

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Japan Company Launches a €20 Million Fund in Microbiome

Weizmann Institute's Professor Eran Segal Joins Its Scientific Advisory Board

Tokyo, July 30, 2020 -- Corundum Innovation Co. Ltd., a Japan-based company that brings together Japanese companies and high-tech start-ups through open innovation, and Corundum Systems Biology Inc., established in April this year to facilitate microbiome research and business creation, jointly announce the launch of the CSB-1 (Luxembourg) SCSp ("CSB-1 (LUX) SCSp") Fund. The €20 million (approximately JPY2.4 billion) Fund was established in Luxembourg by Corundum Innovation.

Professor Eran Segal of the Weizmann Institute of Science has joined the Fund's Scientific Advisory Board, marking the first ever involvement in venture fund activities of this world-renowned microbiome researcher and expert.

Optimizing the best knowledge and experience sourced from close cooperation among top scientists and venture capitalists, the CSB-1 (LUX) SCSp Fund will invest in seed-stage companies focused on microbiome. Corundum Systems Biology (Luxembourg) S.a`r.l, a fund management company established in Luxembourg, will manage the Fund.

In Japan, Corundum Systems Biology Inc., will work with the Fund to accelerate business development. Established on April 30, 2020 in Japan, the company has three key business focus:

- Develop biometric database and data analysis platform related to microbiome
- Develop new businesses in the field of microbiome
- Support facilitation and hastening of R&D related to microbiome

“Microbiome has vast potential to lead to clarification of disease mechanisms for which, with progress in research, new treatments are becoming increasingly known,” explains Hidehiko Otake, CEO of Corundum Systems Biology Inc. “One such area is brain-gut interaction. That said, given the complexity involving immune systems and metabolites, there are still many areas that have yet to be elucidated. The number of specialists as well as the number of bio-ventures in this field is very limited.

“The CSB-1 (LUX) Fund will play an important role in our own effort to develop foundations that facilitate microbiome research and business creation,” he said. “Our mission at Corundum Systems Biology Inc. is the creation of new innovations through investment in ventures related to microbiome both inside and outside of Japan, development of AI algorithm based on the concept of systems biology, and proactive cooperation with domestic and overseas universities and research institutes.”

Professor Segal also serves on the Scientific Advisory Board of Corundum Systems Biology Inc.

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About Professor Eran Segal

Professor Eran Segal, PhD, heads a multi-disciplinary team at the Department of Computer Science & Applied Mathematics at the Weizmann Institute of Science, continuing to build extensive experience in machine learning, computational biology, and analysis of heterogeneous high-throughput genomic data. The research's focus, directed towards the goal of developing personalized medicine based on big data from human cohorts, is on microbiome, nutrition, genetics, and their effect on health and diseases. A recipient of many awards, he was recognized also with the Overton Prize, awarded by the International Society for Bioinformatics (ICSB) to one scientist each year for outstanding accomplishments in computational biology. Before joining the Weizmann Institute, Professor Segal held an independent research position at Rockefeller University, New York. Professor Segal earned in 1998 a BSc in Computer Science summa cum laude, from Tel-Aviv University, and in 2004 a PhD in Computer Science and Genetics from Stanford University. To date, Professor Segal has over 150 published papers.

About the Weizmann Institute of Science

The Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel is one of the top-ranking multidisciplinary research institutions in the world. Noted for its wide-ranging exploration of the sciences and technology, the Institute gathers together over 240 research laboratories focused on biological sciences, chemistry, physics, mathematics and computer sciences. It has over 2,500 scientists, technicians and research students. Leading researchers at the Weizmann Institute have been awarded the Turing, Wolf and Nobel prizes for their accomplishments. The Weizmann Institute is widely recognized as an international leader in the area of microbiome and of systems and computational biology.

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About Corundum Innovation Co. Ltd.

Corundum Innovation, based in Tokyo, aspires to help Japanese industries achieve growth and to revitalize Japan by bringing together global Japanese companies and high-tech start-ups in Israel through open innovation. Corundum Innovation has two subsidiaries in Israel, Corundum Open Innovation, a venture capital investment firm investing in top Israeli high-tech companies and top Israeli funds, and Joy Ventures, an inspirational “Innovation Hub,” equipped with capabilities in equity investment, incubation, and research grant-giving in the field of neuro-science. The company was established in Tokyo in April 2014. Yasushi Yamamoto serves as its CEO. (<https://www.corundum.bz/>)

About Corundum Systems Biology Inc.

Corundum Systems Biology aspires to become an Innovation Hub in the field of microbiome, a critical field with potential to unlock next-generation life science technologies and bettering human health and quality of life. The company, based in Japan, focuses on the field of microbiome in three business areas: development of new business, development of biometric database and data analysis platforms, and grant-giving to facilitate and hasten R&D. World renowned microbiome scientist Professor Eran Segal of the Weizmann Institute of Science serves on its Scientific Advisory Board. Corundum Systems Biology was established in Tokyo in April 2020. Hidehiko Otake serves as its CEO. (<https://www.csb.co.jp/>)