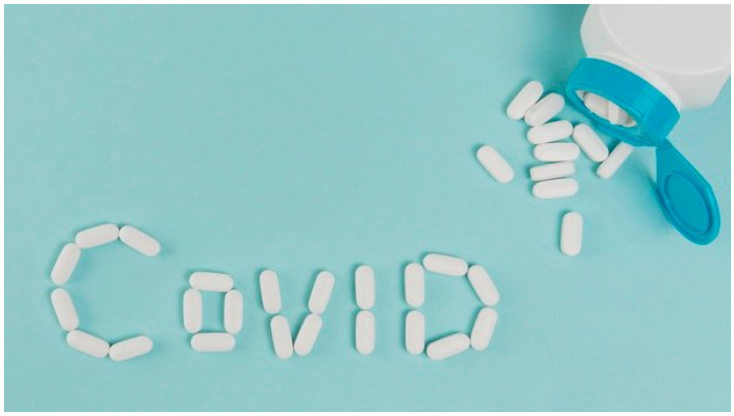
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ASIA EDITION

Fujifilm, Dr. Reddy and Global Response Aid to co-develop anti COVID-19 drug

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Licensing agreement was signed on the development, manufacture and sales of anti-influenza virus drug Avigan Tablets



FUJIFILM Corporation partners with Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd., a global pharmaceutical company headquartered in India and Global Response Aid, a global provider of medical supplies and pharmaceuticals, aimed at overseas deployment of a treatment drug for COVID-19.

On June 30, a Tripartite Licensing Agreement was concluded between FUJIFILM Toyama Chemical Co., Ltd., Dr. Reddy's, and GRA, concerning the development, manufacture and sales of Avigan® Tablets (generic name: favipiravir), which is a potential drug for a treatment of COVID-19. Under the Agreement, FUJIFILM Toyama Chemical will grant Dr. Reddy's and GRA the exclusive right to develop, manufacture*1 and sell Avigan overseas*2, and, receive a lump-sum license fee and royalties on sales.

Based on the Agreement, FUJIFILM Toyama Chemical will provide Dr. Reddy's and GRA an array of data on Avigan's preclinical and clinical studies that FUJIFILM Toyama Chemical has accumulated thus far. Dr. Reddy's and GRA, for their part, will make use of this data to swiftly implement clinical studies, targeting COVID-19 patients in India, the Middle East, and other regions where infections have been spreading.

In addition, FUJIFILM Toyama Chemical will grant Dr. Reddy's right to use Avigan's patents of formulation and manufacturing method. Dr. Reddy's will herewith establish a setup for manufacturing drugs of the same quality as Avigan, and utilize GRA's global sales network to supply the manufactured drugs swiftly and in a stable manner.

Dr. Reddy's is a global pharmaceutical company which develops, manufactures, and sells generic drugs. It has been expanding business not only in India but also in Europe, the US and several other markets across the world and is accelerating its global business development. GRA, a company based in Dubai, offers medical supplies, drugs, and medical services worldwide in cooperation with drug and medical device manufacturers.

Avigan was approved for manufacture and sale in Japan as an anti-influenza virus drug. Because it has a mechanism of action that selectively inhibits viral RNA polymerase, thereby preventing viral proliferation, the drug may potentially have an antiviral effect on the novel coronavirus, as it is classified into the same type of RNA virus as influenza viruses. The Fujifilm

Group is currently conducting a clinical study on Avigan targeting COVID-19 patients in Japan and the US, and is working to increase the drug’s production by partnering with domestic and overseas companies.

Manufacturing rights are granted to Dr. Reddy’s only; Excluding China and Russia.