

June 28, 2024

EA Pharma Co., Ltd.
Ensho Therapeutics, Inc.

**Worldwide License Agreement for EA1080, Oral Selective $\alpha 4 \beta 7$ Integrin Antagonist,
Signed between EA Pharma and Ensho Therapeutics**

Ensho Acquired Rights to Develop and Commercialize EA1080 and Portfolio of Other Oral Selective $\alpha 4 \beta 7$ Integrin Antagonists in All Territories

Excluding Japan, China, Hong Kong, Macau, South Korea, Taiwan and ASEAN

EA Pharma Co., Ltd. (Head Office, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan; President, Hidenori Yabune; “EA Pharma”) and Ensho Therapeutics, Inc. (Head Office, Morris Plains, New Jersey; Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer; Neena Bitritto-Garg; “Ensho”) announced today that the two companies have signed a worldwide exclusive license agreement for the rights to develop, manufacture and commercialize novel oral inflammatory bowel disease treatments EA1080 and a portfolio of other oral selective $\alpha 4 \beta 7$ integrin antagonists for the global market excluding Japan, China, Hong Kong, Macau, South Korea, Taiwan and ASEAN.

Under the terms of the license agreement, in exchange for full commercialization rights in its territory, Ensho will conduct global clinical studies for EA1080, in collaboration with EA Pharma. EA Pharma will receive from Ensho payments on achievement of certain development, regulatory, and commercial milestones, and tiered royalties up to a low double digit percentage of net sales for EA1080.

Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) includes ulcerative colitis (UC) and Crohn’s disease, and is characterized by inflammation in the gut mucosa which results in abdominal pain, diarrhea, and bloody stools. In many cases, patients may experience remission, but ultimately relapse, which results in an overall decline in quality of life. The mechanism of onset of IBD remains unknown. In Japan, IBD is considered a “designated intractable disease” by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. In 2019, the number of patients registered in Japan with UC and Crohn’s disease were nearly 220,000 and 70,000, respectively, with prevalence increasing in recent years.¹⁾

In IBD, lymphocytes and other inflammatory cells excessively surround and invade the gut mucosa, mediated by binding of integrins expressed on the surface of inflammatory cells to adhesion molecules, such as MAdCAM-1, that are excessively expressed on endothelial cells in the gut mucosa. EA1080 is an orally-available small molecule antagonist of $\alpha 4 \beta 7$ integrin. EA1080 can selectively inhibit $\alpha 4 \beta 7$ integrin cell adhesion mediated by binding to MAdCAM-1, suppressing invasion of lymphocytes into the gut mucosa and quelling inflammation.

“EA1080 is a novel orally-available small molecular $\alpha 4 \beta 7$ integrin antagonist created based on our original and unique drug discovery platform. We expect that the collaboration with Ensho, which is based in the United States and has strengths in the immunology and inflammatory disease area, will synergize the knowledge of both companies to accelerate the global development of EA1080 to provide a new treatment option for patients with IBD,” said Hidenori Yabune, President of EA Pharma.

“Ensho is thrilled to acquire this portfolio of oral, highly selective $\alpha 4 \beta 7$ integrin antagonists, led by EA1080, that have been refined through years of impeccable research by the EA Pharma team,” stated Neena Bitritto-Garg, CFA, Founder, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Ensho. “We believe these compounds could be transformational for patients suffering with IBD, as selective $\alpha 4 \beta 7$ antagonists have been proven to be safe and effective, but the need for oral agents remains. Our clinical development strategy is already set, and we plan to advance EA1080 into Phase 2 clinical development in the first half of 2025 so that we may deliver new solutions to patients expeditiously.”

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- 1) “Basic treatment guidance for patients with ulcerative colitis” (revised March 2020), Research group for intractable inflammatory bowel diseases, Research project on rare and intractable diseases, Health and Labour Sciences Research Grants

More Information

1. About EA Pharma

EA Pharma Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of Eisai Co., Ltd. for gastrointestinal disease area, was established in April 2016 by integration of the gastrointestinal business unit with more than 60 year's history of the Eisai Group and the gastrointestinal business unit of the Ajinomoto Group having amino acid as its business core. EA Pharma Co., Ltd., is a gastrointestinal specialty pharmaceutical company with a full value chain covering R&D, production & logistics and sales & marketing. For further information on EA Pharma Co., Ltd., please visit <https://www.eapharma.co.jp/>

2. About Ensho Therapeutics, Inc

Ensho Therapeutics, Inc. is a privately held, clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on developing breakthrough oral therapies for patients with inflammatory diseases. The company's initial focus is on a pipeline of oral, selective small molecule inhibitors of lymphocyte homing integrin $\alpha 4 \beta 7$ for inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), a mechanism already validated by a commercially available antibody. Ensho's assets were acquired from EA Pharma Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of Eisai Co., Ltd. focused on gastrointestinal disease. Ensho is preparing to enter Phase 2 clinical trials in IBD with EA1080, the lead asset in the company's pipeline. For additional information on Ensho Therapeutics, Inc., please visit www.enshorx.com.

3. Forward-looking statements

This Website contains forward-looking statements that involve risks, uncertainties, and assumptions. If risks or uncertainties ever materialize or the assumptions prove incorrect, our actual results may differ from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. All statements other than statements of historical facts could be deemed forward-looking, including, but not limited to, any statement of the plans, strategies, and objectives of management for future operations, including but not limited to our clinical development and commercialization plans; any projections of financial information; any statements about historical results that may suggest trends for our business; any statements of expectation or belief regarding future events, potential markets or market size, technology developments, our product pipeline, clinical data, results or practices or the implications thereof, enforceability of our intellectual property rights, competitive strengths or our position within the industry; and any statements of assumptions underlying any of the items mentioned.