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**Notice of Passage of Examination for United States Patent Application Concerning  
Amplification Method of Hematopoietic Stem Cells**

We would like to inform you that a patent application concerning an amplification method of hematopoietic stem cells which we applied for jointly with Nissan Chemical Industries, Ltd., has passed screening in the United States.

The patent application is concerned with a technology that efficiently amplifies hematopoietic stem cells — which are contained in cord blood, among other sources — to more than three times the scale of conventional technologies. While the use of cord blood transfusions has grown as an approach to treating leukemia that places little stress on donors, the inadequate amount of cord blood which is required for transfusions has been a problem. With the technology from this patent application, hematopoietic stem cells are amplified in an efficient manner, dramatically increasing the likelihood that cord blood transfusions be applied to a greater number of patients.

A patent on an amplification method of hematopoietic stem cells separate from this current patent application has already taken effect domestically in Japan (disclosed on January 27th, 2015), and with the passage of this United States patent application, we have acquired a prominent edge and competitive advantage in both Japan and the United States where the push is being made for practical applications of cord blood transfusions.

We derives our strengths from our world-leading ES/iPS cell technology and global network as we actively press forward with work on regenerative medicine. Hematopoietic stem cells are the most advanced field in research on regenerative medicine, and we will proceed to deliver practical applications of this patented technology in the area of regenerative medicine as quickly as possible.

