



## **FBRI and Fraunhofer IME signed a Joint Research Agreement on Drug Discovery for Dementia with Japanese Pharma Company**

Foundation for Biomedical Research and Innovation at Kobe (FBRI), Fraunhofer Institute for Molecular Biology and Applied Ecology IME (Fraunhofer IME) and a Japanese pharmaceutical company has concluded the Joint Research Agreement on Drug Discovery for Dementia.

### **◆Theme of the Research◆**

Development of a therapeutic drug for dementia based on vascular function regeneration by utilizing stem cells.

### **◆Purpose of the Research◆**

Dr. Akihiko Taguchi, a professor at Institute of Biomedical Research and Innovation, Department of Regenerative Medicine Research had established the vascularization/activation method. By utilizing this technology, Fraunhofer IME conducts High-Throughput Screening (HTS) with their compound library and we aim to discover and develop the drug for dementia.

### **◆Background of Mutual Collaboration◆**

In 2016, FBRI had started to promote the collaboration with Northern Germany Biomedical Cluster under Regional Industry Tie-Up project promoted by Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO). This time, with a support from Life science Nord, one of the leading industry networks in Europe, FBRI and Fraunhofer IME had concluded the Joint Research Agreement.

In August 2019, both Fraunhofer IME and Life Science Nord visited Kobe, Japan together with Hamburg's First Mayor and its delegation, and held the joint event "Stem Cell Symposium ~Challenge to the treatment of dementia with regenerative medicine technology~", co-hosted by FBRI, Fraunhofer IME and Life Science Nord.

FBRI will continue to seek the opportunity for international joint research and collaborate with northern Germany to promote for further expansion of global activities.

### **◆Contract Period◆**

3 years from August 5th 2020

### **● Website of Fraunhofer IME**

<https://www.ime.fraunhofer.de/en/press/FBRI.html>

### **● Website of Life Science Nord**

<https://lifesciencenord.de/de/news/detail/fbri-and-ime-sign-joint-research-agreement.html>

## About the Organization

### ▣ Fraunhofer Institute for Molecular Biology and Applied Ecology IME

The Fraunhofer Institute for Molecular Biology and Applied Ecology IME, with over 530 employees at its six sites in Schmallenberg, Aachen, Gießen, Münster, Frankfurt/Main and Hamburg conducts research in the field of applied life sciences from a molecular level to entire ecosystems, in the areas of pharmacy, medicine, chemistry, agriculture, as well as environmental and consumer protection. Our mission is the development and use of novel technologies for diagnosis and therapy of human and animal diseases as well as the protection of crop plants and food sources.

### ▣ Foundation for Biomedical Research and Innovation at Kobe (FBRI)

The Foundation for Biomedical Research and Innovation at Kobe FBRI (President Tasuku Honjo, M.D.PhD) is charged with general coordinating functions to promote and facilitate collaboration and integration among industrial, governmental, academic, and medical sectors; to support R&D leading to advances in healthcare and their clinical application; and to work toward the construction of next-generation healthcare systems. Through these activities, the FBRI expects to contribute to the creation of innovative healthcare technologies and the formation and accumulation of healthcare-related industries in Kobe. The FBRI's ultimate goals are to revitalize Kobe's economy, enhance local residents' wellbeing, and contribute to the international community.

### ▣ Life Science Nord

The Life Science Nord Cluster of the Federal States of Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein embraces over 500 biotech/pharma and medical technology companies and numerous research institutes. With a complete value chain – from basic and applied research, to clinical tests, to the market-ready end product the region offers a unique infrastructure. The cluster agency Life Science Nord Management GmbH brings together economy, research and politics in the north, activating expert knowledge from universities and research institutions while simultaneously maintaining a close relationship with companies in the region. It also offers advice and coordinates a variety of activities with the overall objective to further developing the Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein region into an internationally leading Life Science Network.