

Santen and SERI to advance disease-modifying therapies for major eye diseases in Singapore

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Combines Santen's pharmaceutical expertise with SERI's clinical and translational research capabilities



Japan's Santen Pharmaceutical and the Singapore Eye Research Institute (SERI) have launched the Santen–SERI Open Innovation Center (SONIC) 2.0, a next-generation research collaboration designed to accelerate translational development of first-in-class, disease-modifying therapies for vision-threatening eye diseases.

SONIC 2.0 builds on the achievements of SERI and Santen's long term strategic partnership since 2014, including SONIC 1.0, a S\$37 million collaboration from 2017 to 2023.

Valued at S\$21 million, the new collaboration combines Santen's pharmaceutical expertise with SERI's clinical and translational research capabilities to deliver new treatments for glaucoma and ocular surface diseases, presbyopia, and myopia.

Whereas SONIC 1.0 was more exploratory and broad in scope, SONIC 2.0 shifts towards a more focused and targeted approach, enabling deeper mechanistic studies of the disease-modifying therapies.

Key research programmes under SONIC 2.0 include Discovery and optimisation of novel compounds for glaucoma; Investigation of anti-scarring agents for multi-disease applications; Development of improved treatments for myopia control, including strategies that may halt disease progression; Establishment of a new nonclinical model for presbyopia and its application in evaluating therapeutic candidates.

The three-year initiative, which will run from December 2025 to November 2028, aims to generate two new clinical-stage candidates and expand the ophthalmic drug pipeline for Asia and beyond. SONIC 2.0 is expected to deliver tangible translational outcomes and contribute to Singapore's biomedical innovation landscape through talent development, commercialisation, and future product launches projected by 2035.