

**Supporting the Early Commercialization of Regenerative Medicine
for Corneal Endothelium
– Partial Product Development Contract with ActualEyes Inc. –**

Japan Tissue Engineering Co., Ltd. (“J-TEC”, headquarters in Gamagori, Aichi, Japan; President & CEO, Ken-ichiro Hata) is pleased to announce that it has concluded an agreement with ActualEyes Inc. (“ActualEyes”, Kyotanabe, Kyoto, Japan; President & CEO, Iku Sugioka), a company that is engaged in R&D on regenerative medicine for the treatment of corneal endothelial disorders, to perform part of the product development for a regenerative medical product candidate for corneal endothelium (development name: AE101) that ActualEyes is developing in collaboration with D. Western Therapeutics Institute, Inc. (Aichi, Japan; President & CEO, Yuichi Hidaka).

Corneal endothelium is positioned on the inside of the cornea, and it is indispensable to maintaining the transparency of the cornea. If the corneal endothelium becomes damaged, the cornea becomes clouded and loses its transparency, leading to severe visual disorders. At present, the only treatment method for corneal endothelial damage is corneal transplantation, but there are various problems involved, such as the insufficient number of donors worldwide, and new treatment methods are sought.

J-TEC has made inroads into regenerative medicine in the ophthalmology field, developing and marketing first Autologous Cultured Corneal Epithelium “Nepic”, Japan’s first regenerative medical product in the ophthalmology field, and then a second product, Autologous Cultured Oral Mucosal Epithelium “Ocural”. Using the knowledge and expertise acquired in the process, J-TEC will support the early commercialization of regenerative medical product candidates developed by ActualEyes that are new treatment methods for the corneal endothelium.

For information about the regenerative medicine for the corneal endothelium that ActualEyes is involved in, please visit the company website at www.actualeyes.co.jp.

About J-TEC’s custom development & manufacturing business for regenerative medicine

J-TEC has obtained approval for 4 products in Japan (autologous cultured epidermis, autologous cultured cartilage, autologous cultured corneal epithelium, and autologous cultured oral mucosal epithelium) and is providing a stable supply of these products nationwide. By making the most of the experience and knowhow cultivated through these achievements, it is engaging in contract development of regenerative medical products, consulting, and contract manufacture of specific cell-processed products. For details, please see our company website.

<https://www.jp-te.co.jp/en/business/cdmo-cro/index.html>

(Reference: About J-TEC)

J-TEC is a maker of regenerative medical products whose corporate vision is “creating a future for regenerative medicine,” and has been a member of the Teijin Group since March 2021. As Japan’s top runner in regenerative medicine, J-TEC obtained marketing approval for autologous cultured epidermis “JACE”, Japan’s first regenerative medical product, in October of 2007, and began marketing the product in January of 2009. J-TEC then went on to obtain marketing approval for Autologous Cultured Cartilage “JACC” in July of 2012, for Autologous Cultured Corneal Epithelium “Nepic” in March of 2020, and for Autologous Cultured Oral Mucosal Epithelium “Ocural” in June 2021. “JACC” was Japan’s first regenerative medical product for use in orthopedic surgery, and “Nepic” was the first for use in ophthalmology. Of the 16 regenerative medical products that have been approved in Japan, four are J-TEC products.

(Reference: About ActualEyes)

ActualEyes is a bioventure company that was established on the basis of the research results obtained by Professor Noriko Koizumi and Professor Naoki Okumura of the Faculty of Life and Medical Sciences, Doshisha University. It conducts research and development on regenerative medicine and pharmacotherapy for corneal endothelial disorders, such as Fuchs endothelial corneal dystrophy and bullous keratopathy.

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