



## **Veneno Technologies and ASKA Signed a Joint Research Agreement for the Development of Novel Ion Channel Therapeutics**

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Veneno Technologies Co. Ltd. (Head Office: Tsukuba City, Ibaraki/President: Kazunori Yoshikawa; hereinafter "Veneno Technologies") and ASKA Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Minato-ku, Tokyo/Representative Director: Sohta Yamaguchi, "ASKA") announced that they have entered into a joint research agreement to conduct a drug discovery program to obtain functional disulfide-rich peptides (DRPs) for ion channels selected by both companies using Veneno Technologies' next-generation peptide discovery technology, PERISS™, with the aim of developing new therapeutic drugs.

Veneno Technologies, as a leading bio-active DRP discovery platform company, will continue to support bio-active DRP discovery research companies in the pharmaceutical field and promote a wide range of developments in the agro-science and materials fields based on this technology.

Since its establishment in 1920, ASKA Pharmaceutical has focused on new drugs as a specialty pharma company specializing in the three key therapeutic areas of internal medicine (gastroenterology and thyroid), obstetrics and gynecology, and urology. Recently, we have been working to expand our pipeline by promoting drug discovery research into new diseases targeting ion channels in addition to our existing efforts.

### **About Veneno Technologies Co. Ltd.**

Veneno Technologies has focused on disulfide-rich peptides (DRPs), peptides with high biological activity, and developed a proprietary drug discovery platform, "Veneno Suite™," to accelerate DRP drug discovery. This new technology will promote the development of new drug discovery and bio-chemical business for membrane proteins such as ion channels, transporters and GPCR, which have been considered difficult to discover.

URL: <https://veneno.jp>

Veneno's Proprietary drug discovery platform Veneno Suite™

<https://veneno.jp/technology/>

### **What is Disulfide-rich peptide (DRP)?**

DRPs are a general term for peptides with multiple disulfide bonds in the molecule, usually consisting of 20 to 80 amino acids. The rigid framework created by the multiple disulfide bonds makes DRPs resistant to degradative enzymes and highly thermally stable. It is also known to have low immunogenicity due to its compact and stable structure. These properties make DRP a useful lead molecule for bio-active peptide discovery.

### **What is Ion Channel?**

It is a membrane protein that selectively allows certain ions to pass through the cell membrane. This protein is important for nerve transmission and muscle contraction.

**What is Transporter?**

It is a membrane protein that transports certain substances through the cell membrane into and out of the cell. It is involved in the transport of nutrients and waste products.

**What is GPCR (G protein-coupled receptor)?**

It is a type of membrane protein that receives signals from outside the cell and transmits them into the cell, and is important drug discovery targets.

**What is Membrane protein?**

Protein found in cell membranes, it is involved in material transport, information transmission, and maintenance of cell structure. It is also attracting attention as a target for pharmaceuticals.

**About ASKA Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.**

Since its establishment in 1920, the company has been engaged in business focusing on new drugs, specializing in the three key areas of internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, and urology, under the corporate philosophy of "contributing to people's health and the medical care of tomorrow through advanced drug discovery". Under its Medium-Term Management Plan 2025, the company aims to become a "total healthcare company based on specialty pharma companies," and as a leading company in the field of obstetrics and gynecology, it is engaged in business activities to contribute to solving women's health issues.

URL: <https://www.aska-pharma.co.jp/english/>

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