

Intellim Corp. to Strengthen Contract Research System in Field of Oncology(Nov.18.2011)



Masakuni Ukita
President and
CEO, intellim

The Osaka-based CRO intellim Corporation will strengthen its contract development system in the field of oncology. The company set up an in-house certification system for clinical research associates (CRAs) in the field of oncology in September, and will establish a new Oncology Development Department on December 1. Prof. Nagahiro Saijo of Kinki University (former deputy director, National Cancer Center Hospital East) has been invited to serve as advisor to improve operations and train CRAs in this field. Intellim aims to meet the diverse needs of pharmaceutical manufacturers by building a high-quality contract research system in the increasingly competitive field of oncology.

"We want to raise the level of our (contract) development in the oncology field to at least the level seen in the development divisions of pharmaceutical companies," said company president and CEO Masakuni Ukita in an interview with Jiho, Inc. on November 17.

Intellim's Clinical Development Department has centrally managed the company's contract development operations up to now, but control of clinical trials in the field of oncology will be transferred to the new Oncology Development Department, which will start out with a staff of 14 CRAs and other personnel recruited from within the company.

Intellim started training CRAs for the Department mainly through an e-learning program in September, and will conduct its first certification exam (oral) for oncology CRAs around next February. The exam will ensure that these CRAs have expert-level skills and can discuss clinical trial design and data on an equal

footing with doctors specialized in oncology and properly cope with global clinical trials. Employees will not be allowed to engage in development work in the field of oncology unless they pass the exam. The company hopes to certify about 50 CRAs by the end of the next fiscal year ending May 2013.

Prof. Saijo will be in charge of the overall training program including editorial supervision and oral examinations of CRAs. "We hope to train high-quality people who can work easily with overseas CRCs (clinical research coordinators) and researchers," Prof. Saijo told Jiho.

Starting next year, intellim will establish operating bases in Asia and the US to facilitate global clinical trials including trials in the field of oncology. In Asia, the company plans to advance into Taiwan first, and then other countries such as South Korea and Singapore. To this end, "We're considering all our options including independent operations, tie-ups with local CROs, and the establishment of joint ventures," President Ukita said.

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