

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ACUCELA INC. CEO RYO KUBOTA ELECTED TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT THE
NATIONAL BUREAU OF ASIAN RESEARCH**

(SEATTLE, WA - June 10, 2014) - The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR) is pleased to announce that Dr. Ryo Kubota has been elected to its Board of Directors. As a board member, he will provide guidance to NBR's research agenda, particularly its work on global health issues.

"For the past 25 years, NBR has served as a center spoke for critical conversations between the United States and Asia," Dr. Kubota stated. "I am honored to join NBR's Board of Directors and be a part of its esteemed group of leaders and thinkers on important global issues."

Dr. Kubota serves as Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer for [Acucela Inc.](#) Acucela is a clinical-stage biotechnology company that specializes in discovering and developing novel therapeutics to treat and slow the progression of sight-threatening ophthalmic diseases.

Prior to founding Acucela in 2002, Dr. Kubota worked in the ophthalmology field, including serving as a faculty member at both Keio University and the University of Washington School of Medicine. He holds an MD and a PhD in medicine from Keio University. In the course of his work at Keio, he discovered a glaucoma gene, myocilin, which earned him the Suda Award. Dr. Kubota is board certified in ophthalmology by the Japanese Ophthalmological Society and is also a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan. He has been a director of the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington since 2008 and an advisor to the Japanese Institute for Global Health since 2013.

"Ryo's achievements and international experience will be invaluable as NBR continues to work on its mission, producing policy-relevant research and programming on the most pressing U.S.-Asia issues," said Richard Ellings, President of NBR. "We look forward to what more we can accomplish together."

NBR's board chairman Charlie Brady also heralded the addition of Dr. Kubota, saying "Ryo is a world-renowned scientist and businessman, and we are thrilled to have his broad expertise on the NBR board."

[Click here](#) for Dr. Kubota's full biography.

[Click here](#) for a complete list of NBR's Board of Directors, Advisors, and Counselors.

About The National Bureau of Asian Research

Founded in 1989 with a major grant from the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, NBR is an independent, nonpartisan research institution committed to informing and strengthening U.S. policy toward the Asia-Pacific. NBR also helps train the next generation of scholars who concentrate on Asia.

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