

May 17, 2019

Sompo Holdings, Inc.

Sompo Holdings Concludes Advisory Services Agreement with Professor Miia Kivipelto of Karolinska Institutet, Leading Authority in the research field of Dementia

Sompo Holdings, Inc. (hereinafter “Sompo Holdings”) hereby announces that it concluded the Advisory Services Agreement with Professor Miia Kivipelto of Karolinska Institutet*1, a leading authority in the research field to prevent cognitive decline using a multi-domain lifestyle intervention for the elderly.

This agreement was entered into as a part of its initiative against dementia, called “SOMPO Dementia Support Program”. In order to address various social issues surrounding dementia, SOMPO Dementia Support Program aims “to build a society that strives to prevent dementia, and enables people to continue living with dignity as individuals, even after being diagnosed with dementia”. It contributes to the realization of SOMPO’s Group Management Philosophy, “We will strive to contribute to the security, health, and wellbeing of our customers and society as a whole by providing insurance and related services of the highest quality possible.”

*1 Karolinska Institutet: One of the largest, most prestigious medical universities in the world. It has the Nobel Assembly which awards the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

1. Background

A rapidly aging society has been causing various issues such as rising medical and nursing care costs and other social welfare costs, increasing numbers of the elderly with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) or dementia, and shortages of caregivers.

Viewing dementia as an important social issue that the whole Group should address, Sompo Holdings Group (hereinafter “the Group”) has developed “SOMPO Dementia Support Program” since October 2018 by utilizing the advice from the National Center for Geriatrics and Gerontology, with which Sompo Holdings entered into a comprehensive alliance agreement in September 2017. The Group has been giving advice to the program by utilizing the feedback from caregivers and from Alzheimer’s Association Japan. The Group also takes advantage of the latest intelligence and digital technologies from the three hubs of SOMPO Digital Lab located in Tokyo, Silicon Valley and Tel Aviv, cities known for their technological innovations and expertise.

2. Objective

Professor Miia Kivipelto led the landmark “FINGER Study (the Finnish Geriatric Intervention Study to

Prevent Cognitive Impairment and Disability) *2” which was the first to demonstrate that it is possible to prevent cognitive decline using a multi-domain lifestyle intervention among older at-risk individuals. Professor Kivipelto currently leads the World Wide FINGERS initiative, which aims to replicate and develop multi-domain dementia prevention trials internationally.

Sompo Holdings concluded the Advisory Services Agreement with Professor Kivipelto in order to make use of Professor Kivipelto’s experience and knowledge for SOMPO Dementia Support Program and accelerate its initiatives for preventing cognitive impairment, which may result in solving social issues relating to dementia.

*2 FINGER Study: An intervention trial on the prevention of cognitive impairment among the elderly, initiated in Finland from 2009. The study was the first in the world to indicate that multi-domain intervention with exercise, diet, cognitive and social stimulation and management of vascular/metabolic risk factors was effective in reducing the risk of cognitive impairment. It was conducted on 1,260 at risk people from general population.

3. Major contents of the Agreement

Sompo Holdings will utilize Professor Kivipelto’s scientific competence mainly in the following fields;

- (1) Development of products and services based on the FINGER Study and other research that contributes to the prevention of cognitive decline,
- (2) Research and projects in order to address Japan’s super-aged society, and
- (3) Development of products and services by utilizing the knowledge and experience obtained through the above research and projects.

4. Outlook

In the first phase of the initiatives, Sompo Holdings will develop and deliver tools which were developed through Professor Kivipelto’s dementia-related research including the FINGER Study by way of SOMPO Dementia Support Program.

Sompo Holdings will continuously develop and provide solutions to address dementia by actively utilizing world leading knowledge and leveraging its unique comprehensive strengths that result from operating one of the largest insurance companies in Japan, as well as one of the country’s largest nursing care businesses. The Group is committed to providing services that contribute to the security, health, and wellbeing of both customers who need nursing care and those who do not, and help resolve the social issues to contribute to the realization of “Japan, an affluent country that can boast to the world of a long and quality life”.

“The signing ceremony for the Advisory Services Agreement”



Right: Professor Miia Kivipelto of Karolinska Institutet

Left: CEO of Nursing Care & Healthcare Business Satoshi Kasai of Sompo Holdings