CHALLENGER Naoki Shinohara

I want to contribute to the advancement of medicine through the development and marketing of biopharmaceuticals.

Biopharmaceuticals are manufactured by applying cell culture, genetic recombination, and other methods. Biopharmaceuticals also have follow-on products that are released after the patent has expired. While generic drugs can be produced using the same recipe as the original drug, it is difficult to produce identical products for biopharmaceuticals because the active ingredients, such as hormones, enzymes, and antibodies, have large molecular weights and complex structures. Subsequent products are called "biosimilars" as they use the same active ingredients as the original drug. They are required to demonstrate equivalence and homogeneity with the branded drug in terms of quality and safety, and require the same testing as the new drug in order to pass the review. Biopharmaceuticals and biosimilars such as insulin, etanercept, interferon, and antibodies are essential for the treatment of cancer and immunological diseases, but most of these drugs used in Japan are foreign products. "While South Korea and other countries were guick to take the initiative in acquiring manufacturing technology and building facilities, Japan has lagged behind in development, and such drugs are extremely expensive. Japan's social security costs continue to increase, and in an environment of an aging society and increasingly sophisticated medical technology, the economic burden of medical costs will continue to weigh heavily on the next generation. I would like to contribute to the reduction of medical costs by producing biosimilars in Japan," said Naoki Shinohara, President and CEO of Japan Biotechno Pharma, Co., Ltd. Founded in 2016, the company is working to produce antibody drugs at its San Francisco lab, as well as developing in vitro diagnostic test kits to predict the onset of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, and kits to measure drug and protein levels in the blood. "Alzheimer's disease is a very difficult disease to treat. Alzheimer's disease is one of the most difficult diseases to treat, but risk factors that increase the likelihood of developing the disease have been identified, and preventive medication can be used to reduce the incidence of the disease in those who have it. If we can take preventive action against dementia with the help of test kits, we can extend healthy life expectancy, which will also help reduce social security costs." If we can reduce the cost of drugs, which account for a large portion of medical expenses, we can increase the remuneration of medical service providers while also improving the quality of medical care. "People tend to think that doctors make a lot of money, but that's not always the case when you consider the balance with working hours. Among them, I feel that the field of surgery is facing a major obstacle in terms of education system and labor force processing. There are some cardiac surgeons in Japan who are called upon 24 hours a day to perform difficult surgeries,

but are paid less than one-tenth of what they are paid overseas. In addition, Japanese doctors in the field of surgery are aging as a whole, and if this trend continues, Japanese patients may eventually have to travel overseas for surgery." In order to contribute to Japanese healthcare beyond pharmaceuticals, Shinohara established Next Innovation

The company provides consulting services for pharmaceuticals and medical devices, management of academic societies, and preparation of materials for negotiating NHI prices for new drugs. "I will continue to work on various projects to materialize 'what I wish I had' for the future of medicine, such as the project to train the next generation of cardiac surgeons." When he was a student, Mr. Shinohara was devoted to theater and ran his own theater company. When he was job hunting, he wanted to work in the mass media industry. "However, I didn't get any job offers, and one of my seniors suggested that a foreign pharmaceutical company might be interesting because of its future potential. That's how I got into the industry," he says. At the foreign pharmaceutical company, Mr. Shinohara was mainly involved in sales and marketing, and his career progressed steadily. "However, although I felt that my work was worthwhile, I began to ask myself, 'Is it enough to just sell medicines like this?' and 'Am I helping medicine and patients?' At that time, a scientist acquaintance of mine asked me, 'Don't you think about manufacturing biotechnology products in Japan?' Certainly, I was also concerned about various issues in Japanese medicine, such as the lagging biopharmaceutical industry. However, it was first of all impossible to do so in a foreign company due to the policy of the home country. So, I had no choice but to start my own company," he said. "When I started the company, some people admonished me for being reckless. On the other hand, the aforementioned scientist and many other university doctors with whom he had deepened relationships while working at the company backed him up. One of them said, 'I cannot be in a position to start a company, so I would like to entrust my dream to you indirectly.' After the establishment of our company, many people who retired from pharmaceutical companies came to us with an interest in our company and became involved on a freelance basis. Five years have passed since our establishment, and our recognition has increased, and we are finally in a position to approach the medical administration. I would like to continue to propose and imp useful things for the sake of Japanese healthcare."

Newsweek.

バイオ医薬品の開発・販売を通して、 医療の発展に貢献していきたい。

「韓国などではいち早く政府

会保障費は増加の一途をたどっ 建設に取り組んでいたのに対 王導で製造技術の習得や施設の

薬品、バイオシミラーだが、日の治療には欠かせないバイオ医 められ、審査をパスするために同等性・同質性を示すことが求 用しているものとして「バイオ 発医薬品と類似の有効成分を使 体などは分子量が大きくて構造 品をつくることができる一方 本で用いられている薬のほとん は新薬と同様の試験が必要だ。 安全性について先発医薬品との シミラー」と呼ばれる。品質や 成分であるホルモン、酵素、抗 **犰体など、がんや免疫系の疾患** ト、インターフェロン バイオ医薬品の場合は有効 ンスリン、エタネルセプ 一般的な医薬品では、先 同一のものをつ

矢 療費において大きなウエ 用を抑えることができれば、

医療の質を高めることにも イトを占めている薬の費 キットなどを開発している。 物濃度やタンパク質濃度の測定 外診断検査キットや、血中の薬 究所で抗体薬の製造に取り組む 社では、サンフランシスコの研 取締役社長兼CEOの篠原直樹 費の削減に少しでも貢献したい ンソン病の発症を予測する 2016年に設立された同 アルツハイマー病やパ ーをつくることで、

定されていて、それを持つ方で 社会保障費の軽減にもつながり るようになれば、健康寿命を伸 よって認知症の予防行動ができ も予防薬で発症リスクを抑える の可能性を高める危険因子は特 ことはできます。検査キットに 「アルツハイマーは治療の難 い病気のひとつですが、発症

現化するさまざまな事業を手が ために "あったらいいな "を具 ロジェクトなど、医療の未来の

の製薬会社は将来性があってお どこも受からず、先輩から外資 志望していたと言う。「しかし 氏。就活時にはマスコミ業界を しれません」。 手術しないといけなくなるかもずれ日本の患者は海外に渡ってが進んでおり、このままではい が進んでおり、 分野の医師は全体として高齢化 与は海外の10分の1以下という 行わなければならないのに、給 来しているように感じます。 **八もいます。また、日本の外科**

成などを行っている。 ント、新薬の薬価交渉用資料作 同社では医薬品・医療機器コン 日本バイオテクノファ 療に貢献するために、篠原氏は ´ルティング、学会マネージメ そして製薬以外でも日本の医 トナーズ株式会社を設立。 ーション

「次世代の心臓外科医育成プ

では本国の方針もあってまず不 なっていた。しかし外資系企業 の医療のさまざまな課題も気に 言われたのです。確かに、 医薬品産業の遅れなど、日本

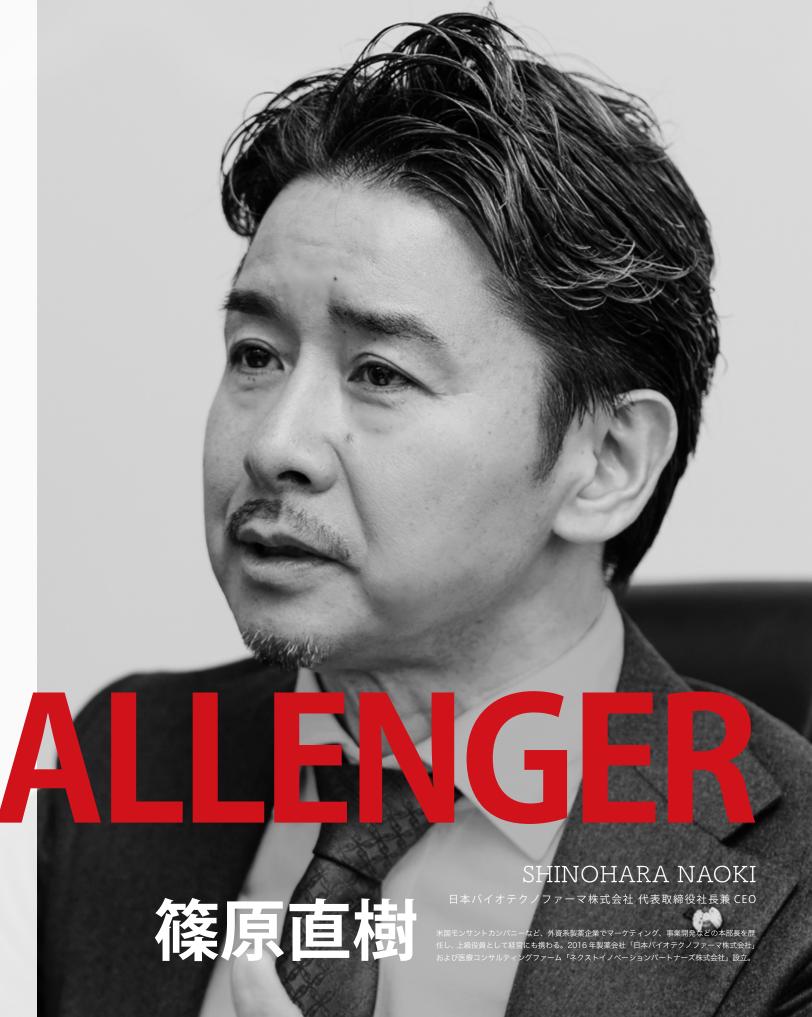
そんな感じでしたね」。 れた。業界に入ったきっかけは

自答するようになっていた。の役に立っているのか」と自問 だけでよいのか」「医療や患者 か「このまま薬を販売している やりがいは感じつつも、いつし ていった篠原氏。しかし仕事に タ 業やマーケティングに携 資系製薬会社では主に営 「そんな時、知人の科学者か 順調にキャリアアップし

をしようとは思わないのか』と ら『日本でバイオのモノづくり 今後も日本の医療のために役立 つことを提案し、

会社員時代に交流を深めた多く の大学の医師たちがバックアッ と諫める声もあった。 古げたのです」。 起業にあたっては「無謀だ」

社を退職された方など、 ました。また設立後も、 託したいと仰ってくれた方も、なれないので、間接的にも夢ら 5年経って認知度も上がり、 人が当社に興味をもってやって 「自分は会社を興す立場には してくれたという。 ーランスの立場で関 間接的にも夢を 設立から 多くの 製薬会 世の中のトレンドをリードする 話題のモノ、ヒト、コトなどを紹介



日本バイオテクノファーマ株式会社 https://www.japanbiotechnopharma.com