

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Heartseed named “Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) Award” at Academic Startups 2021

- **This award follows the "Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy Award" at the Japan Venture Awards 2021.**
- **Recognized for its well-balanced organization building and efforts for commercialization through many alliances as well as its innovative technologies.**

TOKYO, JAPAN, August 10, 2021 – Heartseed Inc. (Heartseed), a Tokyo-based biotechnology company developing iPSC-derived cardiomyocytes for heart failure (HF), today announced the company received the “Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) Award”, the most prominent one at Academic Startups 2021.

The award was given to Heartseed based on the evaluation that not only it has cutting-edge technologies but also it has built a well-balanced organization with diverse team members and is promoting the development of new therapies in the area of heart failure, a field with high unmet medical needs, based on alliances with many companies and academia.

About the Academic Startups Award

Since its inauguration in FY2014, the Award for Academic Startups program has been honoring promising university-oriented startups that are selected from venture businesses that make use of the research developed by universities and other institutions. This program also honors universities, companies and other entities that have made particular contributions to the growth of such startups. This program aims to further promote the establishment of businesses that make use of R&D outcomes achieved by universities or other entities, encourage startups to innovate further, and encourage universities or companies to support university-oriented startups.

CEO’s Comment

“I am very honored to receive this wonderful award.” said Professor. Keiichi Fukuda, co-founder and CEO at Heartseed. “I started my research on cardiac regeneration therapy in 1995, aiming to develop an alternative treatment to heart transplantation. In 2015, when the basic technologies were established, I founded Heartseed and became the CEO, while still a professor of medicine in my current position. Our company has raised 75 million USD so far and has grown to about 40 officers and employees, thanks to the support of many related companies and university professors. We have been supported by the dedicated efforts of many people, including Ajinomoto Co., Ltd. who developed our special culture media, Shibuya Industry Co., developing cell culture

machines, and Suzuki Precision Co., Ltd., developing special injection needles for spheroid transplantation, etc. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all. I would also be very happy if many doctors and researchers could learn that there is a way to contribute to society by starting and growing a venture company by themselves.”

About HS-001

Heartseed's lead pipeline, HS-001, is allogeneic iPSC-derived, highly purified ventricular cardiomyocyte spheroids. By forming micro-tissue-like spheroids, retention rate and viability of cell transplants are improved. The spheroids are transplanted using a special administration needle (SEEDPLANTER®) and guide adapter developed for the safe and efficient administration of the spheroids into the myocardial layer of the heart.

The expected mechanism of action is that the transplanted cardiomyocytes are electrically coupled with the patient's myocardium to improve cardiac output by remuscularization, and secretion of angiogenic factors to form new blood vessels around the transplant site (neovascularization).

About LAPiS Study

The review of the Clinical Trial Application of a phase I/II clinical trial (LAPiS Study) evaluating the safety and efficacy of HS-001 for the treatment of heart failure caused by ischemic heart disease in Japan was completed in March 2021 by Japan's Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Agency.

“LAPiS” represents our wish for heart regeneration. Lapis lazuli means Ruri in Japanese, and there is a fairy tale in which Princess Jo-ruri revived Ushiwakamaru. Lapis lazuli was used in ancient Egypt as a "heart talisman" when preserving mummies in the hope of regeneration.

For more information, visit clinicaltrials.gov.

About Heartseed

Heartseed Inc. was founded in 2015 to develop and commercialize cardiac remuscularization therapy developed by Professor Keiichi Fukuda and his group at the Department of Cardiology, Keio University, Tokyo, Japan. Heartseed has proprietary technologies throughout the entire manufacturing process of the cardiomyocyte-cell product, including purification, cell delivery, and iPSC production.

Heartseed announced the global collaboration and license agreement with Novo Nordisk A/S for HS-001 in June 2021. Heartseed was named “Healthcare Company of the Year 2020” by Healthcare Magazine and “Top 10 Startup in Japan” by Startup City and "Minister of Science and Technology Policy Award” at Japan Venture Awards 2021.

For more information, visit [company website](#) or [LinkedIn](#).

Company Name: Heartseed Inc.

Established: November 30, 2015

CEO: Keiichi Fukuda

Headquarter: The Art Complex Center of Tokyo #302, Daikyo-Cho 12-9, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan

Shareholders: Founders/Employees, Angel Bridge, Astellas Venture Management, Shibuya Corporation, SBI Investment, JMDC, Kidswell Bio, Nissay Capital, SMBC Venture Capital, Itochu

Chemical Frontier, Medipal Holdings, Innovation Platform for The University of Tokyo,
Medical Incubator Japan, Keio Innovation Initiative (KII), and Sumitomo Mitsui Trust
Investment

Source: Heartseed Inc.

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