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For Immediate Release

SNBL Clinical Pharmacology Center Opens in UMB BioPark

Japanese Cultural Celebration Inaugurates New Company and Launches UMB BioPark

BALTIMORE, October 18 - SNBL Clinical Pharmacology Center, Inc. (SNBL CPC), a new fully-owned subsidiary of Japan's oldest and largest contract research organization, Shin Nippon Biomedical Laboratories, Ltd. (SNBL), and the company's first United States clinical research facility, today celebrated the opening of its new 40,000-square-foot, 96-bed facility at the University of Maryland, Baltimore's (UMB) BioPark in a joint ceremony with UMB. The event also marked the opening of the first of ten buildings at the BioPark. SNBL CPC is the anchor tenant in the first building – this is a \$20 million capital investment.

SNBL CPC will focus on Phase I/IIa clinical trials, particularly safety and tolerability testing, including dose ranging, single, multi-dose and ascending dose trials. It will specialize in drug-drug and food-drug interaction trials with pharmacokinetics and/or pharmacodynamic endpoints, bioequivalence, pharmacodynamic/dose/concentration effects, proof of concept, and novel delivery systems.

"It is very appropriate that we celebrated our opening in a joint event with UMB," explained Ryoichi Nagata, M.D., Ph.D., Chairman and CEO of the new company, and of SNBL, Ltd., its parent company, headquartered in Tokyo. "SNBL Clinical Pharmacology Center will interact with UMB's professional schools of Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Nursing and even Law. SNBL will access many of UMB's biomedical facilities, some of its specialized equipment, academic consultants, physicians and other clinicians, and patients. Our collaboration with UMB is our first partnership outside Japan. We selected UMB because of the University's significant resources."

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UMB has established a Center for Clinical Trials within the University's medical school and the necessary support system to conduct high-quality Phase II and III trials efficiently. Its staff has extensive experience in international drug development. "UMB will be able to refer its clients to our center for Phase I clinical studies," Dr. Nagata said. "UMB's faculty will be available to consult on SNBL-conducted clinical trials and to provide other consulting services, such as designing protocols, providing pharmacokinetic analyses, and assisting with data management and analysis."

Takeshi Yamakawa, Chief Operating Officer and President of the company, added that the SNBL CPC staff's experience in clinical trials will encompass a broad spectrum of therapeutic areas. "We will have capabilities in the areas of CNS, cardiovascular, respiratory, gastrointestinal, hormone/anti-hormone, urology, dermatology, oncology, antihistaminic, and antibiotic agents as well as biologicals and alternative medicines," he said. The company plans to have more than 28 employees by year-end 2005, he noted.

Participating in the opening ceremony, in addition to Dr. David J. Ramsay, President of UMB, and Dr. Nagata, were Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich, Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley, U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings, and Baltimore City Council President Sheila Dixon. A traditional Japanese Kagamibiraki Ceremony was held in which the dignitaries, dressed in "happi" coats, broke open a sake barrel and toasted the success of the new company.



About SNBL Clinical Pharmacology Center, Inc.

SNBL Clinical Pharmacology Center is a contract research organization (CRO) based in Baltimore, Maryland, focusing on Phase I/IIa clinical trials of drugs and medical devices. Its specialties are safety and tolerability testing, including dose ranging, single, multi-dose, and ascending dose trials. It will specialize in drug-drug and food-drug interaction trials. The company will begin research operations in November 2005 in a new state-of-the-art clinical research facility in the UMB BioPark. It will enjoy access to the university's renowned medical faculty and facilities. Services will be provided to help pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers and biotechnology companies bring new products to market through testing and development.

SNBL-CPC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Shin Nippon Biomedical Laboratories, Ltd. (SNBL), one of the largest CROs in Japan, with over a thousand employees, established in 1957 and based in Tokyo. SNBL supports the pharmaceutical industry with a full range of drug development services, including safety research, clinical pharmacology, and pre-clinical, Phase I, Phase II, and Phase III clinical trials. In addition to SNBL Clinical Pharmacology Center in Baltimore, the company has facilities and offices in Everett, Washington; in Europe; and in China.

More information about SNBL Clinical Pharmacology Center is available at www.snbl-cpc.com. Information about Shin Nippon Biomedical Laboratories, Ltd., is available at <http://www.snbl.com/en/>.

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