year Business Plan (Presented in March 2016)

Since the development of 5-year business plan (fiscal 2016 to 2020) in March 2016, we are committed to establish a foundation for sustainable growth mainly consisting of the achievement of six strategic targets to transform ourselves along our 2025 Vision of becoming a "Global Pharma Innovator with competitive advantage in oncology." Daiichi Sankyo has set revenue of ¥1,100.0 billion, operating profit of ¥165.0 billion, and return on equity (ROE) of more than 8% for fiscal 2020 as key numerical targets. In addition, for fiscal 2020, we aim to have three to five late-stage pipeline products that can be launched within the next five years with the potential to generate annual revenue exceeding ¥100.0 billion each at peak.

Establish Foundation for Sustainable Growth (Six Strategic Targets)

- Grow *Edoxaban*
- Grow as No. 1 Company in Japan
- Expand U.S. Business
- Establish Oncology Business
- Continuously Generate Innovative Medicine Changing Standard of Care (SOC)*
- Enhance Profit Generation Capabilities

* Broadly applied best treatment practice in today's medical science

2. Revision of Targets (Presented in October 2018)

In October 2018, we revised the 5-year business plan. Although *edoxaban*, an oral anticoagulant that is one of our global mainstay products, strongly increased its market share in Japan and Europe, achievement of the targets initially set for fiscal 2020 has become challenging. This is due to the sense of uncertainty over future growth of Japan business as result of a radical reform of the NHI drug price system in the country, the unsuccessful development of new drugs in the U.S. pain business, and so on.

On the other hand, we decided to expand our investments to maximize the potential for our ADC franchise with *DS-8201* listed first, and based on several strong data for the ADC franchise.

Accordingly, we decided to delay our initial fiscal 2020 target (revenue of ¥1,100.0 billion, operating profit of ¥165.0 billion, and return on equity (ROE) of more than 8%) for two years to fiscal 2022. Meanwhile, as for returns to shareholders, we have decided to maintain the initial commitment calling for a total return ratio of 100% or more until 2022.

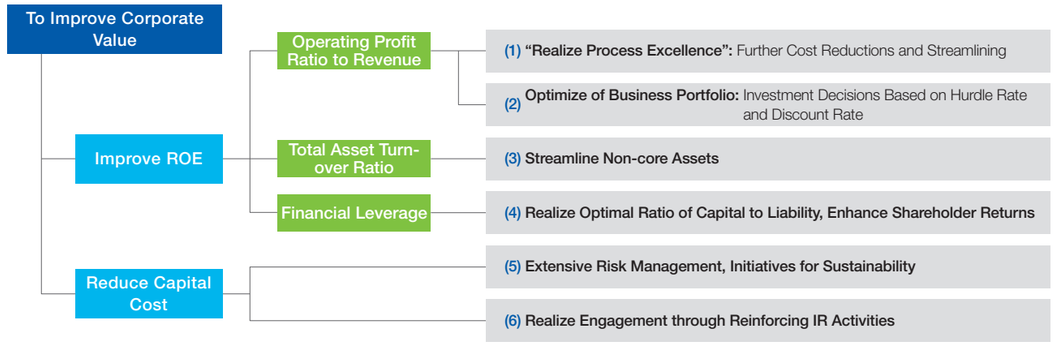
As for our oncology business, we decided to set a revenue target of ¥500 billion in fiscal 2025, exceeding the initial target of ¥300 billion by increasing and focusing our investment in the oncology business.

3. Revision Based on Impact of Strategic Alliance with AstraZeneca

After the revision of numerical targets for the current 5-year business plan in October 2018, Daiichi Sankyo decided to form strategic alliance with AstraZeneca for *DS-8201* in March 2019. Currently, we are having discussion with AstraZeneca on the details of the development and commercialization plan. Once we reach agreement, we will present Daiichi Sankyo's updated numerical targets including revised resource allocation for the other development projects such as *U3-1402*.

Examples of Initiatives for Improving Corporate Value

Here, I will explain our specific ROE improvement and capital cost reduction initiatives as part of our initiatives for improving corporate value, following (1) to (6) in the figure below.



Message from the CFO

(1) Realize Process Excellence

In order to improve the profit ratio as well as expand sales, we have taken steps to achieve further cost reductions and to streamline Daiichi Sankyo Group through activities called "Realize Process Excellence." Major initiatives include enhancement of the procurement function and optimization of operating structures for manufacturing, marketing & sales, and R&D. Concerning the optimization of operating structures, in the past three years to fiscal 2018 since the start of the current 5-year business plan, we have sold, closed, or transferred three sites within our supply chain organization, and closed four sites within our R&D organization. We have also implemented optimization within our marketing & sales organization in Europe and the United States. We will further accelerate initiatives to enhance profit generation capabilities in the future.

(2) Optimize Business Portfolio

In terms of investment, our focus is to optimize business portfolio by reinforcing financial investment decisions with capital cost in mind and taking synergies into consideration.

When making investment decisions for the business or capital expenditure, which has significant impact on future profit, we will support such decision through reading the future business environment, vision, and strategy, and by setting the hurdle rate, discount rate and other factors in response to market and business risks.

We assumed our cost of shareholders' equity to be approximately 6% and set forth the goal of more than 8% ROE, which is approximately 2% above the cost. Although we anticipate the WACC, the weighted average of our cost of shareholders' equity and cost of debt, to be 5 to 6%, we use an 8% hurdle rate for investment decisions, by adding 2 to 3% to the WACC. In addition, we make investment decisions based on discount rate for each region that takes into account the characteristics of each market.

(3) Streamline Non-core Assets

We streamline non-core assets through pursuing optimization in assets and enhancing our total asset turnover ratio, while working to create free cash that will lead to improvement of corporate value. With regard to assets including real estate, we implement liquidation of non-core assets at the appropriate timing while considering not only the necessity of the assets for business activities and the ability to be replaced, but also life-cycle costs (maintenance costs needed to maintain functions subject to deterioration and renovation costs required to improve performance) and business continuity plans (BCPs). We sold real estate worth ¥11.0 billion in fiscal 2018 and ¥25.0 billion in total so far. In fiscal 2019, we also sold our Nihonbashi Building.

As a rule, we are aggressively streamlining cross-shareholdings in accordance with Daiichi Sankyo's policy of not holding listed stocks, except in cases where holding such stocks will maintain or strengthen long-term business relationship and contribute to improving our corporate value. We sold 10 stock brands for a total amount of ¥14.3 billion in fiscal 2018, and an aggregated total of 33 stock brands for a total of ¥46.0 billion so far. We will pursue further cost reductions in the future to achieve an appropriate level of capital efficiency.

In order to make prioritized investment of resources in the field of oncology, we decided to sell some of the long-listed products in Japan and recorded ¥6.3 billion in fiscal 2018. Going forward, we will continue to review our business portfolio to streamline our assets.

(Billions of yen)

		FY2016 Results	FY2017 Results	FY2018 Results	Total
Sale of properties	Sales proceeds	**3.2**	**10.7**	**11.0**	**25.0**
	Gain on sales	0.8	7.6	9.0	17.5
Reduce cross-shareholding shares	Number of stock brands	**14** brands	**9** brands	**10** brands	Aggregated total of 33 **33** brands
	Sales proceeds	**17.3**	**14.4**	**14.3**	**46.0**
	Gain on sales*	9.3	9.8	10.6	29.7
Gain on sales of business transfer	Gain on sales	-	-	(transferring long-listed products) **6.3**	**6.3**

* Booked in other comprehensive income
Gain on sales of Takatsuki Plant transfer (¥19.0 billion) and Nihonbashi building (¥10.6 billion) will be booked in FY2019

(4) Realize Optimal Ratio of Capital to Liability, Enhance Shareholder Returns

In order to support sufficient investment to develop oncology projects including *DS-8201*, we will work to streamline our assets as well as to maintain our strong financial base. With the current equity ratio of around 60% as a guide, Daiichi Sankyo will continue to pay stable dividends and flexibly implement share buy-back.

(5) Extensive Risk Management, Initiatives for Sustainability

Extensive risk management and initiatives for ESG are crucial in order to eliminate the risk of declining corporate value.

As for extensive risk management, I oversee group-wide risk management as the CFO and risk management officer. I operate the risk management system in conjunction with an annual cycle for formulating and implementing business plans. Based on assessment of impact and the likelihood of occurrence, risks with the potential to significantly impact the management of the Company are identified through the Global Management Committee Meeting and the Board Meeting. Risk response measures are enacted as well as corrected and revised as necessary.

For details, refer to page 73.

With regard to sustainability, Daiichi Sankyo Group also works to address many issues relative to CSR in addition to mid-to-long-term initiatives and challenges. We also engage in proactive disclosure of ESG information to reduce the risk from the viewpoint of investors. We have been selected for various ESG indices including the "DJSI World Index," in which, we have been selected in the pharmaceutical sector for the first time as a Japanese company and also for two consecutive years.

For details, refer to page 96.

(6) Realize Engagement through Reinforcing IR Activities

Engagement means having conversation with purpose, and we will foster mutual understanding and increase transparency, and thus further improve corporate value through healthy discussions between investors and our management team. In the distribution of IR information, we disclose information in a timely manner while giving consideration to transparency and fairness, and we endeavor to undertake IR activities to narrow the gap between the corporate value envisioned by people inside and outside of the Company. Following the recent enhancement of our pipelines in particular, we have set up meetings and conference calls aimed at investors after presentations at major scientific conferences in the U.S. and Europe for better and deeper understanding among investors. In addition, we conduct more than 350 interviews with investors annually, including ten international road shows a year (interviews with international investors). As CFO, I myself engage by proactively holding conversations with investors and analysts, to realize engagement.

In Closing

Daiichi Sankyo Group aims to realize its 2025 Vision of striving to become a "Global Pharma Innovator with competitive advantage in oncology." In light of the strong progress in oncology development with focus on ADC, we formed a strategic alliance with AstraZeneca for *DS-8201*, which is our first ADC project, in March 2019 and have been making steady progress indevelopment.

From a mid-term perspective, prior investment in preparation for the launch of oncology products is anticipated in each region. With respect to business development, demand for funds is expected to increase further to obtain pipelines, products, and businesses that meet the strategy. In addition, strategic investment from a long-term perspective is also essential. As such, I understand the role of CFO is extremely significant.

Going forward, I will continue to improve corporate value by enhancing shareholder returns while paying attention to the balance between investment and profitability.

5-Year Business Plan Overview and Progress: Grow *Edoxaban*

Strategic Target

Grow *Edoxaban*

Brand name: *LIXIANA* (Japan, Europe, Asia), *SAVAYSA* (U.S.)

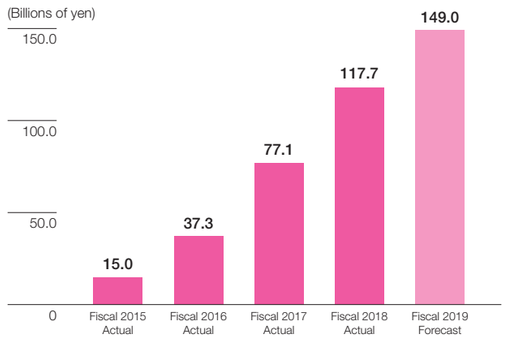
Edoxaban, direct oral anticoagulant (DOAC) is a mainstay product in place of *olmesartan*, a treatment for hypertension that has expired exclusivity. Since it's marketed, the Company has steadily expanded its market share, particularly in Japan, Europe, and Asia. Going forward, we will strengthen our initiatives for life-cycle management and further raise awareness of product information. We also aim to maximize product value by successfully marketing this product in China.

Edoxaban's "Edo" means that this product was born from a research institute in Tokyo. As the only made-in-Japan product in this area, we are reminded of the desire to save patients not only in Japan but also around the world.

1 5-Year business plan

The annual global revenue of edoxaban has steadily increased from ¥37.3 billion in fiscal 2016 to ¥77.1 billion in fiscal 2017 and ¥117.7 billion in fiscal 2018. We forecast ¥149 billion in revenue in fiscal 2019 that will be more than the initial target for fiscal 2020, ¥120 billion ahead of schedule. *Edoxaban* is growing at a much faster pace than the initial expectation.

Results to date



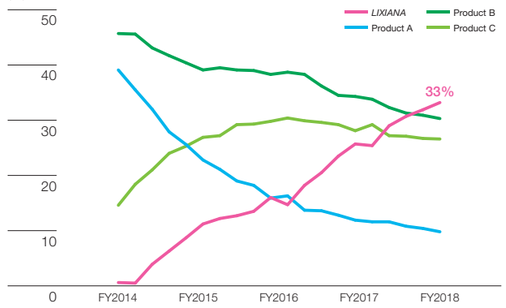
2 Progress to date

(1) Growth in Japan

Since the third quarter of fiscal 2018, we have become the No. 1 share in Japan by leveraging our product characteristics of once-daily administration and high levels of safety, as well as our high-quality marketing capabilities, which have been highly evaluated by external organizations.

Going forward, we will promote OD tablet (orally disintegrating tablet) by leveraging its strength, which is highly appreciated by doctors, saying that it is especially easy for elderly patients to take. Penetrating new evidence obtained from life-cycle management, we will try to make sure that doctors and patients will feel more reassured by anticoagulant therapy with *edoxaban*.

Trends in sales share of DOACs in Japan



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COLUMN

Solubility of tablet

Slow  Rapid

Conventional tablet	OD tablet
taken by water	dissolved rapidly by oral saliva

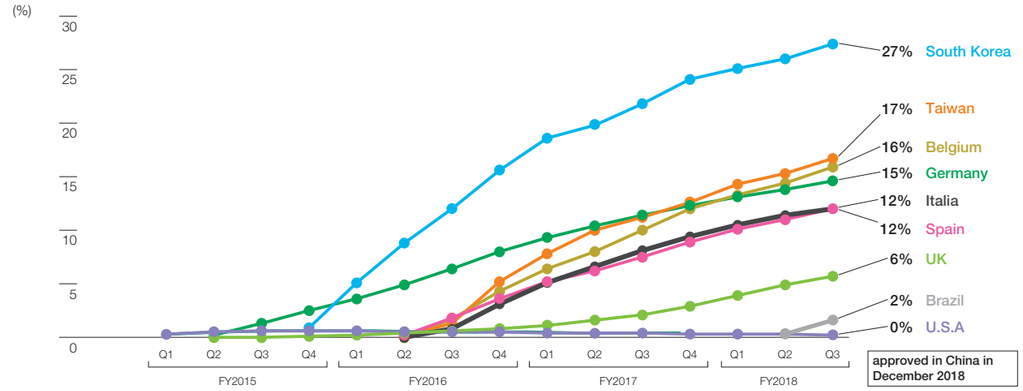
Process of dissolving

Sett 1 tablet on the mesh to evaluate disintegratability, using an injection barrel, drip refined water of 37 ± 2°C on the upper side of the tablet and measure the dissolving time

(2) Growth in each country

Since it's marketed, steadily increasing the number of countries in which edoxaban has been marketed, it has been on the market in more than 30 countries and regions globally. In addition to steady growth in Asian region like South Korea and Taiwan, as well as in European region like Belgium and Germany, it was marketed in Brazil in August 2018 and was approved in China in December 2018. Going forward, we aim to achieve further growth by successfully marketing it in China.

Growth of *edoxaban* by each country (volume share)



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(3) Life-cycle management initiatives

Currently, we are engaged in many clinical studies and lifecycle management activities, collectively referred to as EDOSURE*1 that create data on how *edoxaban* is used in clinical settings.

The efficacy and safety data for patients undergoing catheter ablation*2 was presented in a Late Breaking Session of the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA) in March 2019.

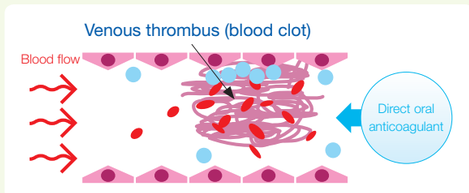
*1 Derived from two words, *edoxaban* and Assurance. It signifies our hope that doctors and patients will feel more reassured by anticoagulant therapy with *edoxaban*.
*2 A procedure used to ablate abnormal electrical pathways in the heart tissue by inserting a thin tube (catheter) through the blood vessels to the heart in order to restore normal rhythm of the heart of patients with AF.

COLUMN

What are direct oral anticoagulants?

A blood clot usually forms to stop bleeding and will eventually dissolve and shrink. However, should a blood clot grow larger rather than dissolving, and consequently come to block a blood vessel, it could result in a lack of blood flow to areas of the body beyond the clot, potentially even leading to the death of the tissue therein. This condition is known as thrombosis.

Warfarin has long been the standard treatment to prevent blood clots. However, there are many restrictions to which attention needs to be paid when using *warfarin* such as periodic monitoring with blood tests, a variety of drug interactions, and dietary restrictions. Direct oral anticoagulants including *edoxaban* have been developed to significantly improve the inconvenience of *warfarin* as mentioned above.



5-Year Business Plan Overview and Progress: Grow as the No.1 Company in Japan

Strategic Target

Grow as the No.1 Company in Japan

Japan is an important market for the Daiichi Sankyo Group in terms of its revenue generated on a regional basis. We aim to grow as the No.1 company in Japan in name and substance alike. To such ends, we will leverage the strengths of our innovative pharmaceuticals* business, while precisely addressing various social and medical needs such as prevention, self-medication and medical treatment, with the innovative business as well as our vaccines, generics and OTC drug businesses.

* Pharmaceuticals still protected by the exclusivity period granted by patents

1 5-Year business plan

In addition to *LIXIANA*, an anticoagulant developed for the global market, the innovative pharmaceuticals business is developing its operations centered around six major products: *NEXIUM*, an ulcer treatment; *Memary*, an Alzheimer's disease treatment; *PRALIA*, a treatment for osteoporosis that prevents the progression of bone erosion associated with rheumatoid arthritis; *RANMARK*, a treatment for bone complications caused by bone metastasis from tumors; *Efient*, an antiplatelet agent; and *TENELIA*, a type 2 diabetes mellitus treatment.

Of these, *NEXIUM*, *Memary*, *PRALIA** and *RANMARK* have achieved the No.1 shares in their respective markets.

* No.1 in the bone resorption inhibitor market

Total revenue from the six major products has steadily expanded, from ¥197.3 billion in fiscal 2016 to ¥212.8 billion in fiscal 2017. However, in fiscal 2018, revenue remained almost unchanged at ¥211.5 billion, due to factors such as significant reduction in the drug price of *NEXIUM*, which are more severe than expected at the time of the 4th mid-term business plan announcement.

In fiscal 2019, revenue are expected to increase y-o-y to ¥217.0 billion, despite the impact of the drug price revision. Although the market environment is becoming increasingly challenging, we will leverage our extensive product portfolio and excellent sales capabilities to achieve our fiscal 2020 target of ¥243 billion in revenue.

Ulcer treatment
NEXIUM

Alzheimer's disease treatment
Memary

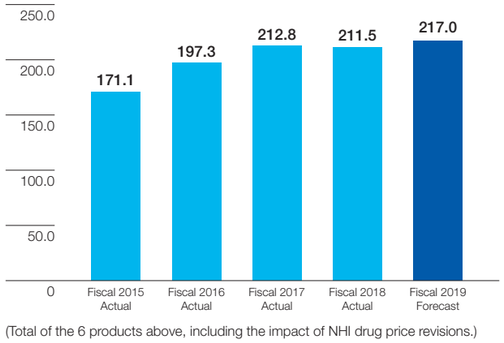
Treatment for osteoporosis / Inhibitor of the progression of bone erosion associated with rheumatoid arthritis
PRALIA

Treatment for bone complications caused by bone metastases from tumors
RANMARK

Antiplatelet agent
Efient

Type 2 diabetes mellitus treatment
TENELIA

Results to date



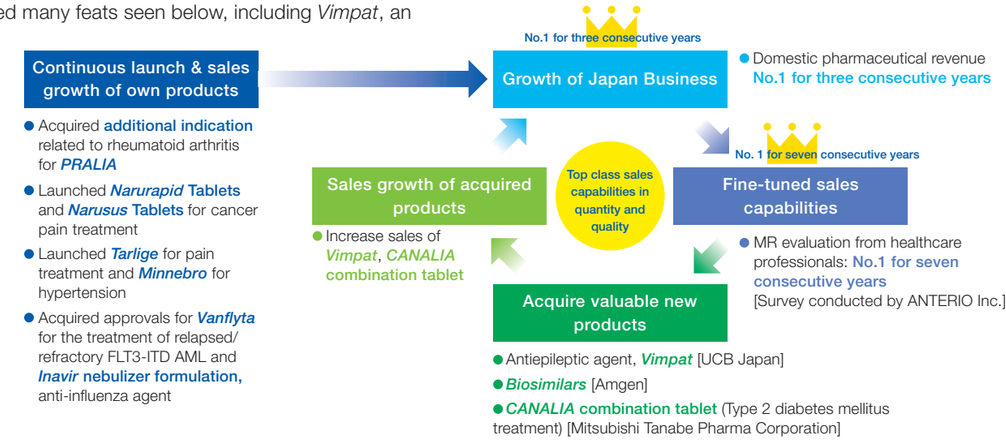
(Total of the 6 products above, including the impact of NHI drug price revisions.)

2 Progress to date

By continually launching and expanding sales of proprietarily developed products, we grew the innovative pharmaceuticals business. At the same time, we utilize the Company's superb sales capabilities to acquire licenses for promising products in order to sustain a virtuous cycle driving further growth. Through these efforts, we are working to strengthen Daiichi Sankyo's presence in Japan.

During the 5-year business plan, we have successfully achieved many feats seen below, including *Vimpat*, an epileptic agent, and *CANALIA* combination tablet, a treatment for type 2 diabetes mellitus, growing with a sales revenue target of ¥10 billion or more for fiscal 2019. Furthermore Daiichi Sankyo has ranked No.1 both in MR evaluation*, which is an important foundation for sustainable growth, for seven consecutive years, and in revenue from pharmaceutical products in Japan for three consecutive years.

* Based on survey conducted by ANTERIO Inc.

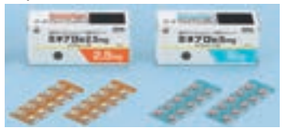


In fiscal 2019, we will add to our product portfolio our in-house developed drugs, *Tarlige* for pain treatment and *Minnebro* for hypertension, and *Vanfrita*, a promising new cancer product. We will aim to quickly nurture these new products.

Through aggressive in-licensing activities, we will win promising in-licensing products to overcome the challenging market environment.

***Tarlige* for pain treatment,** Launched in Apr. 2019

***Minnebro* for hypertension,** Launched in May 2019



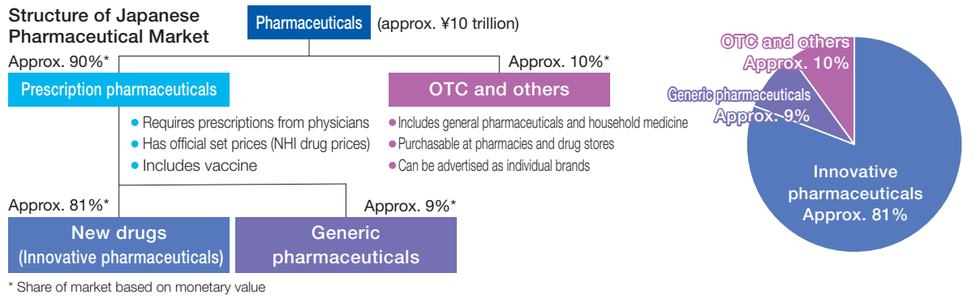
***Vanflyta* for the treatment of relapsed/refractory FLT3-ITD AML,** Approved in Jun. 2019

COLUMN

Pharmaceutical Market in Japan

The pharmaceutical market in Japan is worth approximately ¥10 trillion, of which approximately 90% is comprised of prescription pharmaceuticals that require prescriptions from physicians with the remainder of the market being accounted for by general pharmaceuticals and other over-the-counter (OTC) drugs that can be freely purchased in pharmacies and drug stores. Moreover, the use of generic drugs has been increasing in the prescription pharmaceutical market, and these drugs have recently come to represent about 73% of the market on a sales-volume basis* in September 2018.

* Generic drugs ÷ (original drugs for which generic drugs have been released + generic drugs)



* Share of market based on monetary value

Strategic Target

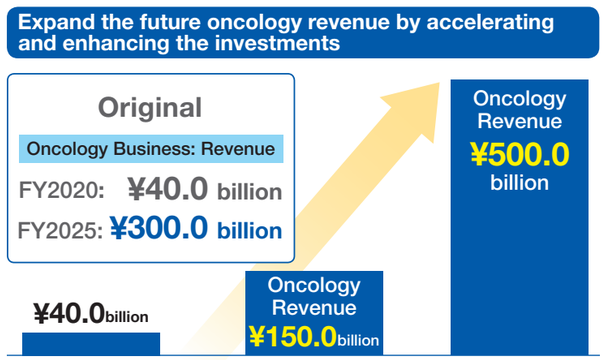
Establish Oncology Business

In our 5-year business plan, we set up the target of growing oncology business revenue to ¥300.0 billion in fiscal 2025. Last year, we raised it to over 500 billion yen. The development of the ADC franchise centered on *DS-8201* and AML franchise have been steadily accelerating. In fiscal 2019, we obtained approval of *quizartinib* and *pexidartinib*, and plan to submit *DS-8201* for approval.

1 5-Year Business Plan

We will establish an oncology business by launching several drugs currently in late-stage development. Concurrently, we will accelerate early-stage pipeline development and evaluate the further enrichment of our oncology pipeline through the acquisition of external assets. Through the acceleration of oncology research and development, we aim to grow oncology business revenue to more than ¥40.0 billion in fiscal 2020, ¥150.0 billion in fiscal 2022 and ¥500.0 billion in fiscal 2025, when this business will function as a core business.

Oncology business: Revenue target



2 Progress to Date and Future Initiatives

Daiichi Sankyo has been promoting organizational changes and strengthening human resources in order to accelerate development in the oncology area. We have completed organizational changes and have completed recruiting excellent global leaders with long years of experience in the oncology area.

Our organizations such as research and development, pharmaceutical technology, supply chain, global marketing, and global medical affairs cooperate organically under these leaders, and all employees are working together to promote a transformation to become a “Global Pharma Innovator with competitive advantage in oncology.”

The Oncology R&D sub unit has established three pillars, antibody drug conjugate (ADC) franchise, acute myeloid leukemia (AML) franchise, and breakthrough science* that we will focus on.

We are aiming to become a world-leading science organization built on these three pillars and to deliver seven valuable new molecular entities (NMEs) over eight years by 2025.

* New treatment that changes cancer treatment by applying innovative science and technology

3 About Cancer

Cancer is one of the diseases with high prevalence and mortality both in Japan and worldwide. Every year, approximately 14 million people are newly diagnosed with cancer across the world. In Japan, cancer has been the leading cause of death since 1981, while in 2018, annual cancer deaths reached approximately 410,000 people. Given these statistics, cancer has a devastating impact on human life and health.

▶ **Cancer death (all types of cancer) 2018**
(Thousands/year)

Worldwide	Japan	U.S.	Europe
9,555	409	617	1,943

Source: GLOBOCAN 2018, FACT SHEET

▶ **Number of new patients, number of patients with recurrent disease, 5-year survival (2018)**

		Japan	U.S.	5 European countries
Breast cancer	Newly diagnosed cancer (n)	92,000	327,000	262,000
	Recurrent cancer (n)	11,000	35,000	37,000
	5-year survival (%)	90%	85%	–
Gastric cancer	Newly diagnosed cancer (n)	130,000	26,000	56,000
	Recurrent cancer (n)	23,000	11,000	25,000
	5-year survival (%)	61%	24%	–
Non-small-cell lung cancer	Newly diagnosed cancer (n)	114,000	189,000	196,000
	Recurrent cancer (n)	40,000	65,000	72,000
	5-year survival (%)	38%	18%	–
Colorectal cancer	Newly diagnosed cancer (n)	144,000	157,000	239,000
	Recurrent cancer (n)	18,000	34,000	54,000
	5-year survival (%)	64%	56%	–

Source: CancerMPact®, Kantar Health/Synix Inc.(Strict diversion of confidential information)

4 Cancer Treatment

(1) Cancer treatment

Cancer treatments are divided into two categories: systemic therapy and local therapy. Local therapy consists of surgery and radiotherapy.

	Type	Methodology	Characteristics
Systemic therapy	Drug therapy	Attacks cancer cells with drugs	• A mainstay of treatment if local therapy is inappropriate such as hematological cancer or metastatic disease
Local therapy	Surgery	Removes cancer surgically	• Cancer can be cured if it remains in the primary lesion
	Radiotherapy	Eliminates cancer cells with radiation	• Exerts therapeutic effects without surgically removing organs • Sometimes combined with drug therapy and surgery

(2) Drug therapy (chemotherapeutic drugs and molecular targeted drugs)

Previously, chemotherapeutic drugs played a principal role in drug therapy. Chemotherapeutic drugs are small molecule drugs that produce therapeutic effects on highly proliferative cells. They also affect to maintain function, such as gastrointestinal and bone marrow cells. This impact on normal cells are the cause of most of the chemotherapy-induced side effects.

On the other hand, molecular targeted drugs target genes and proteins that are highly expressed in cancer cells. They are less likely to affect rapidly dividing normal cells. Although molecular targeted drugs have their own unique side effects, they have relatively fewer side effects than conventional chemotherapeutic drugs.