Pharmaceuticals / Regenerative Medicine: Responding to Unmet Medical Needs

In the healthcare business field, the pharmaceuticals and regenerative medicine businesses are responsible for the treatment field. In addition to small molecule drugs, such as the therapeutic drugs for infectious diseases supplied by Toyama Chemical Co., Ltd., which was acquired in 2008, the pharmaceuticals business handles biopharmaceuticals, the market for which is expected to grow in the years ahead due to their fewer side effects and greater efficacy. In regenerative medicine, Fujifilm consolidated Japan Tissue Engineering Co., Ltd. (J-TEC), which supplies the first two products approved as regenerative medicines in Japan, and Cellular Dynamics International, Inc. (CDI), which is a leading company in the development and production of iPS cells that are the key to regenerative medicine. Fujifilm is leveraging the synergies between the three companies while proactively developing the business.

In fields with high unmet medical needs, Fujifilm is conducting R&D with the aim of making unique, top-selling drugs as leading company in regenerative medicine.

Fujifilm Technologies: Growth Strategies Deployed from a Medium-to-Long-Term Perspective

In Fujifilm’s pharmaceuticals business, contract manufacturing of biopharmaceuticals is currently driving growth. Steadily making progress with the development of new drugs in response to unmet medical needs, such as anti-cancer agents and drugs for the treatment of Alzheimer’s disease, new drugs in the pipeline are expected to start contributing to profits from FY2019/3.

The contract manufacturing of biopharmaceuticals market is expected to grow by an annual rate of 8%. FUJIFILM Diosynpharm Biotechnologies, which became a consolidated subsidiary in 2011, developed the high-productivity Apollo™ cell production technology and is responding to burgeoning demand by expanding its cost-competitive capabilities and increasing its production capacity. Having acquired the U.S. company Karon Biotherapeutics LLC in 2014, which possesses strengths in the manufacture of vaccines, Fujifilm is responding to high-mix, low-volume production needs for pharmaceuticals.

Regenerative Medicine: Initiatives in Drug Discovery Support That Utilize IPS Cells

In the development of new agents, before testing them on people (clinical trials), animals and others are used for the screening of compounds, verifying absorption and distribution in the body and excretion status as well as the presence or absence of toxins. For these processes, CDI supplies cells differentiated from iPS cells to many users, including pharmaceutical companies and research organizations. Conducting experiments that utilize human cells from the early stages of new drug development contributes to a higher rate of development success and saves cost in check. CDI is changing the way drugs are discovered and anticipating a significant surge in demand for iPS cells.

In the years to come, in addition to new drug discovery support, Fujifilm will leverage its technologies, harness the synergies within the Group by joining forces with both J-TEC and CDI, and drive the industry as a leading company in regenerative medicine.