

27 March, 2007

ASKA Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.
JCR Pharmaceuticals Co., Ltd.

**License agreement on infertility-treatment drug
manufactured using completely serum-free culture media**

ASKA Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as ASKA) (president: Takashi Yamaguchi) and JCR Pharmaceuticals Co., Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as JCR) (president: Shin Ashida) concluded a license agreement that gives ASKA worldwide rights to develop, market and manufacture drugs containing the recombinant follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH; development code No.: JR-041) manufactured using completely serum-free culture media. JR-041 is under development by JCR.

Under this agreement, ASKA will initiate development of JR-041 in Japan, the US, and Europe.

Recombinant FSH preparations are already commercially available in Japan, but FSH in all these preparations is manufactured using animal serum. Serum is not used in the manufacturing process of JR-041. JR-041 is a world-class drug substance developed in Japan that presents no risk of infections due to animal serum.

Based on this license agreement, ASKA and JCR will strengthen their cooperation in order to accelerate the development of Japan-originated innovative drugs.

References

Follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH): This hormone, involved in the growth of follicles, is commonly used as a drug useful in the treatment of infertility.

Completely serum-free: No serum is used in the recombinant protein manufacturing process. This eliminates the risk of infections due to pathogens in animal serum.