To whom it may concern

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Announcement of Joint Research Agreement Between YAC Bio Inc. and the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology

YAC Bio Inc., a subsidiary of our company, has entered into a joint research agreement with the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (hereinafter referred to as “AIST”) for the development of a norovirus detection device.
The background and objectives of this joint research agreement are as follows.
Through this collaborative initiative, our group aims to contribute to the realization of a safer society.

1. Background and Expectations for Joint Research

Norovirus is an extremely contagious virus, capable of causing infection with as few as 10 to 100 viral particles. Each year, particularly during the winter season, outbreaks frequently occur in nursing homes, medical institutions, and food-related facilities.

The current mainstream testing method is real-time polymerase chain reaction (real-time PCR). While highly reliable, this method requires specialized equipment and advanced handling techniques, making it dependent on testing laboratories. As a result, obtaining test results can take considerable time.

An emerging solution is the detection method using the Multiparticle Concentrated Digital Immunoassay (MCDIA) developed by the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST) (Note 1). This method offers sensitivity comparable to real-time PCR, yet delivers results within just tens of minutes. Moreover, it does not require dedicated equipment or advanced technical skills.

This enables rapid testing even in nursing homes, medical institutions, and food-related facilities, and is expected to significantly contribute to both the prevention and containment of infections.

2. Purpose of the Agreement

Joint development for the commercialization of norovirus detection devices utilizing Multiparticle Concentrated Digital Immunoassay (MCDIA), as well as the manufacturing and sale of such devices

Note 1: Source Publications by AIST

[1] Ashiba H., Yasuura M., Fukuda T., Hatano K., Fujimaki M. (2022). Quick and ultra-sensitive digital assay of influenza virus using sub-picoliter microwells. Analytica Chimica Acta, 1213, 339926.

[2] Yasuura M., Tan Z. L., Horiguchi Y., Ashiba H., Fukuda T. (2023). Improvement of sensitivity and speed of virus sensing technologies using nm- and μm-scale components. Sensors, 23, 6830.

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