

October 17, 2002  
Shionogi & Co., Ltd.  
Kyowa Medex Co., Ltd.

## **Notice of the Conclusion of the Agreement on the BNP Test Reagent**

Shionogi & Co., Ltd. and Kyowa Medex Co., Ltd. (Chuo-ku, Tokyo; President: Yoh Tokoro) concluded an agreement on the license for the patents on brain natriuretic peptide (BNP) held by Shionogi. Kyowa Medex will take over the production and sales of the co-developed reagent and device for BNP testing.

BNP is one of hormones secreted by the heart. A rise in its concentration in the blood provides an early detection of ventricular dysfunction and clearly indicates a change in the state of heart failure. Thus, blood BNP measurements are useful for diagnosis, monitoring and prognosis of heart failure and used at many medical facilities. In October 1994, Shionogi began production and sales of SHIONORIA<sup>®</sup>BNP, a radioimmunoassay (RIA) kit as in vitro diagnostic reagent for BNP, and has since worked to distribute it widely. Currently, SHIONORIA<sup>®</sup>BNP is internationally recognized as the golden standard for BNP measurement.

Because SHIONORIA<sup>®</sup>BNP is a radioactive reagent, it can be used only in the facilities with controlled areas. In order to enable them to carry out BNP measurement in hospitals and commercial laboratories which cannot handle radioactive materials, Shionogi has co-developed a non-isotopic reagent for BNP used in automated devices with Kyowa Medex, which has a solid reputation in the development and sales of automated devices and diagnostic reagents used. With such developed methods as chemiluminescence technologies, it made it possible to obtain BNP test results within one hour, while it required much longer time in the previous RIA method. The automated device was developed at the same time by refinement on previous devices which have been well established by Kyowa Medex for chemiluminescent detection. This will prove to be a powerful tool for on-the-spot examinations at the hospitals and the commercial laboratories. On September 10, 2002, Kyowa Medex has

received approval from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare for the production of this reagent, and aims to launch it as Determiner<sup>®</sup>BNP next spring. Through its launch, BNP tests will be used more widely in medical facilities, and will enable them to provide informations on heart failure much more quickly than before.

Heart failure is a syndrome that appears as a result of decline of function of heart caused by cardiovascular diseases. Once a symptom has appeared, the prognosis tends to be poor. Among Japanese, mortality rate resulting from cardiovascular disease and cerebrovascular disease is almost equal, and combined the two surpass cancer which is the leading cause of death. It is expected that overcoming heart failure will become an important issue, due to the aging of the population and the spread of Western lifestyles.

Expenditures for circulatory diseases accounted for 23 percent of all general medical treatments in national health care expenses in fiscal 1999. BNP tests used for the diagnosis and monitoring of heart failure in its early stages are expected to contribute to the improved health of many people, while providing economic benefits in medical expenses by enabling early treatment.

Both companies are positioning BNP as one brand to be a driving force of future growth in the diagnostic business. By speeding up the spread of on-site BNP testing, we will contribute even more to medical care in the field of heart disease management.

### **Company Profiles**

Company Name:	Shionogi & Co., Ltd.
Head Office:	1-8, Doshomachi 3-chome, Chuo-ku, Osaka
Paid-in Capital:	¥21,279 million
President:	Motozo Shiono
Sales (in year ended March 2002):	¥206,400 million

Company Name:	Kyowa Medex Co., Ltd.
Head Office:	Sumitomo-Irifune Bldg., 2-1-1

	Irifune, Chuo-ku, Tokyo
Paid-in Capital:	¥750 million
President:	Yoh Tokoro
Sales (in year ended March 2002):	¥8,500 million

Kyowa Medex Co., Ltd. was established in 1981 as a full subsidiary of Kyowa Hakko Kogyo Co., Ltd. (Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; President: Tadashi Hirata), after branching off from the clinical testing division. Kyowa Medex manufactures and sells such items as biochemical testing reagents, immunoassay kits using monoclonal antibodies, and medical devices. Kyowa Medex contributes to clinical testing and brings it further forward through the development of such products as the world's first HDL cholesterol direct test reagent and a test reagent and automatic analysis device for hemoglobin A1c, an index of blood sugar level control for diabetic patients.

#### **For Further Information**

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