

News Release

October 6, 2008

ASKLEP & ASKA Research Sign Strategic Partnership Agreement to Bridge Clinical Trial Management Capabilities across the Pacific

ASKLEP Inc., one of Japan's largest Contract Research Organization (CRO) and ASKA Research, a CRO headquartered in Vancouver, Canada, announce today the signing of a mutual strategic partnership that will expand their global market share. The partnership adds to ASKLEP's growing international business partners that include Harrison Clinical Research Group in Europe, Qualitix Clinical Research of Taiwan, and now ASKA in North America.

"In addition to providing superior expertise managing complex global trials across a variety of medical specialties," Takenori Ogawa, President of ASKLEP added, "ASKA allows us the opportunity to rapidly expand our North American client base across Canada and the United States."

The relationship allows pharmaceutical companies broader access to multi-national research, reducing their time-to-market and product development costs. ASKA's network of over two hundred clinical research professionals is one of the largest organizations of its kind in the world -- aiding pharmaceutical, biotech, and medical device companies to expand development capacity without requiring them to increase the size of their staffs or facilities.

Val Willetts, Founder and CEO of ASKA, noted, "When we first launched our operations a decade ago, one of our strategic goals was to eventually build presence in Asia. This relationship allows us to fulfil that opportunity with the most premiere CRO in all of Japan."

In addition to ASKA's broad-based expertise and experience and in the area of clinical trials, their complete portfolio of services includes education, training and consulting services. Matched with ASKLEP's similar capabilities and market position, their combined strength will equal one of the fastest growing and largest in North America and Japan.

About

Asklep, Inc., (<http://www.asklep.co.jp>) founded in 1992, in Tokyo, Japan, provides clinical research services in monitoring, data management, biostatistics, regulatory & consulting, CRA training, etc. ASKLEP is an

ASKLEP

INTAGE Group Company. INTAGE, INC., (<http://www.intage.co.jp>) is the largest marketing research company in Japan and the eleventh largest globally. It has one of the most comprehensive healthcare solution services in the industry

About

ASKA

Research

ASKA Research, headquartered in Vancouver, Canada, is one of the few privately held CRO based in Canada. ASKA provides quality management, education/training, and functionally outsourced clinical trial management staffing services across Canada and the United States. Through a network of more than 200 regionally located clinical research professionals, ASKA has developed an outstanding network of qualified and experienced management and monitoring professionals throughout Canada and in the USA, providing a very cost effective model for managing clinical trials in North America.

NOTE

ASKLEP will host a Global Clinical Conference in Tokyo, November 19. Val Willetts, CEO of ASKA will be a featured speaker. The event will include a panel of speakers discussing trends and opportunities in the global CRO marketplace. For further information or to addent the conference, please contact ASKLEP Corporate Planning and Development Dept. Tel: 81-3-5294-5223

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