

March 1, 2018

Company Name: HEALIOS K.K.
Representative: Hardy TS Kagimoto,
President, Representative Director & CEO
(TSE Mothers Code: 4593)

Appointment of Dr. Masayo Takahashi as Special Advisor to Healios

HEALIOS K.K. (“Healios”) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Masayo Takahashi, the project leader of Laboratory for Retinal Regeneration at RIKEN Center for Developmental Biology, as a special advisor to Healios.

As the project leader of Laboratory for Retinal Regeneration in RIKEN Center for Developmental Biology, Dr. Takahashi has been working on research and development of medical technologies for retinal reconstruction. She is leading “Clinical research for the use of induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cell-derived retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) cells in the treatment of age-related macular degeneration.” In September 2014, she and her collaborators performed the first transplantation of autologous iPS cell-derived RPE cells in a patient with age-related macular degeneration. In March 2017, the outcomes of this study were published in the renowned medical journal, The New England Journal of Medicine. In the same year, she and her collaborators carried out five transplants of allogeneic iPS cell (made from another person’s cells) -derived RPE cell suspension in patients with age-related macular degeneration, and further clinical research studies are being planned.

In March 2013, Healios signed a patent licensing agreement with RIKEN, on RPE cells for the treatment of age-related macular degeneration. Based on knowledge on the method of inducing differentiation of RPE cells devised by Dr. Takahashi and her team, Healios is promoting the development for practical application of iPS cell-derived RPE cells for treatment of age-related macular degeneration by using our own know-how.

We intend to boost our progress toward starting the clinical trial and the practical application of treatments for age-related macular degeneration using iPS cell-induced RPE cells by entering into a formal advisory relationship with Dr. Takahashi. Moreover, with the mission of “To be the change in an ever-evolving world through enrichment of living,” Healios is committed to providing new therapeutic methods that bring healing and hope to patients with refractory diseases all over the world through receiving advice from Dr. Takahashi not only in the area of ophthalmology but also on our business overall.

For enquiries relating to this matter, please contact:
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