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FunPep Co., Ltd.

## **Shionogi and FunPep Conclude Joint Research Agreement on Antibody-Inducing Peptides**

FunPep Co., Ltd. (FunPep) and Shionogi & Co., Ltd. (Shionogi) have announced the signing of a joint research agreement on antibody-inducing peptides for the therapeutic area of pain.

FunPep has been conducting research and development of antibody-inducing peptides in collaboration with Osaka University Graduate School of Medicine and other institutions. Antibody-inducing peptides are peptide drugs designed to induce the body to produce antibodies that inhibit the action of a target molecule and are characterized by their ability to maintain antibodies and sustained efficacy after only one administration every few months. Antibody-inducing peptides also have the potential to be an affordable alternative to antibody drugs, which require a large investment in biomanufacturing facilities.

In this joint research, the two companies plan to jointly conduct exploratory research on new drug candidates by utilizing Shionogi's pharmaceutical R&D knowhow in the area of pain and FunPep's pharmaceutical R&D knowhow in antibody-induced peptides.

In addition, FunPep will receive a research grant from Shionogi for this joint research.