

# JAPAN ROUNDUP

Meiji Seika Kaisha, Ltd. (Tokyo) and Daicel Chemical Industries, Ltd. (Sakai-shi) are establishing an R&D company that will develop technology for producing active peptides containing several tens of amino acids. Both genetic recombination and chemical synthesis will be used.

Toray Industries Inc. (Tokyo) and Fuji Rebi, a clinical reagent maker, have agreed with Bioassay Systems Corp. (Woburn, MA) to introduce a rapid immunofluorescent virus-detecting system that reduces assay time and cuts cost by about 30 percent. The new joint company, Toray-Fuji Bionics Inc., will produce the system, which has projected sales in five years of 3 billion yen.

Showa Denko (Minato-ku) has new adsorbents for affinity chromatography—highly porous, hard polymer bound to ligands having affinity for target compounds. The manufactur-

er claims its stable synthetic polymer allows shortened separation time and has a higher resistance to pressure.

The Kitasato Institute has determined the structure of "Ceruvinomycin," which has been effective *in vitro* and is now being tested in animals. The antibiotic obtained from ceruvirus-producing bacteria is extremely effective against anaerobes, the major causes of post-surgical infections.

Wakunaga Pharmaceutical and Prof. Tawara of the Hiroshima University School of Medicine have developed seven new monoclonal antibodies for cancers of the stomach, uterus, colon, lung, pancreas, gall bladder, and breast.

Ube Industries, Ltd. (Ube City) says it will begin marketing monoclonal antibodies through Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Ltd. (Osaka). The antibodies characteristically react

with ochratoxin A and T-2 toxin and can be useful in checking food and feed contamination caused by mycotoxins. Ube intends to develop monoclonal antibodies reacting with aflatoxin, nivalenol, and deoxynivalenol, as well as a high-quality exam kit.

A research team in the Department of Biochemistry at The Meiji College of Pharmacy has isolated the gene of a penicillin-decomposing enzyme from *Streptomyces cacaoi*. The team has been working on drug resistance with a Belgian group which discovered the gene.

Joint research between Denki Kagaku Kogyo (Tokyo) and researchers at The University of Tokyo's Faculty of Pharmaceuticals has resulted in the discovery of specific types of macrophage activating factor (MAF), a lymphokine produced by T cells. The C type MAF may be used in developing a new anti-cancer drug.

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