

September 24, 2026
SymBio Pharmaceuticals Limited
Fuminori Yoshida
Representative Director
President and Chief Executive Officer
(Securities Code: 4582)

**SymBio Pharmaceuticals Announces Exclusive Global License Agreement
with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
for Treatment of Multiple Sclerosis with BCV**

TOKYO, Japan, September 24, 2026 -- SymBio Pharmaceuticals Limited (“SymBio” or the “Company”) today announced that it has entered into an exclusive patent license agreement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”), as represented by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, part of the National Institutes of Health, for the development of technologies, using Brincidofovir (BCV) for the treatment and/or prevention of multiple sclerosis (“MS”).

In March 2023, the Company entered into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (“NINDS”), and has since been engaged in collaborative research aimed at developing a new treatment for MS. The research findings, published in the Journal of Clinical Investigation (2026;136(2):e19576), show that BCV selectively inhibits only EBV-positive cells even at low concentrations. Moving forward, the Company will leverage BCV’s potent antiviral activity to advance the development of a novel mechanism-based treatment for MS.

Statement from Fuminori Yoshida, President and CEO: “As reactivation of EBV is a major risk factor for multiple sclerosis, we will continue to advance the development of a novel treatment that directly targets EBV using BCV, which exhibits potent antiviral activity against EBV.”

The Company does not expect this matter to have a material impact on its consolidated financial forecast for the fiscal year ending December 2026.

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Notes

1. About Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and Its Treatment

MS is a neurodegenerative disease in which the myelin sheath of the central nervous system, including the cerebrum, optic nerve, cerebellum, and spinal cord, is destroyed through an autoimmune mechanism. It is estimated that approximately 3 million people worldwide have MS.

Currently, treatments for MS include anti-CD20 antibody therapy, steroid pulse therapy, interferon beta and immunosuppressants. Because Epstein-Barr virus remains latent in B cells, anti-CD20 antibody therapy has therapeutic effects in reducing relapse frequency and slowing disease progression by depleting all B cells.

The BCV-based therapeutic approach that SymBio is pursuing aims to develop a novel treatment method by selectively targeting only B cells infected with Epstein-Barr virus, which is a major risk factor for MS, while leaving EBV-negative B cells unaffected.

2. Association Between Epstein-Barr Virus and MS, and Our Initiatives

In January 2022, Harvard University reported in *Science*, a leading U.S. scientific journal, the results of a long-term epidemiological study showing that Epstein-Barr virus infection increases the risk of developing MS^{*1}. In the same month, Stanford University reported in *Nature*, a leading scientific journal, a mechanism by which part of Epstein-Barr virus resembles structures in the nervous system, causing the immune system to mistakenly attack its own nerve cells and trigger various symptoms^{*2}.

In light of this, SymBio concluded a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with NINDS in March 2023 and has been conducting collaborative research aimed at developing a novel therapy targeting Epstein-Barr virus. In this collaborative research, BCV was shown to significantly suppress the activity of reactivated Epstein-Barr virus, and the findings were published in January 2026^{*3}. These results indicate that BCV may be useful in the treatment of MS. We are currently conducting animal experiments using monkeys with an eye toward clinical trials. In preparation for clinical trials, we extended the CRADA for three years in March 2026.

^{*1} *Science*. 2022; 375: 296-301

^{*2} *Nature*. 2022; 603: 321-327

^{*3} *J Clin Invest*. 2026; 136(2): e19576

Related press releases:

[CRADA with NIH/NINDS for Multiple Sclerosis Extended for Three Years — Following Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy, SymBio to Further Advance Development in the Neurodegenerative Disease Field —](#) (March 30, 2026)

[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](#)
(Jan 29, 2026)

[Development of Brincidofovir for Multiple Sclerosis CRADA with the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke \(NINDS\)](#) (March 22, 2023)

3. About Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA)

By leveraging the facilities, patents, and expertise held by U.S. government research institutions, this arrangement aims to convert scientific and technical knowledge into commercial products useful to humankind. Therefore, research conducted under a CRADA is evaluated based on its social significance and importance.

4. About the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Although the collaborative research and development is being conducted by NINDS, which is under HHS through NIH, the party to the patent license agreement is HHS.