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

SymBio Pharmaceuticals Initiates Global Partnering Activities for Brincidofovir (BCV) Program in Multiple Sclerosis (MS)

Tokyo, Japan, October 28, 2026 – SymBio Pharmaceuticals Limited ("SymBio" or the "Company") today announced that it has initiated activities toward establishing a global partnership for its brincidofovir ("BCV") program targeting multiple sclerosis (MS). This initiative follows the favorable progress of collaborative research with the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), an institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), announced on March 30, 2026, and aims to establish a framework for further development and commercialization.

Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) is considered a key risk factor for the development and symptomatic manifestation of MS. Through the collaborative research with NIH/NINDS, BCV was confirmed to possess potent antiviral activity against EBV and to strongly suppress the activity of reactivated EBV. These research findings were published in the academic journal, *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. As preclinical studies conducted by NIH/NINDS are expected to enter their final phase shortly with anticipated progression to human clinical trials, SymBio aims to steadily advance the development of BCV through a partnership with a leading company in the treatment of MS.

The number of MS patients worldwide is estimated to be approximately three million, with numbers trending upward in recent years and the latent patient population considered to be larger. Current treatments include anti-CD20 antibodies and B-cell depleting agents. However, there is a strong need for therapies that addresses the underlying disease mechanism. BCV's mechanism of action directly targets EBV latent within B cells while exerting no action on EBV-negative B cells. By mitigating the impact on B cells necessary for maintaining immunity, BCV has the potential to deliver a novel mechanism distinct from existing therapies.

Statement from Fuminori Yoshida, President and CEO: “We aim to provide a safer and more effective treatment option by directly targeting EBV, which is considered a major risk factor of MS. We will advance strategic partnering by leveraging our scientific foundation, which represents the achievements obtained under the Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with the NIH.”

These partnering activities are being conducted with MTS Health Partners serving as strategic and financial advisor.

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

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Notes

Related Press Releases:

- March 30, 2026: CRADA with NIH/NINDS for Multiple Sclerosis Extended for Three Years
- September 24, 2026: Acquisition of Exclusive Global License for Multiple Sclerosis

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 three million people worldwide have MS, with the market size estimated to exceed ¥3 trillion (US$25 billion).

2) Association Between Epstein-Barr Virus and MS

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. 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.

Based on the above findings, 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 EBV, and the findings were published in November 2025 (e-published in January 2026). Currently, studies with monkeys are underway, and the CRADA was extended for three years in March 2026 in preparation for clinical trials. In September 2026, SymBio entered into an exclusive global license agreement with the NIH for the development of technologies using BCV for the treatment and/or prevention of MS.

3) About MTS Health Partners

MTS Health Partners is a leading investment bank that provides aligned strategic and financial advisory services to healthcare companies of all sizes. From global corporations to venture-backed startups, MTS delivers expert advice on M&A, capital raising, and strategic restructuring within the life sciences and healthcare services sectors.

About SymBio Pharmaceuticals: BCV Business Strategy Centered on Three Therapeutic Areas

Since obtaining the global license for brincidofovir ("BCV") in September 2019, SymBio Pharmaceuticals has conducted joint research with world-leading research institutions in three therapeutic areas—double-stranded DNA virus infections, solid tumors, and neurodegenerative diseases—with the aim of unlocking BCV's potential in each area. SymBio is concentrating its management resources on the development of BCV, primarily for adenovirus infection following hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy ("PML"), glioblastoma, head and neck cancer, and EBV-associated gastric cancer. Through global business development, SymBio aims to maximize the business value of BCV.