

China-Japan enhance joint research cooperation for drug discoveries and development: News from CJMWDDT 2007 in Jinan, China

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Viral hepatitis is currently a major global cause of morbidity and mortality. In some Asian countries like China and Japan, Hepatitis B and C in particular are the most common extremely infectious diseases and are likely to develop into liver cirrhosis. Furthermore, statistics indicate that patients with liver cirrhosis resulting from hepatitis B and C have an increased risk of developing hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Scientists have worked tirelessly to find curative therapeutic strategies to control chronic hepatitis and liver cirrhosis, accompanied by improvements in public health and living conditions.

China's Shandong University and the University of Tokyo in Japan previously established a long-term cooperative relationship. Cooperative programs include co-training of postgraduates, exchanges of visiting scholars, academic symposia, and a bilateral international joint research program.

Some substantive progress has been made as a result of bilateral endeavors. For instance, the Shandong University China-Japan Cooperation Center for Drug Discovery & Screening (SDU-DDSC) has enhanced to serve as an important platform for further close cooperation. At the same time, the International Advancement Center for Medicine & Health Research (IACMHR) – “Drug Discoveries and Therapeutics” and International Research and Cooperation Association for Bio & Socio-Sciences Advancement (IRCA-BSSA) – “BioScience Trends” were established (Visit <http://www.ddtjournal.com> and <http://www.biosciencetrends.com>).

The first China-Japan conference on new drug discoveries and therapeutics (CJMWDOT 2007) was recently held in Jinan, China May 27-29, 2007, which provided opportunities for further communication and cooperation and increased knowledge of new drug research and clinical cures for hepatitis.

Financially supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), the conference covered a wide range of topics in different areas of chemical biology, phytochemistry, medicinal chemistry, and pharmacology and it resulted in informed and genial discussions of hepatitis cures that yielded fruitful results. The active involvement and participation by attendees gave the conference a



China-Japan conference on new drug discoveries and therapeutics (CJMWDOT), May 27-29, 2007, Jinan, China.

congenial atmosphere. In the end, an agreement was reached to work together on new drug discovery and effective hepatitis therapeutic strategies, and some agreements have resulted in the creation of handover protocols.

The CJMWDDT 2007 was a highly successful scientific event that strengthened and promoted extensive cooperation between China and Japan for the development of new pharmaceutical products and hepatitis cures. (¹Shandong University, Jinan, China; ²the University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan.)

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Section 1: Overview of chemotherapy for viral hepatitis and hepatic cancer

Section 2: Current progress in natural product chemistry

- New technological applications in discovery of active natural products
- Biotransformation of active natural products
- Modernization of Chinese traditional medicines

Section 3: Current progress in drugs design and synthesis

- Drug design based on the structural biology
- New methodology and technology in drug synthesis

Section 4: New approach for drug screening and evaluation

- Introduction of new drug evaluation in Japan
- Application of High throughput screening in drug discovery
- Models and mechanism in screening for anti-tumor drugs
- Therapeutic targets in anti-tumors, antiviral and cardiovascular drugs
- Models of neuropharmacology and cardiovascular pharmacology