PRESS RELEASE

September 30th 2008

Seahorse Scientific Services (UK) presents an International Research Seminar series in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Pakistan

Seahorse Scientific Services (S3), UK based expert core laboratory data services and regulatory support provider recently provided an international seminar series in Islamabad and Lahore. At the personal request of Professor Rasheed Jooma, Director General of the Ministry of Health, S3 facilitated strategy workshops on Good Clinical Practice and Regulatory Framework.

The workshops comprised of invited experts from across government, academic institutes, medical institutes and corporations. The purpose of the interactive workshops were to collaboratively analyse, develop and appraise a strategy to design and implement an internationally recognised ethics review infrastructure that could elevate and promote unparalleled and highly reputable levels of Good Clinical Practice (GCP) compliance.

Seahorse Scientific Services has presented a national approach that will assist the Ministry of Health and key institutions towards achieving internationally recognised clinical development practices. These developments will enable the establishment and growth of an advanced clinical research sector within Pakistan.

We are honoured to have been invited to facilitate and guide the workshops and look forward to contributing to the development of clinical research in Pakistan," said Dr Art Tucker, CEO, S3. "These strategy design forums were a unique opportunity for S3 to support the vision of Prof Jooma and the Ministry of Health. Furthermore, our participation vastly increased the visibility of S3 in Pakistan and brought together key opinion leaders from the regulatory and healthcare sectors".

Pakistan, an emerging economy with a population of 173 million is ripe with clinical research related opportunities; offering the world great recruitment potential and some of its best centres for clinical research studies manned by internationally trained and capable research staff. Clinical research within Pakistan equates to a potential $750M to $1Bn foreign investment opportunity. However, in order for this to be realised, Pakistan understands that it must legislate the legal requirement for ICG-GCP compliance and implement advanced Ethics Review structures.

Most importantly, from the national perspective, a sustained development will facilitate inward investment, improve national healthcare, and enhance the translational medicine and biotechnology developments currently emerging from within Pakistan.

Zeeshan Nazir, Assistant Drug Controller, MOH concluded the Seminars by saying" The efforts made by Dr. Tucker and Mr. Ahmed will help us to design a national ethical structure and to achieve the international recognition in the field of GCP".

About S3

Founded in 2007, Seahorse Scientific Services is a privately owned, academically centred laboratory data services and Regulatory Support Company specialising in the provision of centralised reading and data capture services for early and late stage clinical development. S3 was created to offer consultative services to the Pharmaceutical, Biotechnology and Device companies to investigate and rapidly determine the potential of new and existing products.

For additional information, please visit Seahorse Scientific Services

For enquiries, contact Info@seahorsescientific.com

News & Press Releases

Pak – US cooperation in health sector, Funding proposals for grant soon – US Advisor on Science & T

Regulatory Framework and National Structure for Clinical Practices in a Year's Time

'Polio Eradication, a Joint Battle' – Health Minister

'US Assistance for Social Sector a Positive Development' – Sherry Rehman

Prompt health response to recent floods in Pakistan

Quick action against the quacks

Out of the box Solutions for Polio Drive Mooted

Ministry of Health to protect children from Iodine Deficiency Disorder – Sherry Rehman

<<prev123**next>>**

Regulatory Framework and National Structure for Clinical Practices in a Year's Time

Federal Ministry for Health in collaboration with international bodies organised an interactive workshop to set in motion the process of drawing a regulatory framework for clinical research and practices. The Workshop titled 'Clinical Trials – National Ethical Structure and Good Clinical Practices' was held in Islamabad and Lahore last week.

The workshop marks the beginning of the process to frame a regulatory structure to guide clinical practices in Pakistan. The workshop drew participation from a number of multinational organisations that exchanged views on international structures regulating clinical research. It was observed that the absence of a strong regulatory order guiding clinical research in Pakistan is causing the country an opportunity cost of $750mn to $1bn. By according clinical research the status of a proper industry, Pakistan has a strong potential to attract multinational drug companies to the country. Not only could this be a good source of revenue, it could also provide a platform to the academic research talent in the country, making Pakistan a regional leader of the clinical research practices.

The workshop pointed to the weakness of the existing legislation addressing clinical practices, observing that non-compliance remains a major issue limiting the deliverability of the legislation. A weak legislation leads to greater possibility for abuse. It was observed that since clinical practices involve human lives, a strong legislation along with a proper implementation mechanism could ensure that participants' safety and dignity is not compromised.

Apart from a regulatory order, Pakistan also requires national structures complemented by effective communication strategy to facilitate acceptability and mainstreaming of the culture of clinical practices. The international participants in the workshop highlighted risk analysis pointing out issues that could be avoided for a favourable clinical practices order.

The recommendations drawn from the workshop that concluded in Lahore on Saturday would be presented to the Ministry of Health. According to the Ministry Officials, the Ministry would initiate the process of legislation formulation and the establishment of national structure in a year's time.