

## Interview with Executives at King SkyFront No.4

**Ichiro Nakatomi, Ph.D.**  
**President and CEO**  
**NanoCarrier Co., Ltd.**

“Cancer” is a matter of life and death.  
It's life's biggest issue for humanity.  
I still remember the joy I felt when the anticancer drugs started working.

The delivery system is what delivers drugs to areas inside the body.  
The nanocapsule is made from a highly unusual polymer called “micelle.”  
Polymers are a research area for engineers.  
Our problem was figuring out how to fuse drugs with engineering.

We've come to the stage where drugs are becoming harder to develop.  
That's why people are starting to take note of these carriers.  
The probability is one in 12 thousand.  
Even if you discover new drugs, most of them are never commercialized.

It's because we live in this kind of era that our research is so valuable.  
There's also a chance of picking up research on drugs from where pharmaceutical companies abandoned them.  
Some drugs are abandoned even after getting as far as clinical trials.  
Even when drugs are extremely effective, when it has very strong side effects, their therapeutic range is very narrow.  
But this micelle has the ability to widen this range.  
I think it will become a part of innovative drug development.  
This technology has greater potential to spread than people realize.  
It can be used with cosmetics, too, and of course for drugs for external use.  
The technology has a wide range of applications.

To develop drugs you first need tenacity.

Second, you need ambition.

Third, you need administrative skills.

It would be ideal to have all three of these qualities, but you can also achieve good results through division of roles.

I love business.

There are business opportunities everywhere.

The worst thing that you can do is to do nothing. It's better to try even if you fail.

That's the entrepreneurial spirit.

We are currently involved in business in life sciences, and there's no shortage of material relating to our business.

There is a limit to how much innovation can be achieved through research.

It's a dead end.

You have to innovate in business at the same time.

Combined intelligence is about making use of combined knowledge or intellectual property, and that's the kind of era that we live in.

However, collaboration in the pharmaceutical industry is difficult.

It's impossible to manufacture products in the electronics industry without exchanging patents.

So, companies are forced to collaborate.

I think this will become possible in the pharmaceuticals industry in the future.

Conditions will get harder in the industry.

Companies will have to collaborate when they can no longer come up with new ideas.

Salt Lake City of Utah in the U.S., where I used to live, also had a hub airport.

It's where people transfer planes.

If Tokyo International Airport becomes a hub airport too, more people will come to Tonomachi from overseas.

I'm not sure if innovation is triggered by hub airports, or hub airports are built because of the innovation, but I feel there is a correlation.

In the computer and biotechnology fields, too, there are examples of research carried out by small and medium-sized enterprises and universities spawning businesses that went on to become major corporations.

Information can be obtained anywhere in an information society, but a surprising number of ideas are also obtained through conversation.

Sometimes you can come up with ideas from just staring at a PC, but not always.

Having numerous means of communication allows you to make better things.

We live in a competitive society, so we cannot ignore our rivals if we want to be innovative.

We must create better things, faster than others to become pioneers.

I think Kawasaki is the right location for a facility like this.

It's a rare opportunity.

If universities, research institutes, corporations, especially large capital corporations, ambitious companies, and venture businesses can all come together, we can expect great things to happen.