

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Heartseed named "Minister of Science and Technology Policy Award" at Japan Venture Awards 2021

TOKYO, JAPAN, March 1, 2021 – Heartseed Inc. (hereinafter Heartseed), a Tokyo-based biotechnology company developing iPSC-derived cardiomyocyte spheroids for the treatment of heart failure (hereinafter HF), today announced that Keiichi Fukuda, CEO at Heartseed, received the "Minister of Science and Technology Policy Award" at Japan Venture Awards 2021.

Japan Venture Awards (JVA) recognizes entrepreneurs who are trying to create new businesses and open up markets, while being a role model for society and fostering leaders who will inspire the next generation. The "Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy Award" was established last year, and is given to the entrepreneur of an outstanding R&D startup that aims to develop innovative technologies and social implementation.

"I am very honored to receive this wonderful award. I believe this award is a reflection of the expectation and confidence that our lead pipeline HS-001 can be a curative therapy for severe heart failure." said Keiichi Fukuda, Heartseed's CEO. "I started my research on cardiac regeneration medicine in 1995, hoping to develop an alternative treatment to heart transplantation. After establishing our original basic technologies, I founded Heartseed in 2015 and assumed the position of CEO while still a Professor of Medicine, with the aim of developing this therapy as soon as possible. I would be very happy if doctors and researchers could learn that there is a way to contribute to society by starting and growing a startup company by themselves."

After announcing USD 26 million Series B financing a year ago, Heartseed has accelerated their IND-enabling activities with strong and diversified leadership team. Heartseed expects to initiate Phase 1/2 clinical trial (LAPiS Study) for its lead pipeline HS-001 for HF in 2021. Heartseed is also supporting an investigator-initiated clinical trial for HF (IPSCS Study) at Keio University, Japan. <https://jrct.niph.go.jp/en-latest-detail/jRCTa032200189>

About Heartseed

Heartseed Inc. was founded in 2015 to develop and commercialize cardiac regenerative medicine developed by Prof. Keiichi Fukuda and his group at the Department of Cardiology, Keio University, Tokyo. Heartseed has original technologies throughout the process of manufacturing and delivering iPSC-derived cardiac regenerative medicine, including purification, cell delivery and iPSC production, and has raised more than USD 38 million.

Company Name: Heartseed Inc.

Established: November 30, 2015

President: Keiichi Fukuda

Headquarter: Art Complex Center 302, 12-9 Daikyo-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan

Shareholders: Founders/Employees/Angel Bridge/Astellas Venture Management/Shibuya Corporation/
SBI Investment, JMDC, Gene Techno Science, Nissay Capital, SMBC Venture Capital

Website: <http://www.heartseed.jp/en/index.html>

Source: Heartseed Inc.

For more information on Heartseed, please visit <http://www.heartseed.jp/en/index.html>

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Contact:

Kikuo Yasui, COO, Heartseed Inc.

Tel: +81-3-6380-1068 Email: kikuo.yasui@heartseed.jp