

PRESS RELEASE

Ajinomoto Co., Inc.
15-1, Kyobashi 1-chome, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-8315, JAPAN

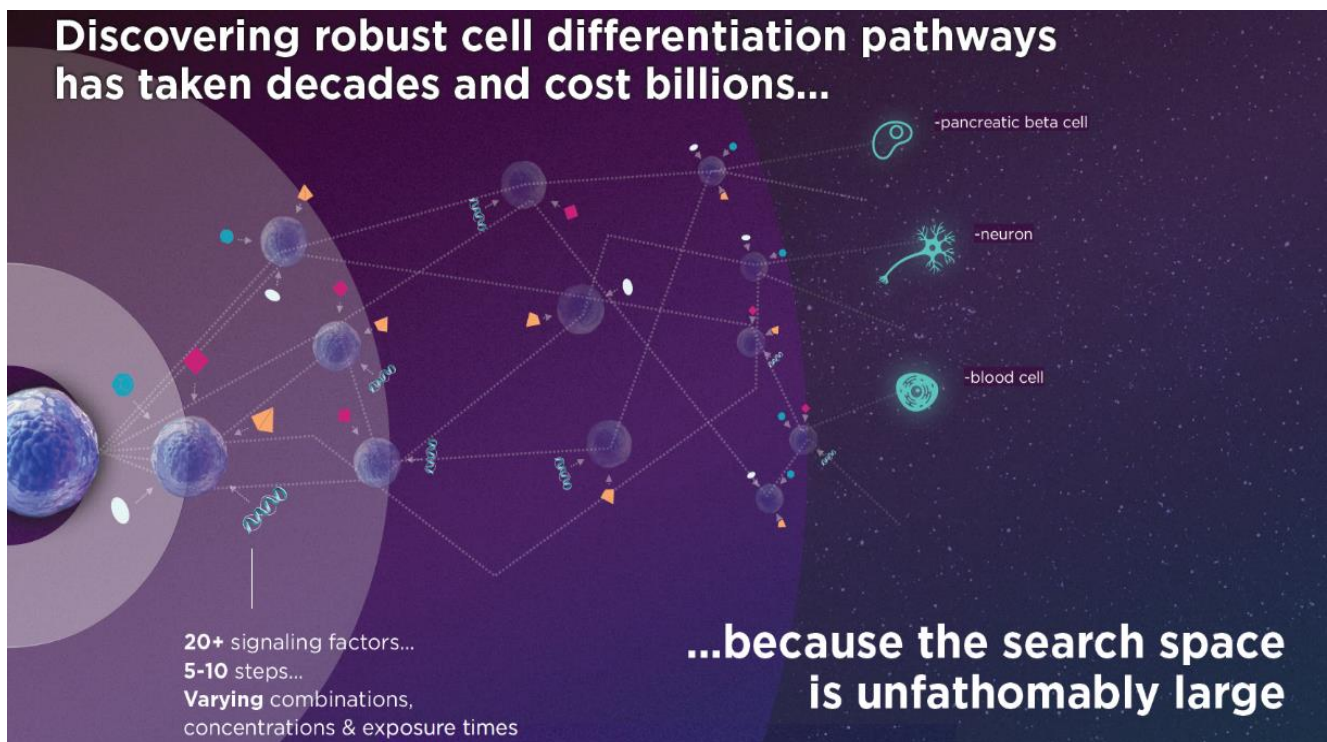
Ajinomoto Co., Inc. Invests in Somite Therapeutics Inc., an AI Platform Startup Optimizing iPS Cell Differentiation

Advancing the Innovation Infrastructure for Next-Generation Cell Therapies and Regenerative Medicine

TOKYO, June 13, 2025 – Ajinomoto Co., Inc. (“Ajinomoto Co.”) has completed an investment in Somite Therapeutics Inc. (“Somite”), a U.S.-based startup developing AI platform technology to optimize cell differentiation, a critical step in advancing iPS cell^{*1}-derived therapeutics. This investment was made through Ajinomoto Group Ventures^{*2}, the corporate venture capital arm of Ajinomoto Co. Through this initiative, Ajinomoto Co. will strengthen its efforts to drive innovation in cutting-edge fields such as cell therapy and regenerative medicine.

*1) Induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS cells) are made by introducing various types of reprogramming factors into human somatic cells. iPS cells can differentiate into various tissue and organ cells and proliferate indefinitely in culture.

*2) Ajinomoto Group Ventures is the branded name of Ajinomoto Co.’s corporate venture capital (CVC) initiative launched in 2020.



(Extract from Somite’s document)

The cell therapy and regenerative medicine field is a growing market, projected to reach JPY 12 trillion (approx. USD 83 billion) by 2030 and more than JPY 38 trillion (approx. USD 264 billion) globally by 2050^{*3}. Since Dr. Shinya Yamanaka received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2012, research and development of therapies using iPS cells has advanced worldwide, and expectations have grown for their broader application. However, the process of differentiating iPS cells into target cell types is complex and involves multiple stages and numerous signaling molecules, making it time-consuming and costly to establish optimal protocols.

*3) Source: “2020. Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. “Fundamental Technology Development Project for Industrialization of Regenerative Medicine and Gene Therapy Multi-Task Program Interim (Final) Evaluation” (in Japanese)

[regenerative_medicine_1st_05.pdf](#)

Somite brings together world-class experts in developmental biology, stem cell biology, and genetic analysis, along with leading specialists in AI, to develop platform technology that uses digital twin simulations to identify optimal manufacturing methods for differentiating iPS cells into various target cell types. This technology enables faster and more cost-efficient optimization of cell differentiation from iPS cells compared to conventional methods, and is expected to contribute to the practical application of efficient solutions for challenges in cell therapy and regenerative medicine.

The investment is an extension of Ajinomoto Co. regenerative medicine innovation strategy as it continues to grow its pharmaceutical CDMO (contract development and manufacturing organization) and cell culture media businesses. Since launching StemFit™, the high-performance cell culture medium created jointly with Nobel laureate Dr Yamanaka's Center for iPS Cell Research and Application (CiRA) at Kyoto University, the Ajinomoto Group continues to support innovation in cell therapy and regenerative medicine. This latest investment offers the opportunity to leverage Somite's cell therapy foundational model and apply the Ajinomoto Group's technologies and expertise as it continues to help drive progress in cell therapy and regenerative medicine.

Guided by its purpose of contributing to the well-being of all human beings, our society and our planet with AminoScience, the Ajinomoto Group is actively pursuing CVC activities and enhancing its global intelligence functions and partnering strategies through ongoing efforts to strengthen these initiatives, with the goal of realizing its 2030 Roadmap.

Note: 1 USD = 143.87 yen (rate as of May 31, 2025)

Reference

■ Overview of Somite Therapeutics

(1) Company Name: Somite Therapeutics Inc.

(2) Location: Boston, U.S.A.

(3) Established: 2023

(4) Representative: Micha Breakstone, Founder and CEO

(5) Business Description: Development of AI-based technology to optimize iPS cell differentiation and create iPS cell-derived therapies

(6) Number of employees: 20

(7) Website: <https://www.somite.ai>



For details on Ajinomoto Co. and the Ajinomoto Group, visit www.ajinomoto.com

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