

## CiRA Foundation and Taiwan National Chiao Tung University signed a MOU on education and scientific research

**Kyoto, Japan and Hsinchu, Taiwan, 15 May 2020** – The CiRA Foundation and the Center for Smart Healthcare, National Chiao Tung University (NCTU), Taiwan, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to promote mutual cooperation on education and scientific research in the engineering discipline, with specific focus on the manufacturing of iPS cells.

iPS cells have great promise for new medical therapies. However, the manufacturing of iPS cells at large scale is costly, in part because it involves intensive manual labour. Automation of the manufacturing process is critical for lowering the cost.

NCTU is a leader in automating precision equipment manufacturing, and its technology has had a great impact on the semiconductor industry in Taiwan, and in the world. By combining its expertise with the expertise of the CiRA Foundation, the partnership aims to automate various processes in iPS cell manufacturing.



Center for Smart Healthcare, National Chiao Tung University (NCTU) members in Kyoto on Aug. 2019



CiRA Foundation members in Taiwan on Dec. 2019



CiRA Foundation members in Taiwan on Dec. 2019

### **About CiRA Foundation**

The CiRA Foundation was recognized as a public interest incorporated foundation in April 2020. Its principle purpose is to deliver high-quality iPS cells at low cost. The CiRA Foundation manages the iPS Cell Stock for Regenerative Medicine Project, which was started by the iPS Cell Research and Application (CiRA), Kyoto University, in 2013. The aim of this project is to prepare multiple iPS cell lines manufactured from healthy donors homozygous for human leukocyte antigens (HLA). These lines will expand the number of people who can receive related therapies with minimal immune reactions and are provided to academia and industries.

### **About the Center for Smart Healthcare, National Chiao Tung University**

NCTU is the major cradle for Taiwan's semiconductor industry and contributes to the development of the field in the past fifty years. With strong support from the alumni and the ICT industry in Taiwan, the university has recently launched an ambitious BioICT® program that aims to integrate information and smart technologies with digital medicine and healthcare. The task is coordinated by Center for Smart Health, NCTU, which serves not only as an interdisciplinary pivot of research and development, but also as an implementer for international collaborations.

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