SK Biopharmaceuticals Signs MOU with PhnyX Lab to Advance AI-Powered Drug Development

- *Collaboration to integrate generative AI, 'Cheiron,' across drug development lifecycle for enhanced efficiency and speed*

Seoul, Korea – June 18, 2025 – SK Biopharmaceuticals, a biotech company, announced the signing of a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with PhnyX Lab, an AI company leveraging generative AI for biopharma breakthroughs. This agreement, formalized at SK Biopharmaceuticals' booth during the BIO International Convention 2025 in Boston, U.S. on June 17 (local time), marks a pivotal step toward building an advanced AI-powered drug development system.

Under the agreement, the two companies will jointly develop customized solutions powered by PhnyX Lab's generative AI platform 'Cheiron.' Specifically designed for the biopharmaceutical industry, Cheiron will streamline traditional labor-intensive processes, including comprehensive literature searches, data analysis, and document preparation across the entire drug development process.

The collaboration's initial focus will be on automating critical tasks required for clinical trial initiation. This strategic move fundamentally reshapes the development workflow through AI-driven evolution. SK Biopharmaceuticals anticipates the initiative will significantly enhance R&D productivity while curtailing the time and cost of development and regulatory filings.

Cheiron analyzes and synthesizes extensive internal and external scientific data to deliver precise and validated insights. Furthermore, it powers the creation of comprehensive documentation—from literature search to report generation. It achieves high precision and relevance by directly leveraging official regulatory databases like the FDA and MFDS (Ministry of Food and Drug Safety, Korea), alongside the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) taxonomy, making it an indispensable platform for the biopharmaceutical industry.

SK Biopharmaceuticals has already applied AI technologies in early-stage drug discovery through its in-house platform *HUBLE™*, which supports the analysis of disease-associated genes and proteins and the identification of novel drug candidates. Through this new partnership, the company aims to expand AI utilization across its R&D operations to further improve development efficiency and scalability.

Minseok Bae, CEO of PhnyX Lab, said, "Transforming biopharmaceutical R&D through digital means is inherently challenging, given its complexity and stringent regulations. This collaboration demonstrates that generative AI solutions can be effectively applied in day-to-day operations to significantly improve both efficiency and precision in the drug development process."

Donghoon Lee, CEO of SK Biopharmaceuticals, said, "AI is no longer an option but a core competency in drug development. By collaborating with PhnyX Lab, we aim to strengthen our AI capabilities across the entire value chain and enhance our competitiveness in the global market."

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About SK Biopharmaceuticals

SK Biopharmaceuticals focuses on the research, development and commercialization of treatments for disorders of the central nervous system (CNS) and oncology. In 2017, SK Biopharmaceuticals established a research center to begin its expansion into oncology through research and development efforts.

SK Biopharmaceuticals is the first and only Korean company to independently develop and commercialize an antiseizure medication, cenobamate (brand name: XCOPRI®), in the U.S. Cenobamate, which was commercially launched in the U.S. in 2020 by SK Biopharmaceuticals and its U.S. subsidiary SK Life Science, has successfully entered five major regions: North America, Europe, Asia, Central and South America, and the Middle East and North Africa.

The company has a pipeline of eight compounds in development in both CNS disorders and oncology. For more information, visit SK Biopharmaceuticals' website at www.SKBP.com/eng.

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