WHO WE ARE

We Are a Premium Drug Discovery CRO with Deep Pharma-Origin Roots

History

Established in 2017 in Japan, spun out from Takeda Pharmaceuticals

Mission

To be the most trusted companion for all who endeavor to bring highly innovative medicine to the world

Leadership Team

Led by a strong leadership team with deep experience in drug discovery

Chairperson,
Yoshinori Ikeura, PhD

President & CEO,
Kengo Okada, PhD

Chief Science Officer,
Masayuki Ii, PhD

Head of BD,
Kazuyoshi Aso, PhD

Why We Can Accelerate Your Research

We accelerate your drug discovery journey by leveraging our proven foundation built on:

Drug Discovery Vault

- Access to the inherited 1000+ research projects includes hit/lead compounds and data
- Leveraging these assets to jump-start your projects and increase your success

Industry-leading Talents

- 400 drug hunters with experience in 100 INDs and 20 NDAs
- Deep experience across diverse target classes and therapeutic areas to support your success

Proprietary Platforms

- 1.2M+ high-quality compound library covering diverse chemical space, including fine-tuned focused libraries
- High-fidelity animal models for robust in vivo evaluation of your drug candidates
- Advanced in silico tools to guide your drug discovery project

Strong Partnerships

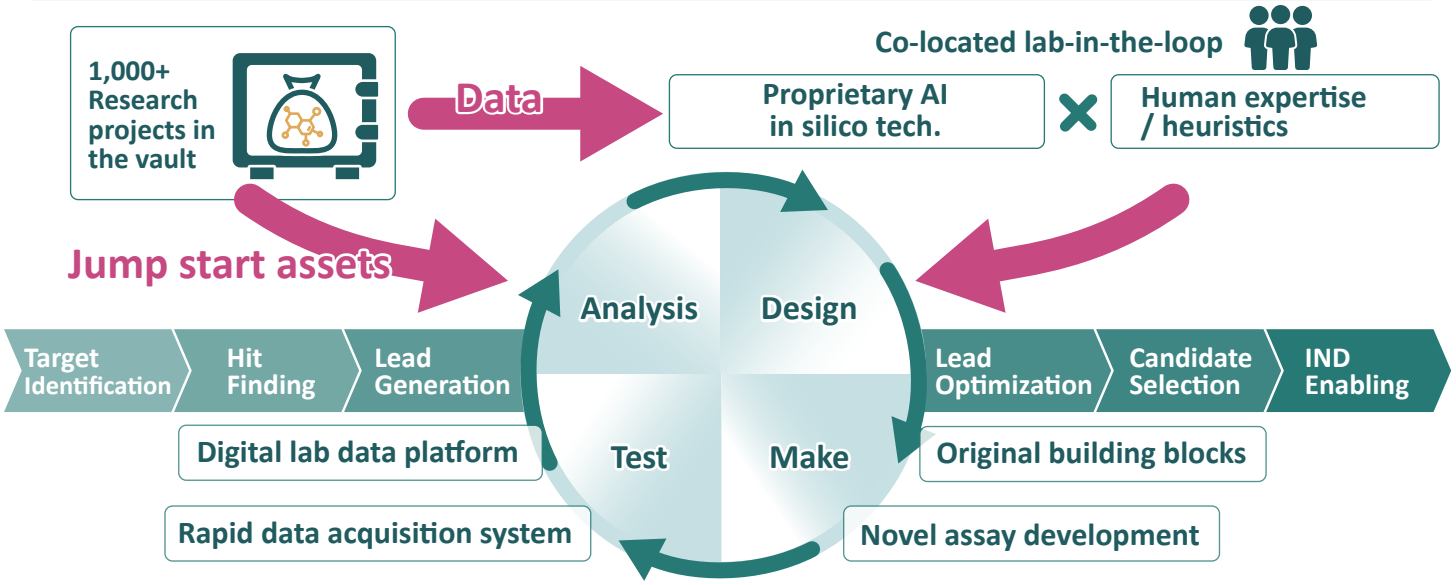
- Broad network of leading life science companies, enhancing our offerings to clients
- Acting as a trusted navigator to engage with Japan's life science ecosystem

What We Offer: Drug Discovery Booster Service

Our Integrated drug discovery service is powered by our comprehensive foundation, enabling you to jump-start your project with pre-qualified hits and lead compounds derived from the inherited 1,000+ pharma-origin research projects. This data strengthens our AI tools and boosts the DMTA cycle through seamless integration with other components of the foundation.

Case A 6 months for lead generation in CNS and inflammation phenotypic drug discovery

Case B 12 months for lead generation and lead optimization for Inflammation enzyme targets



Spotlight Clients

Lilly
Strategic partnership for drug discovery research

Acadia
Tighten partnership to run multiple drug discovery projects

Otsuka
Achieved the first milestone in drug discovery

Our Footprint

Since our founding in 2017, we have built a strong track record of success in drug discovery through partnerships with a wide range of clients.

300+
Clients
Trusted by hundreds of clients including mega-pharmas

45%+
Global Business
Global (Non-Japanese) business is close to half and rapidly growing

88%
Repeat Rate
High repeat rate reflects strong client satisfaction

95%
Hit Identification Success Rate
Successfully identified hit compounds

84%
LG/LO Achievement Rate
Consistently met success criteria in lead generation and optimization

Integrated Drug Discovery

Screening

Compound Management and Protein Science
- Efficient compound and data handling
- Protein production and cell-free assay

Cell Biology and High-Throughput Screening
- Cell line establishment and assay development
- Target deconvolution
- Automated testing of large chemical libraries

Compound Evaluation and Platform Development
- Biochemical and biophysical assay for compound profiling
- Design and development of new screening platform

Chemistry

Medicinal Chemistry
- Expert drug design and chemical synthesis

Design Technology
- Computer simulation to assist drug design
- Virtual screening
- Combinatorial chemistry

Analytical and Synthetic Chemistry
- Qualitative and quantitative analysis
- Purification, structure determination, flow chemistry, photo chemistry
- Parallel synthesis, chiral synthesis
- Route scouting and scale-up synthesis

DMPK

HT-ADME
- Target ADME profile
- Assay process design

Drug Disposition & Analysis
- Compound optimization
- PK/PD/Efficacy analysis

Modeling & Simulation
- Mechanism-based modeling
- Population PK/PD modeling

Drug Interaction
- PBPK model-based analysis

Metabolite Analysis
- Metabolite profiling (radiolabeled/nonlabelled, human/animals)

Physicochem/Preformulation
- Physicochemical profile
- Nomination/optimal crystal form

Pharmacology

Therapeutic Areas
- Oncology: Cancers including immuno-oncology
- Immunology: IBD, RA, SLE, psoriasis, MS
- CNS: Neurodegenerative and psychiatric diseases
- Cardiovascular/Kidney: Heart and kidney diseases
- Musculoskeletal: Osteoporosis, OA, fracture, muscular atrophy, DMD
- Metabolic: Diabetes, NASH, obesit
- Others: Pain, constipation, pruritus

Platforms

Omics
Metabolomics, lipidomics, proteomics, transcriptomics, genomics

Bioinformatics
Advanced pathway analysis and visualization

Genetically-modified animal models
Gene-editing knock-out / knock-in mice and rats

Pathology
Histopathology and clinical pathology

Safety

In vitro tox
- Target safety assessment
- Cardiotoxicity screening
- Genotoxicity screening

IND/NDA-enabling Studies
- Rodent and non-rodent studies
- GLP studies
- Safety and DMPK assessment

In vivo tox
- Best-in class cardiovascular de-risking screening
- Non-GLP early/preliminary tox studies

Explore the Future: New Modalities

To meet rising demand for novel modalities, we've broadened our capabilities—grounded in chemistry and peptides and enhanced through strategic partnerships.

Peptide

Comprehensive Peptide Drug Discovery

- Optimized profiles addressing key challenges: sequence design, stability, in vivo persistence, oral absorption
- Proprietary strategies for effective peptide sequences
- Comprehensive pharmacokinetic and physico-chemical evaluation

Advanced Peptide Platform

- Structural analysis: co-crystal, single-crystal, NMR analysis
- In silico analysis: identification of hot spots, binding model, structure hopping technology
- Synthesis: multi-sample parallel and high-quality bulk synthesis, high-speed purification
  - Short / long-chain
  - Cyclic
  - Peptide conjugate / prodrugs
  - Polyamide
- Evaluation: experimental polar surface area (EPSA) assay, cell free/cell assay, biophysical assay, etc

Oligonucleotide

Safety Evaluation & Innovative Delivery

- Target-related and hybridization-dependent toxicity assessment
- Advanced off-target analysis and toxicity evaluation systems
- Rapid quantitative and cellular distribution analysis
- Optimized delivery through peptide conjugates

ASO Excellence

- Efficient sequence optimization with balanced safety and activity
- Specific mRNA targeting with reduced off-target effects

Peptide-Oligonucleotide Conjugates (POC)

- Synthesis of targeted peptides and optimal linker selection
- Improved tissue/cell delivery

Targeted Protein Degradation

Platform

- Bifunctional degraders & MGDs
- High-throughput synthesis with chemical toolbox
- Original binders for 500+ targets, including 125 kinases
- 6,400-compound MGD-focused library
- Neo-substrate identification and selectivity evaluation

Key Technologies

- Degrader synthesis: 96 compounds/batch in 2-3 weeks
- ADME optimization: customized assays and AI/ML for oral bioavailability
- Screening & profiling: high-throughput assays and comprehensive profiling
- Neo-substrate identification: advanced proteomics techniques

Spotlight Clients

Supporting **Astellas**' efforts for TPD Drug Discovery

Exploring the expansion of ADC services with **LOTTE BIOLOGICS & Kanaph**

Providing RNA therapeutic technologies with **Nissan Chemical**

Axcelead Drug Discovery Partners, Inc.
https://www.axcelead-us.com/

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