

Naina Bhasin, Ph.D.

Naina Bhasin is the Director of Business and Technology Development at The Hamner Institutes for Health Sciences, based in Research Triangle Park (RTP), North Carolina. The Hamner is an independent, nonprofit organization currently recognized as one of the best environmental health sciences research institutes in the world. The Hamner has recently announced the transformation of its 56-acre site into a broader life sciences research and business campus which will unite academia, private sector businesses and government research and regulatory agencies in order to translate scientific discoveries into new and safe medicines.

One of Dr. Bhasin's primary responsibilities at The Hamner is to set up and manage public health and bio/pharma research collaborations with academia, industry and government. She also plays a key role in supporting the development of The Hamner Accelerator, which fosters opportunities for leaders of emerging companies and academic institutions to access resources at The Hamner while also partnering on research projects and grant funding. Dr. Bhasin also works with the North Carolina Biotechnology Center, the Council for Entrepreneurial Development, university business schools and other entrepreneurial programs to facilitate commercialization of new technologies.

Prior to her position at The Hamner, Dr. Bhasin served as Director of the Hepatic Research Registry for CellzDirect, Inc., an in vitro hepatic research company recently acquired by Invitrogen. Dr. Bhasin established and expanded this national data-collection project for liver disorders by recruiting top liver transplant and oncology centers throughout the US. The Registry capitalized on advances in cell preservation and cell culture technology to make resected liver tissue available for use in biomedical research. CellzDirect provides a portfolio of hepatic products to leading pharmaceutical and biotech companies while also conducting metabolism, induction, and inhibition studies on their behalf.

Dr. Bhasin earned a B.S. in Cell and Structural Biology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1996, followed by a Ph.D. in Cell and Developmental Biology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2003. Her postdoctoral research efforts at the University of Iowa investigated the mechanism of ion channel and transporter trafficking in cardiac and other excitable cells. Among Dr. Bhasin's professional affiliations are the American Heart Association (AHA) and the American Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (AHPBA).