

Japan emphasises on escalating global anxiety and depression crisis

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To treat social anxiety, generalised anxiety disorder, and major depressive disorder



Japanese firm Sumitomo Dainippon Pharma and US-based BehaVR, Inc. have signed definitive agreements to develop and commercialize both prescription digital therapeutics and general wellness products for treatment of Social Anxiety Disorder (SAD), Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD), and Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) with the goal of bringing much needed tools to tackle the escalating global anxiety and depression crisis.

The companies believe the unique neurological power of the virtual reality (VR) medium will transform access to care and power next generation delivery of anxiety and depression treatment for patients.

The companies will pursue FDA clearance for three products that aim to alleviate the burden in patients with Social Anxiety, Generalized Anxiety or Major Depressive Disorder. Once FDA-cleared, they may be prescribed alongside other behavioral therapies and have the potential to be used in a variety of settings.

Sumitomo Dainippon Pharma will pay BehaVR \$5 million in upfront payments and up to \$18 million in development milestone and R&D support payments, in addition to commercial and operational support fees. An additional up to \$140 million in milestone payments are contingent upon commercial success. In addition, BehaVR will receive tiered royalties on global sales of the digital therapeutic products that are delivered into market.