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ImmuniT Research Inc.

To All

Non-Exclusive License Agreement between ImmuniT Research Inc., Japan and Boehringer Ingelheim, Germany granting access to novel biomarkers in cancer

28 January, 2022, ImmuniT Research Inc., Japan is pleased to announce that it has entered into a non-exclusive license agreement with Boehringer Ingelheim to its patent* (PCT/JP2021/ 032852) (hereinafter referred to as the "Patent")* whose invention is "Biomarker for Predicting Response to Cancer Therapy".

Immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs) are known to be highly effective against a various types of cancers and are receiving a great deal of attention around the world. On the other hand, some ICIs may not be effective for patients with the same cancer. Therefore, if you can predict the effect before administration, the patients can select a drug that is expected to be more effective for the target.

Professor Hiroshi Kagamu at the Department of Respiratory Medicine, Saitama Medical University International Medical Center discovered that the effects of ICIs involve CD62L (low) CD4 T cells by examining lymphocytes in the blood of cancer patients. This achievement was announced at ASCO in 2017 (patent granted). Mr. Kagamu then examined blood cells using immune-profiling techniques and found that by classifying CD62L(low) CD4 T cells, those cells include two subsets of T cells that are deeply involved in cancer immunity. It was found that patients with a larger number of these two types of T cells responded more highly to ICIs and that you could predict the onset of therapy with ICIs in advance from a number of these subsets of T cells. It is easier to measure the number of these two subsets of T cells, compared with the first invention of measuring that of CD62L(low) CD4 T cells, and it is considered that these cells are directly involved in cancer immunity.

* The patentee of the Patent is Saitama Medical University, and ImmuniT Research, Inc. has an exclusive license with sublicensing rights for the Patent.

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