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FIRST DRUG CANDIDATE FROM EISAI-UCL RESEARCH COLLABORATION TO ENTER ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE CLINICAL TRIALS

HATFIELD, England, December 5, 2018 – Eisai announced today that the first drug candidate from their drug discovery collaboration with University College London (UCL), is to enter Phase I clinical trials for Alzheimer's disease (AD), in early 2019. The candidate, known as E2814, is an anti-tau monoclonal antibody set to be tested in human trials for the first time to assess its ability to slow the progression of AD.

AD is a chronic, progressive, neurodegenerative disease characterised by formation of protein deposits known as plaques (made of amyloid-beta protein) and neurofibrillary tangles (made of tau protein) in patient's brains.¹ Tau "seeds" are believed to spread between different areas of the brain as the disease advances.² E2814 is designed to target the tau "seeds", preventing further build-up of neurofibrillary tangles and thus may slow the course of the disease.

The research collaboration, agreed in 2012 for an initial period of six years, has been extended for a further 5 years to 2023. It was established as part of Eisai's Open Innovation strategy to collaborate with leading researchers in order to translate new research findings into innovative treatments for patients with neurodegenerative diseases. E2814 is one outcome out of a portfolio of projects established during the first phase of the collaboration with UCL.

"The discovery is the result of a truly open partnership with UCL. We are proud that our collaboration has led to the discovery of E2814, which will progress into clinical trials early next year," said Andy Takle, Executive Director and Head, Eisai Hatfield Research Laboratories. *"This achievement would not have been possible without the unique collaboration model we have built based on a continued exchange of ideas, and sharing of expertise and resources."*

Professor Alan Thompson, Dean of UCL Faculty of Brain Sciences, said: *"This unique research partnership brings together UCL's world-class academic research capabilities with the drug discovery expertise of industry. These results highlight the success of bringing together such complementary expertise."*

There are 850,000 people with dementia in the UK, with numbers set to rise to over one million by 2025. It is believed AD accounts for up to 70% of all dementia cases.^{3,4} There is currently no cure for Alzheimer's disease.³

< Notes to editors >

What is E2814?

E2814 is an anti-tau monoclonal antibody. It is being investigated as a potential disease modifying agent for the treatment of AD, entering Phase I clinical trials in early 2019. The drug candidate was discovered as part of the research collaboration between Eisai and UCL and is designed to prevent the spreading of tau protein “seeds” within the brains of affected individuals.

What is Alzheimer’s disease?^{1,3}

AD is the most common cause of dementia. The symptoms can include memory loss and difficulties with thinking, problem-solving and language. During the course of the disease, proteins build up in the brain to form structures called ‘plaques’ and ‘tangles’. This leads to the loss of connections between nerve cells, and eventually to the death of nerve cells and loss of brain tissue.

Eisai’s Open Innovation

Open Innovation is collaboration through the sharing of knowledge, resources and expertise to achieve outcomes which no one, single party can in isolation. Our philosophy is to avoid parochialism and be open minded to new ideas and new ways of working. As part of this commitment, Eisai works in partnership with a number of world-class research organisations including University College London (UCL).

About Eisai Co., Ltd.

Eisai Co., Ltd. is a leading global research and development-based pharmaceutical company headquartered in Japan. We define our corporate mission as “giving first thought to patients and their families and to increasing the benefits health care provides”, which we call our *human health care* philosophy. With over 10,000 employees working across our global network of R&D facilities, manufacturing sites and marketing subsidiaries, we strive to realise our *human health care* philosophy by delivering innovative products in various therapeutic areas with high unmet medical needs, including Oncology and Neurology.

As a global pharmaceutical company, our mission extends to patients around the world through our investment and participation in partnership-based initiatives to improve access to medicines in developing and emerging countries.

For more information about Eisai Co., Ltd., please visit www.eisai.com.

About UCL

UCL was founded in 1826. We were the first English university established after Oxford and Cambridge, the first to open up university education to those previously excluded from it, and the first to provide systematic teaching of law, architecture and medicine. We are among the world's top universities, as reflected by performance in a range of international rankings and tables. UCL currently has over 38,000 students from 150 countries and over 12,000 staff. Our annual income is more than £1 billion.

www.ucl.ac.uk

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