



LiberoThera Appoints Yoichi Okumura as CEO

Effective April 1, 2026

Tokyo, Japan — April 1, 2026 — LiberoThera Co., Ltd. (“LiberoThera”), a biotechnology company pioneering drug discovery targeting complex membrane proteins, today announced the appointment of Yoichi Okumura as CEO, effective April 1, 2026.

LiberoThera is advancing a differentiated drug discovery platform focused on membrane proteins, including G protein–coupled receptors (GPCRs), which remain among the most biologically validated yet technically challenging drug targets. Leveraging proprietary membrane protein preparation technologies, the Company enables high-quality production of functionally intact membrane proteins that have historically been difficult to express, solubilize, and purify using conventional approaches.

These technologies originate from foundational advances by Dr. Shigeyuki Yokoyama and collaborators at RIKEN, including proprietary membrane protein preparation methods and site-specific incorporation of non-natural amino acids. By preserving native structural and functional integrity at high purity, LiberoThera’s platform creates a robust foundation for therapeutic antibody discovery and structure-guided drug development against previously intractable membrane targets.

Pipeline Progress and AMED Recognition

In March 2025, LiberoThera’s lead oncology program, “Development of a novel antibody–drug conjugate (ADC) targeting a GPCR overexpressing solid tumors”, was selected for funding under the 7th (FY2024) of Strengthening Program for Pharmaceutical Startup Ecosystem by the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED). The project is supported by AMED with UTokyo Innovation Platform Co., Ltd. serving as the lead certified venture capital partner, Taiho Ventures, LLC and MP Healthcare Venture Management, Inc. as the follower certified venture capitals (<https://www.amed.go.jp/content/000149485.pdf>). The Company is actively advancing this program alongside multiple additional research and development initiatives. Collectively, LiberoThera’s pipeline is progressing toward stages of development with clear clinical and strategic inflection points, positioning the Company to generate meaningful long-term value through innovative therapeutics addressing significant unmet medical needs.

Comment from the New CEO, Yoichi Okumura

“With our core pipeline assets advancing toward clearly defined development stages, LiberoThera is entering a critical phase of growth. I am excited to lead the Company at this pivotal transition point and to accelerate both strategic execution and value creation. Our mission is to deliver truly innovative therapies for areas of high unmet medical need, bringing meaningful impact to patients worldwide as efficiently as possible.”

Mr. Okumura's biography is available at:

<https://www.LiberoThera.com/corporate-info/officers/>

About Taiho Ventures, LLC

Taiho Ventures, LLC is one of the corporate venture arms of Taiho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., a Japanese specialty pharmaceutical company focusing on oncology, allergy and immunology, and urology. For more information visit <https://taihoventures.com/>

About MP Healthcare Venture Management, Inc.

MP Healthcare Venture Management, Inc. ("MPH") is a Boston-based life sciences venture capital firm in the United States that invests in innovative companies developing new therapies, platform technologies, and vaccines. MPH supports business activities by investing in domestic and overseas seeds and early-stage startups. MPH is Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Group's corporate venture capital business. For more information, visit <https://www.mp-healthcare.com/>

About UTokyo IPC

The University of Tokyo Innovation Platform Co., Ltd. (UTokyo IPC, President & CEO Kosuke Ueda) is a venture investment arm for the University of Tokyo founded in 2016. Through start-up formation and venture investment, UTokyo IPC nurtures entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystems around the academic community and industries in Japan. For more information visit <https://www.utokyoipc.co.jp/en/>

Company Information

LiberoThera Co., Ltd.

Head Office:

Nihonbashi Life Science Building 7, 8F

1-9-10 Nihonbashi-Horidomecho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan

R&D Laboratory:

TIP Lab, Room 516, Building No. 8

Tokyo University of Science

1-5-45 Yushima, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, Japan

Contact: info@liberothera.com