



GEXVal Inc.
September 10, 2021

GEXVal Completes JPY 700 Million Series B Financing

—To advance lead program into clinical trials in Australia—

GEXVal Inc. (President & CEO: Juran Kato; Location: Fujisawa, Kanagawa, Japan), a drug discovery venture, focusing on rare* and intractable diseases, hereby announces the completion of Series B financing. GEXVal raised approximately 700 million yen via a capital increase through a third-party allotment.

This Series B round is lead by Mitsubishi UFJ Capital Co., Ltd., YK VENTURE PARTNERS Co., Ltd. (Seoul, South Korea), and eBEST INVESTMENT & SECURITIES Co., Ltd. (Seoul, South Korea), with participation by Healthcare Innovation Co., Ltd., Shiratori Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., TNP Threads of Light Co., Ltd., and Yokohama Capital Co., Ltd.

GEXVal licensed new drug candidates and spun out from Takeda Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. and opened office in the Shonan Health Innovation Park (Shonan iPark) in 2018.

“We are very honored to join the team at this opportunity to invest in GEXVal,” said Mitsuru Miyata, president of Healthcare Innovation. “In recent years, major pharmaceutical companies have been spending a substantial amount of time and money to carry out clinical development. Regardless of this, due to changes in strategies, there are increased number of compounds that are not reaching patients. GEXVal is a venture company that rapidly delivers compounds to patients by rediscovering optimal disease applications for the promising development candidates by strategically combining active profiling, including OMICs and AI by a creative Repurposing Engine. The goal of GEXVal is to deliver drugs to patients as quickly as possible by focusing on rare diseases* for which there are no effective treatment options and engage in early-stage clinical development. There are development candidates with confirmed safety in human, thus have higher probability of success. To note, in many cases, rare diseases* share some common mechanisms with diseases that affect larger patient population. GEXVal is already in negotiations for joint development with major pharmaceutical companies in Japan and abroad related to the development of pharmaceuticals in large-scale markets, in therapeutic areas such as the central nervous system and heart disease. We believe in our decision that this venture company is a true necessity at present for unearthing and honing compounds that are not in use from the position of patients.”

“It is a true honor for our company, as an expert in manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, to participate



in GEXVal to tackle rare diseases* with modulators of GPCR through drug repositioning,” said Satoshi Shiratori, president of Shiratori Pharmaceutical. “Our company is promoting ‘Change the World’ as our corporate vision to implement manufacturing (*‘monozukuri’*) that will save the world. By engaging in the manufacturing process development of the rich pipeline of GEXVal, we can make a difference, no matter how small, in the development of a new business model for drug discovery ventures in Japan. Through such activity, I believe we can grow together with GEXVal.”

“Since its founding, GEXVal has been tackling rare diseases*, where there is a *high unmet needs* from patients. We look forward to GEXVal further accelerating development through this fund they have raised,” said Dr. Toshio Fujimoto, general manager at Shonan iPark. “Going forward, Shonan iPark continues to support bio-ventures’ challenges and grow with them, to facilitate the delivery of innovative new medicines that patients are eagerly awaiting.”

Good health and well-being for all— Our world agreed upon at the United Nations Summit as one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030. In 2019, the term “rare diseases*” was mentioned for the first time in the Universal Health Coverage declaration at the United Nations General Assembly. “We are truly grateful to all the investors and every stakeholder for their tremendous support,” said Dr. Juran Kato, the founder and President and CEO of GEXVal. “Only 5% of rare diseases* have medicines available. Given the challenging reality that there are still not enough medicines in rare diseases*, it is our mission to deliver innovative drugs as quickly as possible to those who awaits, so that nobody is left behind. We believe this is of great importance to very patients and their families those who live with rare diseases*. Going forward, we will always consider patients first and devote ourselves to clinical development with agility and maximize the value of compounds.”

Rare diseases*: A disease that affects a small number of patients. The definition differs depending on the country. For instance, in Europe, a disease that affects less than five people per 10,000 people. In the US, it is defined as diseases that affect fewer than 200,000 Americans, while in Japan, it is defined as diseases with fewer than 50,000 prevalent cases. Many of rare diseases have been designated as intractable diseases.

- Japan Intractable Diseases Information Center <https://www.nanbyou.or.jp/>
- Europe Orphanet <https://www.orpha.net/consor/cgi-bin/index.php>
- US National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) <https://rarediseases.org/about/>

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