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Maruho Co., Ltd.

Maruho Funds Chemiderm to Sponsor Research Program at Harvard

Maruho Co., Ltd. has provided funding to Chemiderm Inc. of Cambridge, MA to discover novel compounds for the treatment of psoriasis and atopic dermatitis. To further these objectives, Chemiderm has entered into a program of research, with such research to be primarily undertaken by Dr. Matthew D. Shair, a Professor in Harvard's Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, under the terms of a Sponsored Research Agreement between Chemiderm and Harvard.

The purpose of the program is to synthesize novel analogs of existing compounds that will lead to the discovery of active new compounds with improved pharmaceutical properties in psoriasis and atopic dermatitis. Maruho has agreed to provide funding to Chemiderm in connection with such research in exchange for the rights granted under an Agreement between Maruho and Chemiderm.

Dr. Matthew D. Shair is a Professor in Harvard's Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology. The Shair research group uses modern organic synthesis and chemical biology to identify small molecules that have the potential to treat human diseases. This approach could also identify new cellular targets and mechanisms to aid in the development of novel therapeutics.

Chemiderm Inc. is an early stage development company with capabilities in the synthesis of new molecular entities, research into the properties of these compounds and the analysis of their potential for treatment of disease. Chemiderm undertakes substantial work in the identification, synthesis, characterization and development of such compounds as a part of its Agreement with Harvard University.

Maruho Co., Ltd. is the leading dermatology pharmaceutical company in Japan. Maruho, the mission of which is good contributions to the health of humankind, also has continued to expand the Dermatological product lines to aim for the goal of "Global Boutique Company for Dermatology". Research projects like the one funded in Dr. Shair's laboratory hold the promise of much needed new compounds for the treatment of dermatologic disorders such as atopic dermatitis and psoriasis.