

# pharma

## TECH OUTLOOK

Drug Discovery APAC Service

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### Top 10 Drug Discovery Consulting/Services Companies in APAC - 2019

The drug discovery services market today is influenced by technological advancements and growing demand for cancer treatment. What is fueling the growth of this market is people's increasing concern about chronic diseases, growing patient pool, increasing government assistance, and enhancing the regulatory framework, among other reasons. Steady advancements in the drug discovery technologies are paving the way for new and unique products.

In this edition of Pharma Tech Outlook, we bring the list of top 10 drug discovery consulting/services companies in APAC. The edition features Axcelead, a Japan-based pharma and biotech company that helps drug institutes streamline the implementation of drug discovery procedures. The company offers a one-stop-shop service tailored to the needs of each process. Another company that finds its place in the list is Gemseki, a company that has contributed immensely to the pharmaceutical industry. The company serves as a connecting agent for licensing-in/licensing-out of drug candidates, drug

discovery technologies, and therapeutic targets. Gemseki provides a detailed summary of the candidate drugs or technologies when inquired. Based on the information, customers can choose to involve in the process of due diligence. Similarly, PharmAbcine, a research-oriented biotech company, focuses on the development of therapeutic antibodies. The company has created many pipelines under clinical development. For commercializing antibody therapeutics PharmAbcine's services come across one of the best choices. Also, the cost and scope of every service are determined through prior consultation.

With several innovative services and success stories up their sleeves, these companies are constantly proving their ability in the drug discovery expanse. We hope this issue of Pharma Tech Outlook helps you build the partnership you and your firm needs to drive success.

We present to you Pharma Tech Outlook's "Top 10 Drug Discovery Consulting/Services Companies in APAC - 2019."

#### Axcelead Drug Discovery Partners

recognized by  magazine as

Top 10  
DRUG DISCOVERY  
CONSULTING/SERVICES COMPANIES IN APAC - 2019

*The annual listing of 10 companies that are at the forefront of providing Drug Discovery Consulting Services and impacting the marketplace*

#### Company:

Axcelead Drug Discovery Partners

#### Description:

Provides comprehensive capabilities to enhance a client's ability to identify novel and efficacious targets

#### Key Person:

Dr. Yoshinori Ikeura  
President and CEO

#### Website:

[axcelead.com](http://axcelead.com)

## Axcelead Drug Discovery Partners Optimizing the Stages of Drug Discovery

**D**riven by chemistry and guided by pharmacology and clinical services, drug research has always paved the way for the healthcare and pharmaceutical industries to better understand and cure complex and life-threatening diseases. Today, the proliferation of genomic sciences allows pharmaceutical firms to dissect the genetic basis of several complex diseases and identify the most suitable drug targets for the development of avant-garde medicines. The phases of the conventional drug discovery model, however, are marked by several multi-faceted and convoluted processes. This is where Japan-based Axcelead steps in with its “better” approach, such as “better target,” “better molecule” and “better translation” to streamline drug research and development. The company provides, not to mention essential drug discovery functions, comprehensive analytical capabilities such as bioinformatics, multi-omics, and phenotype analysis with genetically-modified animal and disease models to enhance a pharma company’s ability to identify novel and efficacious drug targets. “Our integrated drug discovery (IDD) service ensures that our clients are able to develop high-quality molecules as drug candidates and perform effective translational research on novel and existing drugs and diseases,” says Dr. Yoshinori Ikeura, CEO of Axcelead.

Founded in 2017, Axcelead comprises over 200 experienced scientists and holds a strong name for itself in the overall pharmaceutical sector (including regulatory agencies) and it has been getting attention from drug discovery related players including pharmaceutical, academia, start-ups in Japan. Since its Takeda days, Axcelead researchers have successfully worked on more than 500 drug target validation campaigns.



Dr. Yoshinori Ikeura

Furthermore, with access to proprietary data associated with the extensive compound library and drug discovery projects of Japan’s leading drug research organization, Takeda Pharmaceutical company, Axcelead is aiding pharma companies to overcome every hurdle in their drug discovery processes.

From the initial research to pre-clinical development, Axcelead’s IDD service offers tailored services to streamline the overall drug discovery process. “By combining our technology, know-how in drug discovery, and Takeda’s legacy data, we provide customized services to meet the needs of our clients,” states Ikeura. The IDD service also eliminates the costs and time involved in communicating with multiple CROs, thereby enhancing project promotion.

On the other hand, the company’s high-throughput screening (HTS) service can quickly find high-quality compounds with a superior probability of hit identification, regardless of the difficulty in drug target bonding. “We

provide our HTS service for various target classes using our proprietary compound library with an automated HTS system of 300,000 data points in a day,” states Ikeura. This service has been a boon to drug discovery researchers to significantly increase the drug discovery success rate by simplifying the process of obtaining high-quality lead compounds.

Ikeura recalls an example of current Axcelead researchers’ efficacy in optimizing critical drug discovery procedures in Takeda days and identifying exceptional hit compounds for a drug target that had already been worked on by several of its competitors. Interestingly, every prior lead compound belonged to the same side-effect caused by a specific chemotype. As a result, the clinical development of the molecule was discontinued. By establishing original assay systems and screening for unique libraries, Axcelead identified lead compounds that did not cause the previously observed side-effect during clinical development. Soon, however, the clinical trial of the newly discovered compound was put on hold due to a different type of toxicity. The scientists currently at Axcelead although were able to convince the pharmaceutical authorities that the compound was safe for use in humans. Subsequently, the drug was launched as a first-in-class product that later became a market-leading medicine.

Looking ahead, Axcelead plans to be recognized as the world’s most preferred research partner for drug discovery. Ikeura believes that with Axcelead’s ability to provide comprehensive solutions through integrated research service coupled with its consultation, the company is perfectly poised to deliver simplified drug target identification and holistically enhance the conventional drug discovery processes. **Ph**