

## **SBI Biotech's Subsidiary Quark Pharmaceuticals and India's Major Pharmaceutical Company Biocon Enter into a Licensing & Technical Collaboration Agreement**

SBI Biotech Co., Ltd. (Head office: Minato-ku, Tokyo; President: Ken-ichi Arai; "SBI Biotech") hereby announces that its subsidiary Quark Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Head office: California, U.S.; Chairman & CEO: Daniel Zurr; "Quark") has reached a licensing & collaboration agreement with Biocon Ltd (Head office: Bangalore, India; Chairman & Managing Director: Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw; "Biocon"), a major pharmaceutical company in India. SBI Biotech is a subsidiary of SBI Holdings, Inc. (Head office: Minato-ku, Tokyo; Representative Director, President & CEO: Yoshitaka Kitao), engaged in R&D on pharmaceuticals for cancer, autoimmune diseases, allergy and other intractable illnesses.

This licensing & collaboration agreement will enable Quark and Biocon to jointly promote R&D of QPI-1007, a novel siRNA drug candidate uniquely developed by Quark. QPI-1007 is being developed for ocular neuroprotection in NAION (non-arteritic anterior ischemic optic neuropathy) and acute angle closure glaucoma. It completed a phase I/IIa study, which showed QPI-1007 was safe.

In India, it is estimated that glaucoma affects 12 million people accounting for 12.8% of the country's blindness and by 2020, this is expected to reach 16 million. Commenting on this development Ms Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Chairperson & Managing Director, Biocon, said: "We are very excited to partner with Quark to develop novel and promising siRNA therapeutics. Quark is the world leader in this technology and our joint development efforts on QPI-1007, targeting ocular neuroprotection aims at providing relief to several patients suffering from serious ophthalmic conditions. This collaboration reinforces our commitment to develop and introduce innovative therapeutics to India to meet the unmet medical needs. We hope to use this technology for developing several other novel therapeutics."

Please also refer to Quark's press release issued jointly with Biocon at:

<http://www.quarkpharma.com/QBI-EN/2013/Quark-Biocon/>

### About Biocon

Established in 1978, Biocon Limited is India's largest and Asia's leading biotechnology company with a strategic focus on biopharmaceuticals and research services. Its founder Ms Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw is a leader in India's biotechnology industry. She was named among TIME magazine's 100 most influential people in the world, and is on the Forbes list of the world's 100 most powerful women.

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