NEWS RELEASE

Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult enters into partnership with Forum for Innovative Regenerative Medicine

Memorandum of Understanding between CGT Catapult and FIRM provides prelude to cooperative relationship between UK and Japan cell and gene therapy areas

London, UK, 3 October 2017 – The Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult (CGT Catapult) today announced it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Forum for Innovative Regenerative Medicine (FIRM), Japan. This agreement demonstrates the shared ambition between the CGT Catapult and FIRM, an incorporated association focused on accelerating research and commercialisation of regenerative medicine, and aims to explore the possibility of a cooperative relationship to raise the international reach of the respective organisations.

Through this collaboration, FIRM and the CGT Catapult aim to advance their individual and common missions by connecting major industry players in Japan and the UK and sharing information regarding regenerative medicine technologies, policies, and legal issues. Through the combined efforts outlined within the memorandum, FIRM and the CGT Catapult hope to continue to increase the profile and standing of their countries in the cell and gene therapy space, advancing both organisations places at the forefront of cell and gene therapy research globally.

“We are pleased to announce this memorandum of understanding. The agreement with FIRM will enable us to boost the reach and profile of the Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult in Japan and ultimately develop stronger links between industry in both countries,” said Keith Thompson, CEO of the Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult.

FIRM works closely with the Japanese government and academia to establish a social structure to safely and continuously deliver regenerative medicinal products. More than 230 Japanese companies make up FIRM’s membership, with organisations from various fields such as pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, manufacturing, transportation, and insurance offering diverse expertise to support the research, development and delivery of regenerative medicine. Through policy, commercialisation and network support, FIRM promotes the practical use of technological innovation.

“The partnership between the Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult and FIRM will clearly promote the collaboration of industries between the UK and Japan, and accelerate the development of regenerative and cellular medicine products not only in both countries but worldwide,” said Yuzo Toda, Chairman of FIRM.

Keith continued, “this marks yet another relationship with an important major international institution in the cell and gene therapy space, indicating that the Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult is continuing towards its goal of becoming a global hub of expertise in this burgeoning area of Life Sciences.”
About the Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult

The Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult was established as an independent centre of excellence to advance the growth of the UK cell and gene therapy industry, by bridging the gap between scientific research and full-scale commercialisation. With more than 120 employees focusing on cell and gene therapy technologies, it works with partners in academia and industry to ensure these life-changing therapies can be developed for use in health services throughout the world. It offers leading-edge capability, technology and innovation to enable companies to take products into clinical trials and provide clinical, process development, manufacturing, regulatory, health economics and market access expertise. Its aim is to make the UK the most compelling and logical choice for UK and international partners to develop and commercialise these advanced therapies. The Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult works with Innovate UK. For more information please visit ct.catapult.org.uk or visit http://www.gov.uk/innovate-uk.

About the Forum for Innovative Regenerative Medicine

The Forum for Innovative Regenerative Medicine (FIRM) is an industry organization, and was formed in 2011 to accelerate research and commercialization of regenerative medicine in Japan. FIRM has more than 230 members of Japanese companies as of the end of September, 2017, and comprises various fields of member companies with diverse expertise in such as pharmaceutical, biotechnology, manufacturing, transportation, insurance, and related supporting companies for regenerative medicine. FIRM’s mission is to pave the way for real, practical breakthroughs for immediate delivery of regenerative medical products to whom there are no effective treatments available, by pursuing broad, industry-led partnerships with governments, universities, and the private sector, by engaging with the media, for the purpose of building consensus on the commercialization process and the application of new regenerative medicine techniques in the community. For more information please visit https://firm.or.jp/en.

For further information please contact

FTI Consulting for the CGT Catapult:

Con Franklin +44 (0) 203 319 5560 / con.franklin@fticonsulting.com

Michael Trace +44 (0) 203 319 5674 / michael.trace@fticonsulting.com

For FIRM:

Masayuki Shibasaki +81-3-6262-1575 / shibasaki@firm.or.jp