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# Thyas signs a licensing agreement with iPS-AJ

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**Thyas is a start-up biotechnology company from Center for iPS cell Research and Application, Kyoto University, Japan, and supported by Kyoto University Innovation Capital Co. Ltd., a wholly owned investment firm of the university.**




Thyas has signed a licensing agreement with iPS Academia Japan, Inc. (iPS-AJ), a technology licensing organization of induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cell related-patents from Kyoto University. Under the agreement, Thyas obtains exclusive rights on patents related to production and use of iPS cell-derived T cells, and non-exclusive rights on the patents related to iPS cell generation, for development and commercialization of autologous immunotherapy of cancers and infectious diseases. Thyas will pay ongoing licensing fees to iPS-AJ. Financial terms of the agreement have not been disclosed.

The method to generate highly antigen specific iPSC-derived killer T cells is established by Dr. Shin Kaneko, an associate professor and a leading scientist of immunotherapy using iPSC-derived killer T cells, in Center for iPS cell Research and Application, Kyoto University. The iPSC technology allows Thyas to stably supply a large quantity of tumor-specific or virus-specific T cells that have high proliferative capacity and potent killing activity. As of today, no other method produces highly antigen specific iPSC-derived killer T cells.

Novel immunotherapies have demonstrated significant benefits to cancer patients, however, the use of those is limited due to severe adverse events and therapy resistance. Thyas iPS-derived T cell products are expected to be safe and highly effective to many patients with cancers and infectious diseases. Therefore, the approach has a great clinical advantage.

Thyas is a start-up biotechnology company from Center for iPS cell Research and Application, Kyoto University, Japan, and supported by Kyoto University Innovation Capital Co. Ltd., a wholly owned investment firm of the university. The company is developing autologous immunotherapy with iPSC-derived killer T cells to cure patients suffering deadly diseases. Its key technologies are established by Dr. Shin Kaneko, Center for iPS cell Research and Application, Kyoto University.

iPS-AJ is an approved TLO (technology licensing organization) (since 2016) which was established in 2008 to widely promote the use of iPS cell-related patents based on the research results by Prof. Shinya Yamanaka and his colleagues and iPS-AJ grants licenses regarding iPS cell-related patents with the aim of benefiting the health and welfare of human beings.