



China Patent and Trade Mark Office Grants Patent for RX50, a Drug Target Implicated in Human Cancers and Neurodegenerative Disorders.

TOKYO, MAY 16, 2008 – GNI Ltd., a leading biopharmaceutical company in Asia, is pleased to announce that China Patent and Trade Mark Office has granted Shanghai Genomics, GNI's wholly owned subsidiary, regional patent right to one of GNI's important drug targets, RX50, and its related use applications (China Patent ZL 200380110915.8). This patent is a new addition in GNI's global patents portfolio. GNI scientists are currently screening for small molecule inhibitors for cancer drug development.

RX50 kinase was originally identified by Shanghai Genomics in 2007. It is a cell proliferation regulator and drugable protein likely associated with human cancers and neurodegenerative disorders. As one of the novel member of the family of Cyclin-Dependent Kinases, RX50 is important in regulating the growth Cyclin D3 (CCND3) and formed a tri-molecular complex with the cell cycle inhibitor p21. p21 is a key tumor suppressor whose mutations are frequently found in forms of human cancer. These results have been published in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA^{*1}.

China has 3.1 million cancer patients and Japan has 1.43 million cancer patients. Each year, there are 2 million new cancer cases and there are about 1.5 million death caused by cancer in China^{*2}. The Chinese market of anti-cancer drugs is growing 17% per year^{*3}. Certain types of cancer in China and Japan, such as lung cancer and stomach cancer, are ranked as No.1 or No.2 on the cancer frequency list. Small molecule inhibitors of Cyclin-Dependent Kinases are going through clinical studies in many countries.

Dr. Jun Wu, Chief Scientific Officer of GNI, said, "Receiving patent protection of RX50 secures and accelerates our novel drug discovery program. Kinase inhibitors have been proved to treat various types of cancer. After years of target discovery using gene-network technology and protein-protein interaction screening, we have identified and validated a group of potentially valuable targets. Our research focus will gradually shift from drug target discovery towards drug discovery and development in the coming years."

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http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez?Db=pubmed&Cmd=ShowDetailView&TermToSearch=17517622&ordinalpos=2&itool=EntrezSystem2.PEntrez.Pubmed.Pubmed_ResultsPanel.Pubmed_RVDocSuma

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<http://www.crinordic.com/2946/2006/12/11/176@172811.htm>
<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/toukei/saikin/hw/kanja/05/05.html>

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<http://www.hyey.com/data/news/200608/71124.html>

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About GNI

Founded in 2001, GNI, Ltd. Is a clinical-stage international drug development company with its headquarters in Tokyo, Japan, and major operations in Shanghai, China. In June 2005, GNI acquired Shanghai Genomics, which was also founded in 2001, and currently operates an integrated drug discovery and development platform in Shanghai. The combined strengths of GNI and Shanghai Genomics ha resulted in research collaborations with major international pharmaceutical companies. GNI has offices in Beijing, Tianjin, and Zhangzhou, China and Fukuoka, Japan. For further information, please visit www.gnipharma.com and www.shanghaigenomics.com.