

We acknowledge the paramount importance of ongoing research and development of medical countermeasures against smallpox and other orthopoxviruses. It is imperative to conduct comprehensive research and development of medical countermeasures (MCMs) targeting a wide range of orthopoxviruses.

- To enhance our preparedness against outbreaks, we urge WHO to promptly arrange fair and equitable access to MCMs from the outset of any outbreak.
- Regarding Mpox, indications of LC16 vaccine were expanded to include Mpox prevention in Japan, 2022. When the WHO Director-General declared the Mpox outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), we provided the LC16 vaccine to Colombia, and conducted a joint clinical trial. We are deeply concerned about the current Mpox clade I outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and stand ready to contribute as a nation. We call upon WHO to continue assembling stakeholders and member states coordinating assistance and clarifying the roles and commitments of all involved parties.
- In 2014, the Marketing Authorization Holder applied to the WHO for pre-qualification of LC16. Furthermore, comprehensive documentation, comprised of rich data and scientific evidence, was submitted to WHO regarding the expansion of LC16's indications to mpox, in 2022 and 2023. We eagerly await WHO's prompt assessment.
- In the spirit of collaboration, we express our willingness to cooperate with international organizations, including WHO, in responding to outbreaks and advancing MCM research.