Bayer Schering Pharma Asia Pacific, a subsidiary of Germany-based Bayer Schering Pharma AG, and the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore (NUS) announced an innovative joint pre-clinical research collaboration in the field of Oncology. The collaboration which is enabled by a S$3.5 million (US$2.36 million) investment by the German pharmaceutical company, was laid out in a research agreement that was signed today. The research partnership will focus on three joint projects that aim to build on NUS’ existing research capabilities and Bayer Schering Pharma’s experience in drug development to develop new therapeutic options in the field of oncology.

This initial investment is part of a S$20 million (US$13.49 million) commitment Bayer is undertaking to invest in research and development (R&D) activities in Singapore over the next six years in partnership with Singapore-based universities, hospitals, research institutes and companies.

Bayer Schering Pharma Asia Pacific is one of the fastest-growing companies in the region and is currently ranked among the top 10 pharmaceutical multinational companies, according to IMS, a global source for pharmaceutical market intelligence data.

Dr Karl Ziegelbauer, vice-president of Oncology Research, Bayer Schering Pharma, said: “Bayer Schering Pharma is keen to work together with the experts at NUS and to make use of Singapore’s excellent translational research capabilities and world-class research infrastructure to develop new anti-cancer therapies. NUS has the expertise and experience in novel technologies to further translational research. We see this agreement as the start of further research collaborations in Singapore that Bayer will continue to invest in. This significant investment underscores our commitment to develop novel cancer drugs.”

Under the terms of the research agreement, Bayer Schering Pharma and NUS will embark on three joint translational research projects. The goal of the project is to profile oncology drugs in an Asian-specific context, to identify novel predictive biomarkers and to investigate novel tumor models with high relevance to the clinical situation.

Professor John Wong, Dean, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, NUS and director, National University Cancer Institute, Singapore, said: “As a comprehensive tertiary institution...
with expertise and significant interest in translational clinical research, the University looks forward to entering this strategic research collaboration with Bayer given our strong track record in, and commitment to research. This collaboration will allow us to tailor new and existing knowledge in cancer treatment to the Asian patient. Such collaborative research efforts to bring about breakthrough bench-to-bedside medical treatments are in line with the strategic aims of the National University Health System, which governs the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine.”

Mr Beh Kian Teik, deputy director, Biomedical Sciences, Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), said: “The partnership between Bayer and the NUS bears testament to Singapore’s scientific excellence and quality research capabilities, and will strengthen Singapore’s leading position as Asia’s leader in pre-clinical and translational research.”

Mr Marcus Yim, managing director, Bayer (South East Asia) Pte Ltd, said: “As a research-based company, we believe that research is the basis for long-term sustained growth. This S$20million (US$13.49 million) investment in Singapore is a commitment of our quest to discover and develop innovative medicinal specialty products to improve the quality of people’s lives.”

About Bayer Group
The Bayer Group is a global enterprise with core competencies in the fields of healthcare, nutrition and high-tech materials. Bayer HealthCare, a subsidiary of Bayer AG, is one of the world’s leading, innovative companies in the healthcare and medical products industry and is based in Leverkusen, Germany. The company combines the global activities of the Animal Health, Consumer Care, Diabetes Care and Pharmaceuticals divisions. The pharmaceuticals business operates under the name Bayer Schering Pharma AG. Bayer HealthCare’s aim is to discover and manufacture products that will improve human and animal health worldwide.

Bayer Schering Pharma is a worldwide leading specialty pharmaceutical company. Its research and business activities are focused on the following areas: Diagnostic Imaging, General Medicine, Specialty Medicine and Women’s Healthcare. With innovative products, Bayer Schering Pharma aims for leading positions in specialized markets worldwide. Using new ideas, Bayer Schering Pharma aims to make a contribution to medical progress and strives to improve the quality of life.

About the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
The Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine was established in 1905 as the first institution of higher learning in Singapore and the genesis of what would become the National University of Singapore. The School of Medicine strives to fulfill its tripartite mission of providing excellent clinical care, training the next generation of healthcare professionals, and fostering research that will transform the practice of medicine. It plays a pivotal role in producing future leaders in healthcare delivery, discovery, and public service as well as in Singapore’s Biomedical Sciences Initiative and Singapore Medicine. The School’s 17 departments in the basic sciences and clinical specialties work closely with the Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies, the Centre for Biomedical Ethics, and the Centre for Health Services Research to ensure that teaching and research are aligned and relevant to Singapore’s healthcare needs.

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