

News Release

November 5, 2024

Taiho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

Taiho Innovations, LLC.

**Taiho Innovations, LLC. Selected as a Registered Venture Capital in
AMED's Strengthening Program for Pharmaceutical Startup Ecosystem**

Taiho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. and Taiho Innovations, LLC., a strategic corporate venture capital (CVC) arm of Taiho Pharmaceutical, announced today that Taiho Innovations has been selected as a registered venture capital (registered VC) of the Strengthening Program for Pharmaceutical Startup Ecosystem (hereafter "Program") implemented by the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED) and has entered into an agreement with AMED on November 1, 2024.

To address the shortage of funding for the development of new drugs, the Program supports pharmaceutical startups in their development and commercialization efforts provided the startups secure funding from AMED-registered VC firms that specialize in drug development and provide hands-on commercialization support. This initiative aims to strengthen Japan's pharmaceutical startup ecosystem.

For details about the Strengthening Program for Pharmaceutical Startup Ecosystem:

<https://www.amed.go.jp/en/program/list/19/02/005.html>

Since its establishment in 2019, Taiho Innovations has focused on investing in drug discovery startups as well as incubating startups with promising seeds and foundational technologies that have the potential to become future game-changers. Among its investment portfolio, PRD Therapeutics, Inc. and StapleBio, Inc. were established through hands-on support of Taiho Innovations. These companies have since secured funding from multiple investors who are interested in their respective businesses during

subsequent funding rounds. Moreover, to broaden Japan's pharmaceutical startup ecosystem, Taiho Innovations is also advancing an acceleration program that provides mentoring and entrepreneurial development support.

Taiho Pharmaceutical and Taiho Innovations will continue to further contribute to building Japan's pharmaceutical startup ecosystem and actively work to help create innovative new drugs that meet unmet medical needs.

About Taiho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Japan)

Taiho Pharmaceutical, a subsidiary of Otsuka Holdings Co., Ltd.

(<https://www.otsuka.com/en/>), is an R&D-driven specialty pharma focusing on the fields of oncology and immune-related diseases. 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/>

About Taiho Innovations, LLC.

Taiho Innovations is a corporate venture capital arm of Taiho Pharmaceutical. In addition to investing in early-stage Japanese biotech companies with innovative drug seeds, drug discovery platform technologies, and consumer healthcare seeds, the company incubates promising seeds and foundational technologies from academia to create new startups. Taiho Innovations is composed of members with diverse experience in global investment and pharmaceutical R&D, enabling it to provide comprehensive hands-on financial and business development support, including global expansion.

For more information about Taiho Innovations, please visit <https://www.taihoinnovations.com/> (available only in Japanese)