**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.....**

# Qrono Receives Dept. of Defense Award to Help Protect Warfighters from Toxic Nerve Agents

## Program will demonstrate ability of first-of-a-kind predictive modeling technology to create long-acting injectable formulations

PITTSBURGH (PRWEB) Jul 16, 2013 – Qrono Inc. today announced that the Department of Defense (DoD) Chemical Biological Defense Program awarded Qrono a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase I grant for $150,000 to develop a long-acting injectable formulation of plasma-derived butyrylcholinesterase (BuChE) that will provide extended prophylactic protection to Warfighters from the effects of organophosphorous nerve agents while minimizing the need for repeated administration.

BuChE is a protein that occurs naturally in humans. Elevated blood plasma levels of BuChE can provide prophylactic protection against nerve agents by scavenging nerve agent molecules before they can reach and damage terminal nerve synapses. Operational requirements for certain types of missions make it impractical for health care providers to administer repeated intravenous doses of BuChE to Warfighters in order to maintain this protection over the duration of a mission. Qrono's new long-acting injectable (LAI) BuChE formulation will have the ability to deliver and maintain sufficiently high BuChE concentration in the blood without repeated dosing. This LAI capability will enhance the operational utility of BuChE as a prophylactic, particularly in support of extended-duration missions in areas where health care providers are not available to administer this prophylaxis.

"This SBIR grant is an important step forward in executing our strategy of developing a pipeline of long-acting injectable medications," said Qrono CEO Larry Zana, "We are proud to support the DoD in their efforts to protect Warfighters from these chemical threats."

Qrono has demonstrated the ability of its predictive modeling technology, called QronoMetrics™, to optimize long-acting injectable formulation designs faster (~95%), better (reduced initial burst, reduced regulatory risk, reduced production risk) and cheaper (~$1MM) than current best practice.

The grant will enable Qrono to further demonstrate the utility of QronoMetrics™ in developing LAI formulations for a wide range of target pharmaceuticals in an unprecedented, rapid period of time. In Phase I, Qrono will develop and demonstrate a 10-day release LAI formulation

for BuChE. Upon successful completion of Phase I, Qrono will be eligible to apply for Phase II funding that will generate preclinical data and demonstrate *in vivo* efficacy against nerve agent challenge in support of an investigational new drug (IND) filing with the FDA.

Qrono CSO Dr. Sam Rothstein stated, "The sustained delivery of large molecule therapeutics is an open problem with a large potential market and with direct applicability to dozens of FDA-licensed biologics. Our success in this project will demonstrate the capability of our technology to design formulations that deliver these large molecules over an extended period."

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About Qrono:

Fully operational since 2012, Qrono Inc. is a specialty pharmaceutical company enabling the development of better medications, stronger patient adherence, improved patient outcomes, and faster time-to-market using an innovative technology to create long-acting injectable (LAI) formulations. These long-acting drug formulations enable a single administration of active pharmaceutical ingredient to provide a therapeutic effect ranging from several days to many weeks or months. Qrono collapses the time and cost to develop these formulations and at the same time reducing technical and regulatory risk. Our pipeline strategy focuses on LAI formulations of drugs with known safety profiles in therapeutic areas with either high non-adherence (e.g., anti-psychotics), or where LAIs can solve drug delivery challenges (e.g., oncology and medical countermeasures).

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