

December 6, 2019

MSD K.K.

Taiho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd

MSD and Taiho Pharmaceutical terminate co-promotion contract for anti-PD-1 antibody/anti-cancer drug KEYTRUDA® In Japan

MSD K.K. (president and CEO Jannie Oosthuizen, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo) and Taiho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (president and CEO Masayuki Kobayashi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo) announced today that they have agreed to terminate their co-promotion contract in Japan at the end of December 2019 for KEYTRUDA® (pembrolizumab [genetical recombination]), anti-PD-1 therapy manufactured and marketed by MSD.

KEYTRUDA® was launched on February 15, 2017 and has been co-promoted by MSD and Taiho Pharmaceutical in Japan. From January 2020, MSD will continue manufacturing, distribution and promotion of KEYTRUDA®.

MSD and Taiho Pharmaceutical believe that they could make a significant contribution to patients and healthcare professionals by providing a novel cancer treatment option through the co-promotion activities. The companies will continue their commitment to the advancement in cancer therapy in the course of their business activities.

About MSD

For more than a century, MSD, a leading global biopharmaceutical company, has been inventing for life, bringing forward medicines and vaccines for many of the world's most challenging diseases. MSD is a trade name of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, N.J., U.S.A., which is used outside the United States and Canada. Through our prescription medicines, vaccines, biologic therapies and animal health products, we work with customers and operate in more than 140 countries to deliver innovative health solutions. We also demonstrate our commitment to increasing access to health care through far-reaching policies, programs and partnerships. Today, MSD continues to be at the forefront of research to advance the prevention and treatment of diseases that threaten people and communities around the world - including cancer, cardio-metabolic diseases, emerging animal diseases, Alzheimer's disease and infectious diseases including HIV and Ebola. For more information, visit www.msd.co.jp and connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [YouTube](#).

About Taiho Pharmaceutical

Taiho Pharmaceutical, a subsidiary of Otsuka Holdings Co., Ltd. (<https://www.otsuka.com/en/>), is an R&D-driven specialty pharma focusing on the three fields of oncology, allergy and immunology, and urology. Its corporate philosophy takes the form of a pledge: “We strive to improve human health and contribute to a society enriched by smiles.” In the field of oncology, in particular, Taiho Pharmaceutical is known as a leading company in Japan for developing innovative medicines for the treatment of cancer, a reputation that is rapidly expanding through their extensive global R&D efforts. In areas other than oncology, as well, the company creates and markets quality products that effectively treat medical conditions and can help improve people’s quality of life. Always putting customers first, Taiho Pharmaceutical also aims to offer consumer healthcare products that support people’s efforts to lead fulfilling and rewarding lives. For more information about Taiho Pharmaceutical, please visit <https://www.taiho.co.jp/en/>