



## **EISAI CONCLUDES WORLDWIDE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH EPIZYME FOR CANCER THERAPEUTICS TARGETING EZH2 EPIGENETIC ENZYME**

Eisai Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Tokyo, President & CEO: Haruo Naito, "Eisai") announced today that the company has entered into a worldwide partnership with U.S.-based Epizyme, Inc. (Headquarters: Cambridge, Massachusetts, President: Robert Gould, Ph.D., "Epizyme") to discover, develop and commercialize therapeutics targeting EZH2, an epigenetic enzyme, for the treatment of lymphoma and other cancers in genetically-defined patients.

Eisai was led to Epizyme as the partner of choice for this strategic epigenetic drug discovery agreement

**[Notes to editors]**

**1. About Epizyme, Inc.**

Epizyme, Inc. is leading the discovery and development of small molecule histone methyltransferase (HMT) inhibitors, a new class of targeted therapeutics for the treatment of genetically-defined cancer patients based on breakthroughs in the field of epigenetics. Genetic alterations in the HMTs are strongly associated with the underlying causes of multiple human diseases, including cancer. Epizyme's patient-driven approach represents the future of personalized therapeutics by creating better medicines for the right patients more quickly and at lower cost than traditional approaches.

**2. About epigenetics**

Epigenetics is a branch of science that studies the mechanism for selective activation/inactivation of the gene function and seeks to determine how gene function is altered through cell division, irrespective of DNA base sequence alteration. The overall epigenetic state of a genome is referred to as "epigenome".

**3. About EZH2**

EZH2 participates in the modulation of epigenetic gene expression as a member of gene expression modulation protein complex called polycomb protein. EZH2 methylates lysine (27) in the histone H3 core protein and inhibits gene transcription in the region.