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**The Hamner Institutes for Health Sciences
Announces Partnership with QPS Holdings, LLC**

*Global CRO Establishes New Research Triangle Park, North Carolina Based Operation
and Research Center*

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C. – February 14, 2013 – The Hamner Institutes for Health Sciences, a nonprofit research organization focused on translational safety sciences, and QPS Holdings, LLC, a Newark, Delaware USA headquartered contract research organization (CRO), have announced the launch of QPS Hepatic Biosciences, a center of excellence for cell based research and services. Hepatic Biosciences is a new division within the QPS DMPK department and will specialize in hepatocyte research, drug metabolism, drug transporter sciences, and *in vitro* drug-drug interactions. The scientific discipline of this new operation at The Hamner Institutes is jointly led by Drs. Edward LeCluyse, Associate Investigator at The Hamner, and Caroline Lee, Director of Drug Metabolism and Transporter Sciences at QPS. Hepatic Biosciences has also assumed responsibility for all GLP-compliant quality assurance and bioanalysis in support of The Hamner. In addition to augmenting existing Hamner research programs, QPS will focus on new business development for both organizations.

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“The new Hepatic Biosciences division continues the growth of our DMPK competency which initiated with the hiring of Dr. Ragu Ramanathan in October 2012 to spearhead the QPS Biotransformation group,” said Zamas Lam, PhD, Vice President of Non-Clinical Development. Lam continued, “The personnel within DMPK are dedicated to providing the best science in *in vitro* and *in vivo* ADME studies to address our sponsors’ ADME needs.”

William Greenlee, PhD, President and CEO of The Hamner added, “This partnership with QPS aligns quite well with our shared vision to advance human health worldwide. We are delighted that The Hamner will be the home for QPS Hepatic Biosciences, and I look forward to the many breakthroughs that will accelerate the development of new medicines.”

“Strengthening *in vitro* ADME within QPS is a logical extension of our bench-to-the-bedside strategy in bridging preclinical data to Phase I by addressing drug-drug interaction concerns. The collaboration with The Hamner reinforces the QPS philosophy of providing outstanding science and services to our customers. QPS is very pleased to collaborate with the many distinguished scientists within The Hamner,” stated Benjamin Chien, PhD, Chairman, President, and CEO of QPS Holdings, LLC.

ABOUT THE HAMNER INSTITUTES FOR HEALTH SCIENCES

The Hamner Institutes for Health Sciences is a nonprofit translational biomedical research institute located on an open, multidisciplinary campus in North Carolina’s Research Triangle Park. Building upon 35 years of research excellence in toxicology, The Hamner works on drug and chemical safety in collaboration with academic, corporate, and government partners. Novel technologies used at The Hamner include genomic and bioinformatic approaches for improving toxicity testing, *in silico* models for predictive toxicology, *in vitro* models that utilize human cells or cell lines to evaluate perturbations of cellular responses, and *in vivo* models to elucidate genes that play a role in susceptibility to drug-induced toxicities. For more information, visit <http://www.thehamner.org>.

ABOUT QPS HOLDINGS, LLC

Founded in 1995, QPS is a GLP/GCP-compliant contract research organization (CRO) supporting discovery, preclinical, and clinical drug development. We provide quality services to pharmaceutical and biotechnology clients worldwide. Our linearly integrated core competencies include: DMPK, toxicology, bioanalysis, translational medicine, early stage clinical research, and Phase II – IV clinical research program management. Our regional laboratories and testing facilities are located at our headquarters in Newark, DE, USA; Springfield, MO, USA; Research Triangle Park, NC, USA; South Miami, FL, USA; Groningen, The Netherlands; Graz, Austria; Hyderabad, India; and Taipei, Taiwan. For more information, visit <http://www.qps.com>.

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- The Hamner's Twitter page

<http://www.twitter.com/thehamner>

- The Hamner's LinkedIn page

<http://www.linkedin.com/company/the-hamner-institutes-for-health-sciences>

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