

May 17, 2023

Company Name: HEALIOS K.K.
Representative: Hardy TS Kagimoto, Chairman & CEO
(TSE Growth Code: 4593)

Saisei Ventures Selected as a Certified VC Fund Manager by AMED to Catalyze the Japanese Drug Development Ecosystem

HEALIOS K.K. (“Healios”) announces that Saisei Ventures LLC, our company's consolidated subsidiary, was selected as one of nine certified venture capital firms in the Strengthening Program for Pharmaceutical Startup Ecosystem initiative by the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (“AMED”).

Under the [Strengthening Program for Pharmaceutical Startup Ecosystem initiative](#), AMED certifies VC firms and fund managers that have a demonstrated track record of therapeutic investment and can provide specialized hands-on commercialization support for preclinical to clinical stage drug development. A total of JPY 350 billion has been allocated to this initiative by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI). Through this initiative, AMED subsidizes the development of therapeutic assets by providing additional grant funding to ventures that have received investments from certified VC firms. Companies that are successfully selected for funding by AMED will receive a minimum of JPY 3 billion, with certified VC firms providing investment capital of JPY 1+ billion and AMED providing a two times matching grant of JPY 2+ billion per company’s therapeutic program. For further information, please see the public disclosure on [AMED’s website](#). (Linked pages are in Japanese only)

Press Release by Saisei Ventures (linked to Business Wire) :

[“Saisei Ventures is Selected as a Certified VC Fund by AMED to Catalyze the Japanese Drug Development Ecosystem”](#)

About Saisei Ventures:

Saisei Ventures is a leading venture capital firm dedicated to building next-generation companies in the healthcare sector. It aims to partner with passionate bio-entrepreneurs to develop and implement business strategies that will generate strong proof of concept, clinical validation, and market value. With operations in Japan and the United States, Saisei aims to enhance the value of its portfolio companies by leveraging its unique networks in and the institutional advantages of both countries. Saisei’s first fund, Saisei Bioventures L.P., is focused on building revolutionary cell and gene therapy and regenerative medicine companies from foundational technologies originating from Japan. For more information, visit <https://www.saiseiventures.com/>

About Healios:

Healios is Japan’s leading clinical stage biotechnology company harnessing the potential of stem cells for regenerative medicine. It aims to offer new therapies for patients suffering from diseases without effective treatment options. Healios is a pioneer in the development of regenerative medicines in Japan, where it has established a proprietary, gene-edited “universal

donor” induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC) line to develop next generation regenerative treatments in immuno-oncology, ophthalmology, liver diseases, and other areas of severe unmet medical need. Healios’ lead iPSC-derived cell therapy candidate, HLCN061, is a next generation NK cell treatment for solid tumors that has been functionally enhanced through gene editing. Its near-term pipeline includes the somatic stem cell product HLCM051, which has been evaluated in Japan in Phase 2/3 and Phase 2 trials in ischemic stroke and acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), respectively. Healios was established in 2011 and has been listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange since 2015 (TSE Growth: 4593).

<https://www.healios.co.jp/en>

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