JAPAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ASSOCIATION

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Mr. Daren Tang Director General

World Intellectual Property Organization 34, chemin des Colombettes

CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Re: POSITION PAPER ON THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LAW OF PATENTS, Geneva, November 2 to 6, 2026 (SCP/38)

Agenda item 9. Transfer of Technology

Study on best practices and challenges in technology transfer in the health and green technology sectors focusing on industry-academia collaboration, considering national and international regulatory frameworks

JIPA makes this statement in collaboration with the Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (JPMA), which comprises leading R&D-oriented pharmaceutical companies. This statement is also supported by IFPMA.

JIPA and JPMA welcome the continued discussions in this Committee on technology transfer, including best practices and challenges in the health and green technology sectors, with a focus on industry-academia collaboration. A key challenge, in our view, is that technology transfer may be understood too narrowly as the transfer of patent rights or licenses. In the pharmaceutical field, successful implementation also requires research results, know-how, skilled personnel, clinical and manufacturing expertise, regulatory capacity, quality management, infrastructure, and sustained investment. Medical innovation can be achieved when stakeholders with these complementary capabilities collaborate to transfer, share, and further develop knowledge and expertise.

To illustrate this view, we introduce an example of voluntary and mutually agreed industry-academia collaboration in Japan involving Daiichi Sankyo, a member company of JIPA and JPMA. We present it not as company-specific promotion or a universal model, but as one practical example whose possible lessons must be adapted to different

priorities, regulatory frameworks, resources, infrastructure, and institutional capabilities, including in developing countries and least developed countries (LDCs).

Daiichi Sankyo operates an open innovation program called TaNeDS. Through the program, researchers at universities and other research institutions are invited to submit innovative research proposals, and selected research themes are advanced through collaboration between academia and industry.

The program provides a framework in which promising scientific ideas originating in academia can be further explored by combining academic expertise with Daiichi Sankyo's pharmaceutical research and development capabilities. Moving a research outcome toward practical medical application may require many additional steps, including verification and optimization of the research findings, preclinical and clinical development, manufacturing, regulatory activities, quality management, and sustained investment.

This example supports our view that academic research can generate valuable scientific seeds, while translating them into potential medical innovation requires complementary capabilities from academia and industry. It also shows that structured collaboration, appropriate intellectual property management, and sustained investment can connect academic research with pharmaceutical research and development. For other regions and countries, the key consideration is not whether to replicate the Japanese program itself, but how the necessary capabilities can be combined and developed in a manner suited to local needs and circumstances.

In such collaboration, intellectual property plays an important role. It helps protect research outcomes, clarify the rights and responsibilities of the parties, and provide a predictable foundation for further investment and development. Clear arrangements concerning inventorship, ownership, confidentiality, research results, and filing strategies are also important for smooth and predictable technology transfer, especially in increasingly cross-border environments.

On that basis, JIPA and JPMA believe that voluntary and mutually agreed industry-academia collaboration can be an effective approach to technology transfer in the health sector. Predictable IP and contractual frameworks, together with respect for academic research outcomes, can encourage collaboration and help bring innovative medicines to patients. Depending on national circumstances, these efforts may also be supported by capacity building, regulatory support, infrastructure, financing, and engagement with

local institutions. In our view, further discussions in the SCP would benefit from examining experiences from diverse regions and different levels of development, while distinguishing common principles from measures that may require adaptation to local circumstances. JIPA and JPMA will continue contributing by sharing Japanese industry experience and supporting sustainable technology transfer through voluntary collaboration, capacity building, and effective industry-academia partnerships.

Yours sincerely,



Toshihiko KOBAYASHI
President
Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA)