



May 25, 2020

To the press and whom it may concern

GlaxoSmithKline K.K.

## **GSK to strengthen efforts to COVID-19 by supporting medical institutions and community activities in Japan**

GlaxoSmithKline K.K. (President and Representative Director: Paul Lirette; Head Office: Minato-ku, Tokyo; hereinafter "GSK") has decided to donate a total of 16 million yen as part of its efforts to address novel coronavirus infection (COVID-19) in order to support the medical field and research activities fighting COVID-19 at the forefront, as well as community activities supporting those affected by COVID-19. Support destinations are as follows:

### **Contributing to COVID-19 research activities through donation to the Japanese Respiratory Foundation**

COPD is recognized as one of the most affected diseases by COVID-19 worldwide<sup>1</sup>. Also, viral infection is a risk factor of exacerbation in asthma patients, which means that the ongoing pandemic of COVID-19 may induce aggravation of asthma in these patients if they are infected<sup>2</sup>. GSK, which has been a leader in the research and development of medicines for COPD and bronchial asthma for the past 50 years in the respiratory field, intends to contribute particularly to patients with respiratory diseases. In support of its social mission, GSK will donate 10 million yen to the Japanese Respiratory Foundation for researching COVID-19, which is a grant for research on COVID-19's disease state analysis, diagnostic techniques, development and assessment of therapeutic drugs and vaccines.

### **Donations to the Nippon Foundation to support the development of facilities for the acceptance of people with mild COVID-19**

Since the spread of COVID-19 has resulted in a shortage of hospital beds in some regions, the Nippon Foundation supports the development of facilities for the acceptance of patients with mild disease at the Museum of Maritime Science (Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo) and other facilities, as well as the activities of doctors, nurses, and volunteers at the acceptance facilities. GSK, in support of this aim, donates 3 million yen to the Special Fund for Disaster Preparedness/ Coronavirus Disaster of the Nippon Foundation.

### **Supporting measures by M3 Inc. to distribute medical supplies to medical institutions free of charge**

With the shortage of masks and other medical supplies becoming a major challenge in the medical front, GSK will donate 3 million yen to support measures led by M3 to distribute medical supplies free of charge to medical institutions in Japan to support medical front.

In addition, GSK will invite employees to a donation drive and also provide with the same amount of matching donations for the emergency after-school childcare support fund led by the Japan Branch of the International NGO Save the Children, which has partnered with GSK worldwide since 2013. The fund has begun to assist in creating and managing places for after-school childcare, where children can spend safely in response to prolonged school holidays due to the spread of COVID-19.

Commenting on the initiative, Paul Lirette, GSK's President and Representative Director said; "We would like to express our great respect and appreciation to healthcare professionals who are dedicated at the forefront of healthcare in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and those who are struggling with the support activities for affected communities. GSK will contribute to solving the social challenges of fighting pandemics through the development of

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medicines leveraging our science and technology, and will further strengthen our efforts in collaboration with relevant organizations through this donation."

<sup>1</sup> GOLD COVID-19 guidance: Global Initiatives for Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (GOLD)

<sup>2</sup> Q&A: Management of Patients with Bronchial Asthma in Relation to Novel Coronavirus Infection (for healthcare professionals); Japanese Society of Allergology

## **GSK's actions to support global response to COVID-19**

We are determined to support the global response to the pandemic by offering solutions, using our science, technology, portfolio and resources. Our primary aim is to develop multiple adjuvanted COVID-19 vaccines, using our innovative adjuvant technology, and we are collaborating with seven companies and institutions across the world, including in North America and China. Alongside vaccines, we are also exploring therapeutic options by collaborating with Vir Biotechnology and also screening GSK marketed and pipeline assets for potential anti-viral activity or potential use in prevention or treatment of symptoms related to COVID-19. Beyond vaccines and medicines, we are making other contributions using our capabilities and expertise, such as volunteering program to support frontline health workers and governments. We are also supporting global and local community funds, including \$10 million donation to UN/WHO COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund to support distribution of essential supplies and PPE to health workers. In addition, we are supporting UK national effort to boost COVID-19 testing

For more information, see <https://jp.gsk.com/jp/media/covid-19/>.

## **GSK's commitment to respiratory disease**

For 50 years, GSK has led the way in developing medicines that advance the management of asthma and COPD. From introducing the world's first selective short-acting beta agonist in 1969, to launching six treatments in five years to create today's industry-leading respiratory portfolio, we continue to innovate so we can reach the right patients, with the right treatment. Working together with the healthcare community, we apply world-class science to discover and understand the molecules that become the medicines of tomorrow. We won't stand still until the simple act of breathing is made easier for everyone.

## **About GSK**

GSK is a science-based global healthcare company that is committed to improving the quality of human life by enabling people to do more, feel better and live longer. For more information, see <https://jp.gsk.com/>.