

Rakuten Medical

Rakuten Medical, Inc. is a global biotechnology company developing and commercializing precision, cell targeting photoimmunotherapy based on its proprietary Alluminox™ platform. As of 2024, therapies developed by Rakuten Medical based on the Alluminox platform have been marketed in Japan, and not yet been approved outside of Japan. Rakuten Medical is committed to its mission to conquer cancer by developing innovative treatments as quickly as possible for as many patients as possible all over the world.

About Rakuten Medical, Inc.

Company Name	Rakuten Medical, Inc.	
CEO	Hiroshi “Mickey” Mikitani	
President	Minami Maeda	
Office Location	San Diego, California, USA	
Subsidiaries	Rakuten Medical K.K.	Tokyo, Japan
	Rakuten Medical Taiwan, Inc.	Taipei, Taiwan
	Medlight SA	Ecublens, Switzerland
	Rakuten Medical Private Limited	Mumbai, India
Founded	2010 (Aspyrian Therapeutics, Inc.)	
Business	Research, development, manufacture and commercialization of pharmaceuticals and medical devices	
Employees	Approx. 150, including subsidiaries (As of the end of December 2023)	

History

2010	Apr	Miguel Garcia-Guzman founded Aspyrian Therapeutics, Inc. (now Rakuten Medical, Inc.) in San Diego, CA, U.S.
2011	Nov	Dr. Hisataka Kobayashi of the U.S. National Cancer Institute published a paper on photoimmunotherapy, the technology underlying Alluminox™ platform, in the journal, Nature Medicine
2013	Apr	Mickey Mikitani made his first investment in Aspyrian Therapeutics, Inc.
	Sep	Aspyrian Therapeutics, Inc. granted an exclusive license from the National Institutes of Health to develop and commercialize photoimmunotherapy
2015	Jun	Initiation of Phase 1/2a trial (RM-1929-101) in U.S. to evaluate RM-1929* in recurrent head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (rHNSCC)
2017	Mar	Office opened in Tokyo, Japan
2018	Jan	Fast Track designation of RM-1929* in rHNSCC by Food and Drug Administration (US FDA)
	Mar	Initiation of Phase 1 trial (RM-1929-102) in Japan to evaluate RM-1929* in rHNSCC
	Nov	Mickey Mikitani appointed as CEO
2019	Mar	Company name changed to Rakuten Medical, Inc.
	Apr	ASP-1929 in head and neck cancer received Sakigake designation by Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) in Japan
	May	Office opened in Taipei, Taiwan
	May	Initiation of Global Phase 3 trial (ASP-1929-301) to evaluate ASP-1929 in rHNSCC
2020	Mar	Submitted a Japanese Biological License Application (JBLA) for ASP-1929 under the Conditional Early Approval System (CEAS) and applied for Japan approval of the laser illumination system
	May	Alluminox™ Alliance Institutes (AAI) agreement with The National Cancer Center Japan

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	Jun	Strategic alliance collaboration agreement with The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center to advance Alluminox™ platform for cancer treatments
	Jul	Multi-year agreement with Merck KGaA to receive cetuximab as intermediate for production of ASP-1929
	Aug	The acquisition of Medlight SA, a medical device company
	Sep	Received marketing approval in Japan from MHLW for Rakuten Medical's first drug, Akalux® IV Infusion 250 mg and medical device, BioBlade® Laser System
	Dec	Initiation of Phase 1b/2 trial (ASP-1929-181) in U.S. to evaluate ASP-1929 in combination with anti-PD1 therapy in HNSCC or cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (cuSCC)
2021	Jan	Commercialization of Akalux® IV Infusion 250 mg and BioBlade® Laser System in Japan
	Jan	Acquired phthalocyanine dyes, including IRDye® 700DX, from LI-COR Biosciences
	Feb	Alluminox™ Alliance Institutes (AAI) agreement with Kobe university
	Oct	Strategic partnership with Karkinos Healthcare to expand the reach of novel cancer care in India
2022	Jan	Initiation of Phase 2 trial (ASP-1929-103) in U.S. to evaluate ASP-1929 administered prior to standard of care surgical tumor resection in patients with operable primary or recurrent HNSCC or cuSCC
	Apr	Initiation of a Phase 2 trial (ASP-1929-218) in Taiwan to evaluate ASP-1929 with pembrolizumab in patients with locoregional recurrent HNSCC, with or without metastases, not amenable to curative local treatment
	Apr	Office opened in Mumbai, India
2023	Jun	Initiation of a Phase 1 trial (RM-1995-101) in Japan to evaluate RM-1995 in patients with advanced or recurrent solid tumors with liver metastases
	Aug	Exclusive licensing agreement for Alluminox™ platform in the Middle East and North Africa with Hikma Pharmaceuticals PLC

* RM-1929 and ASP-1929 are analogous and have comparable physical and chemical properties.

In this document, “initiation” of a clinical trial refers to the “first case enrollment”.

[As of August 2024]