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SymBio Pharmaceuticals Limited
Fuminori Yoshida
Representative Director
President and Chief Executive Officer
(Securities Code: 4582)

A New Approach to Multiple Sclerosis Treatment Using IV BCV Research Results from a Collaborative Study with the U.S. NIH Published in the Journal of Clinical Investigation

Tokyo, Japan, January 29, 2026 - SymBio Pharmaceuticals Limited ("SymBio" or the "Company") has been conducting a collaborative study with the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), a research institute within the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), to explore the potential of IV BCV (intravenous brincidofovir) for the treatment of multiple sclerosis (MS). SymBio today announces that the results of this study have been published as an article in the prestigious *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. (J Clin Invest. 2025 Nov 25:e195764. doi: 10.1172/JCI195764)

Multiple sclerosis is a disease in which reactivation of Epstein–Barr virus (EBV), which lies latent in lymphocytes in the body, is considered to be one of the principal causes of onset. Through this collaborative research, we discovered that IV BCV markedly suppresses EBV activity even at low doses. In addition, experiments using cells derived from MS patients have already confirmed that BCV selectively inhibits only EBV-positive B-lymphocyte cells. This makes it possible to selectively treat only MS patients who are EBV-positive. Going forward, by testing patients' blood, it will become possible to identify in advance those patients for whom treatment with IV BCV is expected to be effective, and to assess treatment efficacy within a short period of time. This is expected to lead to the development of more effective therapies tailored to each individual MS patient.

Statement from Fuminori Yoshida, President and CEO: "The results of our collaborative research with NIH suggest the potential for the development of an innovative therapy that differs from conventional treatment approaches aimed at eliminating all B-lymphocytes, by targeting only the lymphocytes in which EBV is latent. We will continue to pursue new approaches to MS treatment together with the NIH/NINDS team."

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Notes

1. Relationship Between EBV and Multiple Sclerosis

A Harvard University research team, in collaboration with the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, conducted a large-scale longitudinal study and, in January 2022, published results in the globally prestigious scientific journal Science showing a strong association between EBV infection and the onset of multiple sclerosis. In the same month, a Stanford University team published a molecular elucidation of the detailed mechanism of disease development in another leading journal, Nature. The relationship between EBV infection and multiple sclerosis is also recognized at MS conferences such as ACTRIMS and ECTRIMS. Conventional therapies have primarily aimed to improve symptoms by eliminating all B-lymphocytes in MS patients; however, based on the results of this collaborative research with NIH, we believe that using BCV may enable removal of only EBV-infected B-lymphocytes, thereby reducing the burden on patients' immune systems compared with conventional treatments.

2. Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with NIH/NINDS

In March 2023, SymBio entered into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with NINDS, within the NIH, and initiated collaborative research aimed at developing a novel therapy that directly targets EBV. The MS research reported here was conducted under this CRADA, with the goal of advancing to clinical development.

3. Journal of Clinical Investigation

This journal is published by the American Society for Clinical Investigation and is one of the most prestigious medical journals in the world. With nearly 100 years of history since its founding in 1924, its articles have had a major impact on medical research worldwide (Impact Factor: 13.6). All published papers undergo rigorous peer review by leading experts in the field, and the journal is highly trusted globally as a source that consistently sets the "cutting edge" and "standards" in medical research.

BCV Business Strategy Based on Three Therapeutic Pillars

Since obtaining the global license for BCV in September 2019, SymBio has advanced collaborative research with world-class institutions to unlock its potential across three therapeutic areas. We are currently focusing our development resources on: (1) viral infections following hematopoietic stem cell transplantation; (2) hematologic and solid tumors; and (3) neurodegenerative diseases. In particular, within pillar (3), we are evaluating research and development opportunities with potential applications including multiple sclerosis and progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML). By pursuing development and commercialization globally across these three pillars, SymBio aims to maximize the value of the BCV franchise.