

August 23, 2023

Axcelead Drug Discovery Partners Inc.

## **Axcelead DDP's Drug Discovery Support Business Honored with the 6<sup>th</sup> Japan Medical Research and Development Grand Prize**

Axcelead Drug Discovery Partners Inc. ("Axcelead DDP") is pleased to announce that it has been honored with the Startup Encouragement Award at the 6th Japan Medical Research and Development Grand Prize Award Ceremony presented by the Japanese Cabinet Office.

The Japan Medical Research and Development Grand Prize aims to recognize and celebrate remarkable achievements in the realm of medical research and development, including groundbreaking achievements and pioneering applications of advancements by universities, public research institutions and companies. This award program is expected to lead to the further advancement of medical research and development in Japan. In the 6th edition of the awards, a category of "Startup" was newly introduced to recognize promising startup companies in the field of medical research and development, thereby expanding the scope of companies that can apply for an award.

- Name of Award:** Japan Medical Research and Development Grand Prize, Startup Encouragement Award
- Project Name:** Contribution to Diverse Drug Discovery Projects Utilizing Innovative Technology Platforms
- Achievements:** Serving as a platformer for drug discovery, Axcelead DDP has contributed to the advancement of drug discovery research, from fundamental studies to clinical applications, for a variety of entities in the drug discovery field. Since its inception, the company has worked with over 200 entities, including pharmaceutical companies, startups, academia and public research institutions. Notably, repeat business with pharmaceutical companies stands at approximately 90%, underscoring their trust and expectations. Moreover, Axcelead DDP's participation in AMED's drug discovery support initiatives have facilitated translational research for bridging between academia and pharmaceutical companies.

Axcelead DDP President & CEO Nobuhiko Yamada said, "We are very pleased to receive the Startup Encouragement Award at the 6th edition of the Japan Medical Research and Development Grand Prize. Since our establishment in 2017 as a platformer for drug discovery originating from a pharmaceutical company, we have supported drug discovery research for a variety of players. We aspire to be the best partner for those involved in drug discovery, contributing to the creation of breakthrough medicines as well as increasing efficiency of drug discovery research by incorporating cutting-edge technologies."

### **About Axcelead DDP**

Axcelead DDP is the first integrated drug discovery solutions provider in the pharmaceutical industry in Japan, having succeeded the drug discovery research capabilities of Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited and started its business in July, 2017. The company provides integrated services, from discovery of drug targets to optimization of small- and medium-molecule drug candidates, in which the company has particular expertise, and to the process of bridging the gap to clinical development. For more information, please visit <https://www.axcelead.com/en/>