

Aderans signs exclusive hair regeneration licensing agreement with Stemson Therapeutics, U.S. company researching hair loss solutions by leveraging iPSC

Aderans Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, Japan; Group CEO and Representative Director: Yoshihiro Tsumura), promoting the wellness industry of hair, beauty, and health on a global scale, hereby announces that on February 22, 2024, the company signed an intellectual property license agreement with Stemson Therapeutics (Head Office: San Diego, California, USA; CEO: Geoff Hamilton; hereinafter referred to as “Stemson”) regarding cell-based hair regeneration. Stemson conducts research to cure hair loss by leveraging the regenerative power of Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells (iPSC). This is the first time for Aderans to sign an intellectual license agreement on hair regeneration.

In the United States and Japan, many studies on hair regeneration conducted by independent research institutions are in Phase 1 to test safety. To the best of Aderans’ and Stemson’s knowledge, there are still no available hair loss treatments capable of growing new hair follicles, and various companies have been conducting research for hair regeneration. Aderans Research Institute (Head Office: Atlanta, Georgia, USA; hereinafter referred to as “ARI”), a member of the Aderans Group established in 2002, has been developing research on hair regeneration through cell culture and advanced to Phase 2 by 2008, conducting clinical trials to test efficacy. Meanwhile, Stemson has been working since 2018 to conduct its own research for hair regeneration by leveraging the regenerative power of iPSC. Aderans has decided to sign the global exclusive license agreement with Stemson, aiming to leverage ARI’s unique research on hair regeneration through cell culture in Stemson’s efforts to develop and commercialize hair regeneration therapeutic products.

The agreement will enable Stemson to resume implementation of ARI’s Phase 2 clinical stage cell therapy hair regeneration program and to integrate the technology into its existing hair loss cell therapy development pipeline. Through this collaboration between Aderans and Stemson, we strive to accelerate efforts to successfully develop and commercialize hair regeneration therapeutic products for millions of people suffering from hair loss and seeking hair regeneration.



From left: Dr. Ken Washenik (Bosley Inc.), Mr. Matt Posard (Executive Chairman, Stemson Therapeutics), Yoshihiro Tsumura (Group CEO and Representative Director, Aderans), and Mr. Geoff Hamilton (CEO, Stemson Therapeutics)

■ Comments from Mr. Geoff Hamilton, CEO of Stemson Therapeutics

The addition of ARI's technology and their Phase 2 clinical stage development program into the Stemson portfolio enables us to expand our pursuit of multiple cell therapy product concepts to address a broad range of hair loss indications. ARI's early pioneering work in cell therapy for hair loss demonstrated to the field the potential for durable long lasting hair regeneration results by restoring functional hair cells and tissue. We are excited to combine their work with our cell and tissue engineering capabilities in the hair regeneration field to create truly breakthrough products for hair loss patients.



■ Comments from Yoshihiro Tsumura, Group CEO and Representative Director of Aderans Co., Ltd.

Aderans has been developing solutions for hair loss since our founding in 1968. Our agreement with Stemson positions our hair regeneration cell therapy technology to deliver advanced solutions to serve the global population. We look forward to working with the Stemson team to enable their development efforts and to support the commercialization through our global network of clinics serving hair loss patients.



■ Comments from Dr. Ken Washenik, Bosley Inc.

Our pioneering work at the Aderans Research Institute to develop the first ever cell therapy solution for hair loss showed tremendous promise in clinical trials to treat early stage Androgenetic Alopecia in men. We believe Stemson, with their advanced expertise in hair follicle cell and tissue engineering, is ideally positioned to successfully complete development and commercialization of this exciting hair regeneration solution.



■ About Aderans Research Institute (ARI)

ARI is a group company of Aderans established in 2002, aiming to conduct research on cell-based hair regeneration. In the Phase 1 trials in the UK to test safety of cell-based hair regeneration, researchers injected cultured cells to a total of 33 participants, of whom 10 showed some effects. Following the trials, an independent body acknowledged that cell therapy would ensure safety by improving culture media and returning the participants' scalp cells after repopulating them, which led to approved by the US Food and Drug Administration and Phase 2 clinical tests in the United States.

The Phase 2 clinical testing was conducted in the United States on approximately 450 human patients to treat early stage Androgenetic Alopecia in men. Initial clinical data suggest a single dose of functional hair follicle cells into the target scalp area can safely produce long lasting and durable hair growth results.

< Company Overview >

Name	: Aderans Research Institute
Established	: 2002
Main business	: Research on cell-based hair regeneration

■ About Stemson Therapeutics

Stemson Therapeutics is a pre-clinical stage cell therapy company founded in 2018 with a mission to cure hair loss by leveraging the regenerative power of Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells. Stemson uses iPSC to regenerate the critical cells required to grow hair and which are damaged or depleted in patients suffering from hair loss. The iPSC-derived cells are used to grow de novo hair follicles, offering a new supply of hair to treat people suffering from various forms of Alopecia. Today, there are no known available treatments

capable of growing new hair follicles.

Stemson's world class team of scientists, advisors, and collaborators are passionate about delivering a scientifically based, clinically tested cure for hair loss to the millions of hair loss sufferers who seek help for their hair loss condition.

< Company Overview >

Name : Stemson Therapeutics
Address : 3550 General Atomics Ct, Building 2, Suite 131, San Diego, CA 92121, USA
Representative : Geoff Hamilton (CEO)
Established : 2018
Main business : Research to cure hair loss by leveraging Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells (iPSC)
Website : <https://stemson.tx.com/>

■ About the Aderans Group

➤ Wig Business of Aderans Co., Ltd.

Aderans Co., Ltd. is a leading global provider of total hair solutions. Founded in 1968, the company has built a global presence across Asia, North America, and Europe, with a network of 67 companies^{*1*2} in 19 countries and regions operating 448 salons^{*2} in Japan and 265 salons^{*3} overseas. Aderans provides a wide range of high-quality products and services, including its core domestic brands such as Aderans (custom-made wigs) and Fontaine (ready-made wigs), as well as hair transplantation services by Bosley and hair systems for men and women by HairClub in North America.

The custom-made wigs by Aderans use artificial hair fibers such as Cyberhair, Vital Hair, and CYBER X, developed and manufactured within the company under an integrated system from production to sales, and Aderans continues its efforts to develop new artificial hair fibers. Also, skilled technicians produce delicate and high-quality wigs at our own factories in Thailand, the Philippines, and Laos.

*1 Including non-consolidated companies. *2 As of August 31, 2023. *3 As of June 30, 2023.

➤ Hair Transplant Business Developed by Bosley Inc.

Bosley is the world's leading authority of surgical hair restoration and continues to enjoy the top share of the North American market. Hair transplantation by Bosley is a surgical procedure whereby a highly qualified and experienced physician, working with a trained clinical team, removes healthy hair follicles (tissues including hair roots) from the back and sides of the scalp and relocates them to areas of hair loss. Bosley also offers other most advanced proven surgical and non-surgical hair restoration solutions including scalp micro pigmentation (SMP), platelet-rich plasma (PRP) therapy, and BosleyRX (tele-medicine) FDA proved solutions. As of May 31, 2023, Bosley provides services through 25 surgical offices and 50 consultation offices.

Bosley has also cooperated in ARI's research by providing its patient samples and will continue to support Stemson's research.

Bosley website: <https://www.bosley.com/>

< Media Inquiries >

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