



## **The Sekisui House at MIT: Addressing the growing challenge of the special needs of the aging**

***A collaboration between MIT's Institute of Medical Engineering and Science (IMES) and the Sekisui House of Japan will investigate in-home wellness monitoring***

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass.** – To address the growing problem of an aging population, in Japan and around the world, MIT's Institute of Medical Engineering and Science (IMES) and Sekisui House, a homebuilding company based in Osaka, Japan are announcing a research collaboration.

The genesis of this collaboration is the idea that in order for everyone to be able to stay in the community and to age in place, they require special needs and housing accommodations, including advanced technologies such as enhanced sensors. Sekisui House, one of Japan's largest homebuilders, is working to address the desire to allow their homeowners, and beyond, to remain healthy and in their homes as long as possible.

To address the needs of people aging in their homes, IMES is establishing a program dedicated to advancing in-home wellness monitoring and Early Detection Systems (EDS). The program, which will be called **"The Sekisui House at MIT"**—will conduct research to produce technologies that will have a positive impact on the organizations, ecosystems, and global societies struggling to care for the expanding needs of the aging. It will be housed in a multi-purpose lab facility which will be outfitted with embedded sensors designed to sense low profile, ambient signals, gold standard diagnostics, and high precision research grade sensors for establishing diagnostic targets and base truth.

The Sekisui House at MIT will establish a multi-year and sustained collaboration around specific themes and needs, answer key questions—via targeted projects designed to collect clinically relevant evidence—and generate significant technology innovations. The program will be staffed and operated by clinicians, researchers, and technical instructors, while

fostering educational and global exchange between disparate communities, all while highlighting efforts in medical and observational research. The broader MIT community will be engaged with annual workshops and calls for proposals, as well as nominations for faculty and students to join programs surrounding specific themes.

“A surging dilemma in Japan, as well as globally, is how to keep a growing population of seniors healthy and safely at-home,” says Dr. Elazer Edelman, director of IMES. Edelman is also the Edward J. Poitras Professor in Medical Engineering and Science at MIT, Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, and a coronary care unit cardiologist at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston. “We look forward to embarking on this research collaboration with Sekisui House in order to investigate advanced wellness monitoring technologies addressing this important problem. And we think that this exciting program will enhance the education, research and innovation mission at MIT and beyond.”

“Sekisui House is thrilled to establish this long-term collaborative research with MIT and jointly creating a new hub for collaborations and innovations within IMES to address a significant social challenge” says Mr. Yoshihiro Nakai, the President and Representative Director of Sekisui House, Ltd. “This collaboration with MIT will be a great step forward to realizing the concept of “health nurturing home”, exploring new values for houses that can address real social challenges that countries and communities around the world is going to face in this coming era of the 100-year life.”

The Sekisui House at MIT is led by Dr. Edelman.

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### **About Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology is dedicated to advancing knowledge and educating students in science, technology, and other areas of scholarship that will best serve the nation and the world in the 21st century. The Institute has more than 1,000 faculty members and over 11,300 undergraduate and graduate students. MIT's commitment to innovation has led to a host of scientific breakthroughs and technological advances, in fields ranging from aeronautics to computing to cancer research.

### **About MIT's Institute for Medical Engineering and Science (IMES)**

IMES seeks to improve human health through science and engineering. Our community brings together academia, industry, and medical institutions. Together, we investigate the processes underlying disease and wellness; find new solutions for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment; and educate and empower the next generation of biomedical engineers and clinician-scientists.

### **About Sekisui House**

Founded in 1960, Sekisui House, Ltd. is one of world's largest homebuilders and an international diversified developer, with cumulative sales of more than two million homes. Based in Osaka, Japan, Sekisui House has over two-hundred consolidated subsidiaries and affiliates, over 20,000 employees and is listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange and Nagoya Stock Exchange. Sekisui House aims to create homes and communities that improve with time and last for generations. With "Love of Humanity" as its Corporate Philosophy, Sekisui House believes that homes should offer comfort, security and peace of mind for residents, while maintaining harmony with the environment and its surroundings. Sekisui House has sustainability as a core corporate target and is now the global leader in the construction of net-zero-energy homes with more than 40,000 of them built since the product was launched in 2013. In 2009, Sekisui House expanded into several new international markets and now operates in China, Singapore, Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom.