

PRESS RELEASE

We Make a Difference to the Development of New Medicines

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NEWS RELEASE

Unilabs York Bioanalytical Solutions Expands Metabolism and Discovery Facility on Discovery Park in Sandwich Kent

As part of Unilabs York Bioanalytical Solutions' (Unilabs YBS) commitment to providing an unparalleled service to its clients, YBS is pleased to announce a significant expansion of its Metabolism and Discovery Services facility based at Discovery Park in Sandwich Kent.

Following a decision to diversify its drug development capabilities, Unilabs launched its Metabolism and Discovery Services group in October 2011, initially providing metabolite characterisation and non-GLP bioanalytical services. Since its launch, the group has undergone significant and consistent growth and has broadened its services to incorporate quantitative bioanalysis of samples from a wide range of in vivo studies (including PK, efficacy and toxicology), metabolite characterisation from early discovery in vitro experiments to late development radiolabelled studies and a wide range of in vitro assays to determine ADME parameters, including clearance, stability, binding, distribution, absorption and permeability, drug-drug interactions, reactive metabolites and physicochemical properties. As a result of this continued success, Unilabs YBS has decided to make significant investments to support further expansion of the Metabolism and Discovery Services group in order to increase capacity and further diversify the services provided in support of drug discovery and development programmes.

In order to maintain its position at the cutting edge of technology, Unilabs YBS has invested in the purchase of a VION IMS Q-ToF mass spectrometer. With its high-resolution capability and exquisite sensitivity, the VION will provide unparalleled support for metabolite characterisation as well as quantitative studies. Furthermore, the ion mobility capability and bespoke elements of the UNIFI software will enable tailored workflows to deliver rapid and detailed metabolism data in support of discovery and development projects. The instrument will also facilitate the delivery of simultaneous qualitative and quantitative data for key study types, thereby providing more thorough and rapid information on exposure and metabolic fate to enable more timely data-driven decision making.

In order to continue to provide a high level of expertise in key areas of DMPK science, as well as deliver timely and high quality data, Unilabs YBS is investing in multiple recruitment activities, most notably in the areas of metabolite characterisation, cell-based assays and large molecule analysis. In this way, the group will augment its ability to provide unparalleled support to existing and new clients via proactive consultation and detailed interpretation of study data. Furthermore, the group will continue the diversification of its services by providing enhanced expertise in the expanding areas of transporter science and biotherapeutics.

Having trebled in size since its launch in 2011, Unilabs YBS has also invested in additional laboratory and office space for the Discovery and Metabolism Services group as an extension to the existing state-of-the-art facilities at Discovery Park in Sandwich. The additional space will be used to accommodate the new VION high-resolution mass spectrometer as well as the additional mass spectrometry, automation and associated instrumentation and new recruits required to enable the continued provision of high-quality, rapid data in support of discovery and development projects.

Dr Angus Nedderman, Head of Metabolism and Discovery Services stated: “We look forward to offering the continued level of scientific excellence that has served our clients so well since our launch by expanding our existing pool of experienced scientists as well as adding to our cutting edge technology and modern laboratory facilities. As a result of this expansion, we will be able to support continued and enhanced growth whilst staying true to our principles of investing in people, instrumentation and facilities of the highest quality in order to provide an optimal service to our partners.”

Dr Chris Tue, UK General Manager, Unilabs commented: “As part of our overall philosophy to “Care Big” and provide unparalleled levels of customers service and patient care in all our sectors we are delighted to be announcing this exciting development. The Unilabs YBS Discovery and Metabolism Services group have consistently delivered an outstanding quality of service to their ever expanding customer base. Under the leadership of Dr Nedderman, this focus on service and the provision of cutting edge analysis has enabled the business to deliver growth. We are confident of this continued positivity and in order to support this, Unilabs is making significant investments both in terms of infrastructure, equipment and talent. The Discovery and Metabolism Services group based in Sandwich are an integral part of our rapidly growing international Bioanalytical Services Group that serves global clients from our facilities in York, Sandwich and Copenhagen. Working together the Unilabs Drug Development Services business is able to provide a full spectrum of services including early drug discovery, ultra-low level quantification using the latest LC-MS techniques through to companion diagnostic testing and pathology services.”

Since its launch in 1999 and becoming part of the Unilabs group in 2008, Unilabs York Bioanalytical Solutions has grown to become the largest, independent provider of bioanalytical and DMPK services in Europe, offering pharmaceutical and biotech companies an unprecedented standard of service.

For further information, please contact Angus Nedderman at Unilabs York Bioanalytical Solutions on +44(0)1304 897648, or email your enquiry to info@yorkbio.com or angus.nedderman@yorkbio.com. Further information about Unilabs York Bioanalytical Solutions can also be obtained from the company’s website www.yorkbio.com.

About Unilabs

Unilabs aspires to be at the heart and start of all effective treatment decisions. With over 115 laboratories, 44 imaging units and a broad catalogue of more than 2,500 diagnostic tests, Unilabs is one of Europe’s leading providers of clinical laboratory testing and medical diagnostic imaging services. Headquartered in Geneva, the Unilabs Group services sectors ranging from private and public healthcare providers to local governments, from pharmaceutical companies to the general public.

Unilabs mediates care. In 2015, its laboratories carried out over 109 million diagnostic tests ensuring swift, accurate diagnosis of patient samples, and over 1 million radiology exams. The importance of medical diagnostics is expanding; as focus shifts from treatment to prediction and prevention, and innovations in molecular and genetic testing continue to emerge, Unilabs aims to be at the heart of this healthcare transformation.

Unilabs Group employs more than 5,000 people worldwide, successfully operating laboratory and medical diagnostic imaging facilities in 12 countries. Its network of facilities provides it with one of the broadest geographic footprints of any clinical laboratory and medical diagnostic services provider in Europe. For more information about Unilabs, please visit: www.unilabs.com. Follow us on Twitter: @Unilabs.