

**Kirin Holdings and Koiwai Dairies Receive the 2020 Food Immunology Award for Applied Research from the Japanese Association for Food Immunology**

- High praise for Japan's first functional labeling on immune function -

**TOKYO, January 26, 2021** – Kirin Holdings Limited (Kirin Holdings) and Koiwai Dairies Corporation (Koiwai Dairies) were awarded the [Japanese Association for Food Immunology's](#) 2020 Food Immunology Award for Applied Research Friday, October 2. The award recognizes Kirin Holdings' and Koiwai Dairies' research teams' research findings on the proprietary *Lactococcus lactis* strain Plasma which contributed to the official registering of the immune system helper as a functional ingredient on product labeling. The award was presented at the 1st Online Symposium of the Japanese Association for Food Immunology held on Wednesday, November 18.

The *Kirin Group Vision 2027* sets out the broad goal of creating value across the world of food & beverages to pharmaceuticals and becoming a global leader in CSV\*<sup>2</sup>. To augment the Group's existing Food & Beverages domain and Pharmaceuticals domain, the Group has launched a new Health Science domain to help people stay fit and healthy by leveraging advanced fermentation and biotechnology the Group has amassed over the years.

One example of this is leveraging the Group's 35 years of research that led to the development of *Lactococcus lactis* strain Plasma, jointly developed across Group companies and on August 7, Plasma Lactic Acid was officially registered by the Japanese Consumer Affairs Agency. This marked the first time that a product containing *Lactococcus lactis* strain Plasma could be labeled as having immunological function.

\*2: Creating Shared Value. Combined added value for consumers as well as for society at large.

**The Japanese Association for Food Immunology and the Food Immunology Award for Applied Research**

The Japanese Association for Food Immunology was established on October 21, 2004 to clarify the immunomodulatory function of foods and to conduct academic activities related to the immune function of foods. The Food Immunology Award for Applied Research is given to researchers or research groups that have made outstanding achievements in the field of applied research in food immunology, have developed and promoted foods that contribute to the maintenance and improvement of human health, and are expected to make contributions to the future application of food immunology.

**2020 Winners**

The research teams of Kirin Holdings and Koiwai Dairies

**Achievements Recognized by the Food Immunology Award for Applied Research**

Kirin Holdings has discovered that *Lactococcus lactis* strain Plasma acts on a specific subset of dendritic cells and exhibits immunostimulatory effects, such as type I IFN production, to reduce cold and flu-like symptoms. The company then commercialized *Lactococcus lactis* strain Plasma and achieved the immune functional labeling on August 7, 2020. The achievement of official immune function labeling, one of the goals of the Society, has had a great impact.

Japanese Association for Food Immunology Award Page (Japanese)

[http://www.jafi.jp/about/award/2020\\_gt\\_winning/](http://www.jafi.jp/about/award/2020_gt_winning/)

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