

News Release

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Carna Biosciences, Inc.

Kohichiro Yoshino, President & CEO

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Carna Biosciences Announces Collaboration with Johnson & Johnson Innovation

Carna Biosciences today announced a worldwide licensing agreement with Janssen Biotech, Inc. (Janssen), one of the Janssen Pharmaceutical companies of Johnson & Johnson, to further develop and commercialize compounds from one of Carna Bioscience's small molecule protein kinase inhibitor programs. Under the terms of the agreement, facilitated by Johnson & Johnson Innovation, California and Asia Pacific, Carna Biosciences will receive an initial upfront payment and is eligible to receive additional milestone payments upon achievement of certain developmental, regulatory, and commercial milestones. Carna Biosciences will also be eligible to receive tiered royalties on the net sales of commercialized licensed products.

"We are pleased to collaborate with Janssen to further develop one of our kinase inhibitor programs. Our hope is that our discovery efforts will someday make a meaningful difference in the lives of people living with immunologic disease," said Kohichiro Yoshino, PhD, Founder, President and CEO of Carna Biosciences. "This agreement with Janssen is an important first step towards the goal of discovering and developing significant therapeutic solutions for improving human health. Carna Biosciences will continue to identify and develop innovative compounds with strong potential as therapeutic kinase inhibitors. "

Since its founding in 2003, Carna has built a powerful kinase drug discovery engine that has led to its current, rich pipeline of drug candidates in the preclinical stage. Carna has also established a vast collection of compound libraries consisting of kinase-focused and diverse molecules to maximize the success rate of screening. Carna's drug discovery efforts are supported by Carna's internally developed, proprietary profiling and screening technology, QuickScout™, and by several other in-house drug discovery tools. QuickScout™ is one of the world's largest biochemical kinase assay panels and enables the efficient development of small molecule inhibitors with potentially superior safety and efficacy profiles by providing valuable and comprehensive selectivity information.

"This agreement is a very important milestone for Carna's Drug Discovery team. The opportunity to exclusively license the program to Janssen means a great deal to all at Carna," said Dr. Masaaki

Sawa, Chief Scientific Officer of Carna Biosciences. “This agreement further empowers our team to passionately work towards developing and delivering superior drug discovery tools and therapeutic medicines for years to come,” added Akiko Futamura, PhD, President and CEO of CarnaBio USA, a wholly owned subsidiary of Carna Biosciences.

About Carna Biosciences

Carna Biosciences is a biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery and development of kinase inhibitor drugs to treat serious unmet medical needs in oncology, autoimmune and inflammatory diseases, and neurological diseases by inhibiting kinases that are important drivers for those diseases. Carna Biosciences was founded in Kobe, Japan, in 2003 as a spinoff of Japan Organon (Nippon Organon KK). Carna’s initial focus was to develop an extensive number of state-of-the-art, highest quality reagents for kinase drug discovery, and has since established a leading drug discovery program with a significant collection of proprietary chemical libraries. To date, the company has discovered a portfolio of preclinical stage compounds in relevant, multiple disease areas. Its US subsidiary, CarnaBio USA, is located in Natick, MA. Carna is a publicly traded company in the JASDAQ of the Tokyo Stock Exchange with securities code, 4572. For more information, please visit www.carnabio.com.