

A flexible approach to

# Biomarker Capabilities

**TO SUPPORT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN DIFFERENT STAGES OF BIOPHARMACEUTICAL COMPOUNDS AND PRODUCTS,**

QPS offers biomarker services in different global competence centers using a wide range of technology platforms to support programs in any therapeutic area.

QPS biomarker capabilities range from small molecule analysis to whole cell characterization.

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**TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE IN DRUG DEVELOPMENT.  
CONTACT THE QPS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TEAM TODAY!**

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## FDA Biomarker Definition

The FDA defines biomarkers as 'a characteristic that is objectively measured and evaluated as an indicator of normal biologic or pathogenic processes or pharmacologic response to a drug'.

## Relevance of Biomarkers to Drug Development

In drug development, there is an increasing interest in the identification and use of biomarkers to aid in the association of signals for safety and efficacy. The goal is to eventually deliver on the promise of personalized medicine by understanding a patient's unique clinical and genetic information. Incorporating a biomarker strategy through all phases

of development can lead to quicker decisions and improved commercial viability.

At QPS, we seek to provide our customers with state-of-the-art services to deliver on the promise of biomarkers in different therapeutic areas. This is accomplished from preclinical studies through late phase global clinical trials, utilizing a broad range of bioanalytical techniques, from elemental analysis via small molecule biomarkers to single cell characterization.

QPS specialists are adept in the development, optimization, validation and application of biomarker assays. Similar quality systems for GLP and methods validation are applied for biomarker studies, as well as for DMPK bioanalysis. In close consultation with the Sponsor, the degree of qualification or validation is determined, and may be extended along with the flow of the candidate throughout the development pipeline.

# Analytical Techniques and Capabilities

Technique	Origin and classification of biomarkers that can be quantified
LC-MS/MS	Small molecule biomarkers including hormones and peptides.
LC-MS/MS	Biomolecules including large peptides and protein biomarkers.
ICP-MS	Trace and essential elements, total or freely circulating and bound.
LC-ICP-MS	Trace and essential elements for speciation, free, bound and total; Biomarkers with specific elemental content (e.g. Metalloproteins, Transferrins, Vitamin B12).
ELISA, EIA, ECL (MSD), enzyme assay, nephelometry	Custom assays developed for biomarkers and implementation and optimisation of commercially-available assay kits for large molecule biomarkers (e.g. phosph-proteins/ signaling molecules, growth factors, cytokines, complement factors).
ECL (MSD), Luminex	Multianalyte applications (e.g. Simultaneous measurements of multiple growth factors, cytokines, signaling markers (e.g. pAKT/tAk, pERK/tERk)).
Gyrolab Immunoassay Platform	Rapid development of custom biomarker assays using nanoliter volumes of reagents. High throughput, automated biomarker measurements.
Immulate Clinical Analyzer	Menu of predefined biomarkers in a wide range of therapeutic areas.
Pyrosequencing	Custom assays developed for SNP genotyping and DNA methylation analysis, genotyping for trial inclusion/exclusion, patient stratification, and disease risk.
TaqMan (Real-Time PCR)	Gene expression analysis (relative and absolute quantitaion) and SNP genotyping analysis.
Flow Cytometry	Cell phenotyping, Intra- and Extra-cellular markers, Cell Cycle Analysis, and Cytometric Bead Array (CBA) for soluble biomarker measurements.
Cell-based Assays	Cell growth/survival, cell stimulation with biomarker release or cell-surface marker changes.
<i>In Situ</i> Hybridization	Flourescent DNA <i>in situ</i> hybridization (FISH) can be used in medical diagnostics to assess chromosomal integrity. RNA <i>in situ</i> hybridization is used to measure and localize RNA expression (mRNAs, lncRNAs and miRNAs) within tissue sections, cells and circulating tumor cells (CTCs).
Immunohistochemistry	Localization of proteins in cells or tissue sections.

Offered also in combination with different types of LPS-challenge testing studies (*ex vivo*, *in vitro* and also *in vivo* in close collaboration with QPS' Phase I units).

## Analytical Platforms Per QPS Site

Platform	Delaware	Netherlands	Taiwan	Austria
ELISA/EIA	X	X	X	X
ECL (MSD)	X	X	X	X
Immulate Clinical Analyzer	X	X		
Luminex (BioPlex)	X		X	
Gyrolab	X			
Cell-Based Assay	X	X	X	X
Flow Cytometry	X	X		
HPLC	X	X	X	
LC-MS/MS	X	X	X	
Nephelometry		X		
ICP-MS		X		
Western Blot	X			X
Enzyme Assays	X	X		X
RIA/SPA	X	X		
Pyrosequencing (genotyping/epigenetics)	X			
TaqMan (genotyping and qRT-PCR)	X			X
RNA/DNA Sample Prep & Analysis	X			X
PCR	X	X		X
<i>In Situ</i> Hybridization				X
Immunohistochemistry				X
Colorimetric Assays	X	X	X	X
Wes™				X

AGILITY. FLEXIBILITY. SPEED

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**QPS is a Global CRO**  
with locations around the world  
to serve the evolving needs of the  
Pharmaceutical and Biotech industries

