

Hokkaido University and Otsuka Pharmaceutical to Collaborate in Joint Research

- New Food Research Section Established within Hokkaido University Institute for Promotion of Business-Regional Collaboration -

1. Overview

As of January 1, 2017, National University Corporation Hokkaido University (President: Keizo Yamaguchi) and Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (President: Tatsuo Higuchi), have jointly established the Collaborative Food Research Section, a New Industry Creation Section within the Hokkaido University Institute for Promotion of Business-Regional Collaboration.

The two parties will participate as equal partners to integrate respective innovative research and commercialization technologies, focusing on large-scale collaborative research targeting identification of research seeds including mechanisms, with the ultimate aim of commercializing new food products to address issues associated with rapidly aging society and contribute to extended healthy life expectancy.

2. Objectives and Overview of Collaborative Research

【Overview】

Collaborative Research Themes: “Improvement of Dietary Habits,” “Support for Active Seniors,” “The Joy of Eating,” “Women’s Health”

Location: Global Research Center for Food and Medical Innovation (FMI)

Participating Faculties: Research Faculty of Agriculture • Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine • Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Founding Department: Institute for Promotion of Business-Regional Collaboration (Business Promotion Department)

Period: Three-year term, beginning January 1, 2017.



FMI

【Background】

Faced with the challenges of a super-aging society, there is a pressing need to resolve health-related issues including maintenance and promotion of health and extension of healthy life expectancy.

【Merits of Collaborative Research】

Aims of collaboration between Hokkaido University, known for extensive foodstuff, agriculture, dairy, and animal husbandry research capabilities, and Otsuka Pharmaceutical Otsu Nutraceuticals Research Institute, specializing in development of food products based on scientific evidence include:

1. Possibility of identification of new research themes with potential for commercial application through inter-organizational cooperation
2. Possibility of early development of innovative new products to address specific health issues
3. Expectations of enhancing growth and motivation of young researchers

3. New Industry Creation Section, Hokkaido University Institute for Promotion of Business-Regional Collaboration

New Industry Creation Sections (Departments, Chairs)*¹ is a framework established in April 2014 to promote large-scale collaborative research*², partnering researchers from industry and academia. Based on equal partnership, collaborative research projects aim to create new industries and commercialize research results. The New Industry Creation Section established with Otsuka Pharmaceutical is the first full-fledged collaborative project that aims to integrate the R&D expertise of three different faculties (Research Faculty of Agriculture • Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine • Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences).

※1 New Industry Creation Sections (Departments, Chairs)

○Aims to create a new style of collaborative research between Hokkaido University and corporate partners (Designation to vary (Section; Department; Chair) according to the establishing university organization:)

New Industry Creation Department: Established within a research faculty

New Industry Creation Chair: Established within a graduate school

New Industry Creation Section: Established within an affiliated research institute or research center

○Compared to conventional cooperative research, which typically involves a specific University researcher (or research laboratory) and a corresponding corporate research institute or division, collaborative research as a New Industry Creation Section (Department, Chair) involves the University and a corporate partner as equal partners with the full commitment of top management from both parties, with both parties providing research and management resources with the aim of creating or commercializing new industries.

○Prerequisites for establishment include the following:

- Both partners will share the philosophy of the New Industry Creation Section

Example of philosophy: Implement large-scale collaborative research in a spirit of equal partnership with shared missions and goals.

- Corporate partner to establish research center and undertake collaborative research within University facilities (for a period of at least two years).

- Collaborative research to be conducted under one roof by personnel assigned from corporate partner and University.

※2 Joint research projects undertaken by both organizations with the involvement of corporate and University top management.

4. Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. Otsu Nutraceuticals Research Institute

■ Established: 2000

■ Overview: Based on the Otsuka Group corporate philosophy of “creating new products for better health worldwide,” the Otsu Nutraceuticals Research Institute is engaged in basic research to identify, develop and commercialize functional foods for maintenance and promotion of health, aiming to contribute to enhanced quality of life and extended healthy life expectancy. One area of specialization is mucosal immunity, focusing on the intestinal tract, vital for absorption of nutrients and immune functions.