



Senno Therapeutics Advances iPSC-Derived Hepatoblasts Cell Therapy for Severe Liver Diseases

Accelerating the development of iPSC-derived hepatoblasts cell therapy for ACLF and other severe liver disease

April 14th, 2026

Senno Therapeutics, Inc. (Tokyo, Japan; CEO: Chieko Mori; “Senno”), a biotechnology company developing innovative cell therapies based on proprietary allogeneic iPSC-derived hepatoblasts, today announced that it has secured new financing to accelerate the development of its cell therapy platform and lead program.

Senno is focused on addressing significant unmet medical needs in liver failure by developing a novel therapeutic approach using allogeneic iPSC-derived hepatoblasts. The company aims to restore liver function in patients with life-threatening liver diseases, including acute-on-chronic liver failure (ACLF), where treatment options remain extremely limited.

The financing was completed through a third-party allotment, led by existing investor Saisei Ventures, who led the round with a follow-on investment, alongside new investors One Capital and Mizuho Capital Co., Ltd. Total funding to date has reached JPY 750 million.

The proceeds will be used to advance preclinical development and prepare for future clinical studies.

In addition, Senno has been selected for the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)’s Drug Discovery Venture Ecosystem Enhancement Program, and together with this financing, will further accelerate its R&D activities.

Senno was founded based on research from Professor Hideki Taniguchi at the Center for Stem Cell Therapy, Institute of Medical Science, The University of Tokyo. Its lead program, SEN-001, is designed to engraft in the liver, proliferate, and differentiate into hepatocytes, thereby restoring lost liver function.

Through the advancement of its regenerative medicine technologies, Senno aims to deliver new therapeutic options to patients who currently have limited treatment alternatives.

【Investor Comments】

“We are encouraged by Senno’s progress and the strength of its underlying science,” said Jonathan Yeh, Managing General Partner at Saisei Ventures. “We are confident that Senno’s novel approach builds on past learnings and has the potential to succeed in addressing significant unmet medical needs. We look forward to supporting the company as it works to deliver new treatment options for patients with severe liver diseases.”

Yukako Yokota, Partner at One Capital, expressed strong expectations for Senno’s innovative iPSC-based technology and the highly capable team led by CEO Mori, and added that One Capital looks forward to supporting the company’s continued growth. Keisuke Omori, Investment Manager at Mizuho Capital Co., Ltd., also highlighted the significance of Senno’s approach in leveraging Japan’s world-leading iPSC science to address the critical unmet need in liver failure, noting that the Mizuho Group will continue to support the company’s journey.

【CEO Comment】

“We are deeply grateful for the support of our investors,” said Chieko Mori, CEO of Senno Therapeutics. “This financing, together with the AMED program, enables us to steadily advance our transition from preclinical development toward clinical trials, with the goal of delivering transformative therapies to patients as quickly as possible.”

About SEN-001 (Allogeneic iPSC-derived Hepatoblasts)

SEN-001 is a cell therapy based on hepatoblasts differentiated from allogeneic iPSCs. Hepatoblasts are liver progenitor cells capable of differentiating into hepatocytes. Following administration, SEN-001 is expected to engraft in the liver, proliferate, and contribute to the restoration of liver function.

The platform enables large-scale manufacturing while maintaining cell consistency and supports cryopreservation, allowing for an off-the-shelf therapeutic approach with scalable and reliable supply.

About Acute-on-chronic liver failure (ACLF)

ACLF is a severe condition in which patients with chronic liver disease, such as cirrhosis, experience rapid deterioration of liver function triggered by factors including infection or alcohol consumption, often leading to multi-organ failure. It has been reported that the 28-day mortality rate reaches 30–40%, indicating a high short-term risk of death.

While the number of patients is increasing globally, liver transplantation remains the only curative treatment option. However, due to donor shortages and other limitations, there is a strong need for the development of alternative therapeutic approaches.

About Senno Therapeutics

Senno Therapeutics is a biotechnology company developing regenerative therapies for severe liver diseases using allogeneic iPSC-derived hepatoblasts. Founded in 2024 and based in Tokyo, the company builds on research originating from the University of Tokyo.

Website: <https://sennotx.com/>
