

## HEPQUANT LICENSES UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO TEST TO ASSESS CHRONIC LIVER DISEASE

*CU technology enables a new approach to monitoring and diagnosing liver disease.*

**AURORA, Colo. – March 1, 2010** – The University of Colorado and HepQuant, LLC, a Colorado-based company, have completed a licensing agreement allowing HepQuant to further develop a CU diagnostic technology to assess chronic liver disease.



All major manifestations of chronic liver disease, including cirrhosis, ascites, fibrosis, varices and encephalopathy, are linked to an impairment of the liver's portal circulation. About 15-30 million people in the United States, and at least 500 million worldwide, suffer from these diseases. The first product to be developed based on the licensed technology, HepQuant-Dual™, is a non-invasive, cost-effective test that measures the liver's portal circulation using natural compounds labeled with stable isotopes. The test enables a physician to detect liver disease, measure the severity of the disease, and predict risk for future complications.

The test was invented by Gregory Everson, Professor and Director of Hepatology at the UC Denver School of Medicine. "This is an exciting advance for monitoring patients, and provides physicians with a new tool for evaluating liver disease," says Everson. The company anticipates that clinical trials will begin in late 2010, with commercial availability by 2013, subject to FDA approval.

HepQuant originally optioned the technology from CU in 2008, when it received a \$100,000 seed investment from the University of Colorado Technology Transfer Office to support further commercial development. "Technology Transfer's proof-of-concept investment program helped HepQuant leverage a grant from the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade and augment Dr. Everson's clinical studies with market and regulatory planning, a critical step toward a sustainable new biomedical enterprise," said Tom Smerdon, Director of Licensing and New Business Development at the CU Technology Transfer Office.

### **About HepQuant LLC**

HepQuant, LLC, formed in June 2007, is a development stage company positioned to successfully enter the liver diagnostics market with its proprietary and innovative method for

assessing the liver's portal circulation at all stages of chronic liver disease. Detecting significant hepatic impairment could trigger effective treatment and reduce the risk for future life-threatening complications. Potentially, HepQuant's tests of the liver's portal circulation will be more accurate, specific, safe, non-invasive, and cost effective compared to existing and emerging test methods, and as a result may offer significant advantages for the patient, physician and third party payers. [www.hepquant.com](http://www.hepquant.com).

#### **About the Technology Transfer Office and the University of Colorado**

The CU Technology Transfer Office (TTO) pursues, protects, packages, and licenses to business the intellectual property generated from research at CU. The TTO provides assistance to faculty, staff, and students, as well as to businesses looking to license or invest in CU technology. For more information about technology transfer at CU, visit [www.cu.edu/techtransfer](http://www.cu.edu/techtransfer).

The University of Colorado is a premier teaching and research university with four campuses: the University of Colorado at Boulder, the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, the University of Colorado Denver and the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. More than 55,000 undergraduate and graduate students are pursuing academic degrees on CU campuses. CU is ranked seventh among public institutions in federal research expenditures in engineering and science by the National Science Foundation. Academic prestige is marked by the university's four Nobel laureates, seven MacArthur "genius" Fellows, 18 alumni astronauts and 19 Rhodes Scholars. For more information, go to [www.cu.edu](http://www.cu.edu).