

The following is an English version of the official Japanese announcement, which has been given to the Tokyo Stock Exchange and the media in Tokyo, Japan.



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For Immediate Release

SPARX Group Co., Ltd.
President and Group CEO Shuhei Abe
(Code: 8739, TSE Prime Market)

Mirai Creation Fund III Invests in Metagen Therapeutics, a Promoter of Medical Treatments and Drug Discovery Through Intestinal Microbiota Research
—Aiding in promoting fecal microbiota transplants (FMT) throughout society by creating and operating an “intestinal microbiota bank”—

TOKYO—June 15, 2023—SPARX Group Co., Ltd. (SPARX; TSE Prime: 8739) today announced that its Mirai Creation Fund III—established in October 2021— has executed an investment (the amount is not disclosed) in Tsuruoka-based Metagen Therapeutics, Inc. The company will use the funds raised in this round to create and operate an “intestinal microbiota bank” to promote fecal microbiota transplants (FMT) throughout society and accelerate research and development of its intestinal microbiota drug discovery program.

■ Portfolio Company Outline

Under its mission to “consistently fulfill patient wishes through microbiome science,” university spinoff Metagen Therapeutics impacts society through medical treatments and drug discovery based on intestinal microbiota research. Cofounded by a physician from Juntendo University and researchers from Keio University and Tokyo Institute of Technology, the company promotes the use of FMT throughout society and reverse-translational drug discovery based on FMT.

■ Mirai Creation Funds I, II, and III Summaries

The Mirai Creation Fund I began operations in November 2015 with financing of JPY 13.5 billion from three companies: Toyota Motor Corporation, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, and SPARX, the Fund’s general partner. Ultimately, the Fund received contributions from 20 companies, including the above three. Casting intelligent technologies, robotics, and hydrogen-economy technologies as vital to the future, Fund I has invested in approximately 50 companies and projects—from the US, the UK, Israel, Singapore, and Japan—that possess innovations in these fields. In H2 2018, SPARX began managing the Mirai Creation Fund II, which targets the three existing Mirai Creation fields along with the two additional areas of electrification and new materials. In October 2021, SPARX launched the Mirai Creation Fund III with SPARX Asset Management Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of SPARX, acting as its fund manager, adding carbon neutrality to the five fields of the Mirai Creation Fund II. As of May 31, 2023, the combined AUM for Funds I, II, and III were JPY 150.9billion.

Mirai Creation Fund investment track record: <https://mirai.sparx.co.jp/en/investment/>

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